



### Top Stories

#### UK Prime Minister: The world will enter a recession

Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has today admitted that the developed world will enter a recession.

"Having taken action on the banking system, we must now take action on the global financial recession," he said, speaking to Members of Parliament (MPs). "[There will be a] recession in America, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and - because no country can insulate itself from it - Britain too," he continued.



#### New York business receives package containing unknown powder

In Buffalo New York, a suspicious package was received by National Action Financial Services, a subsidiary of Sitel, Inc.. According to FBI spokesperson Earl Gould Buffalo, the initial call was placed at 10:30AM EST Yesterday. The mail department found the package, evacuated the building, and contacted the local police department. The package has been described as containing some type of white powder.

#### Thailand's fugitive ex-PM sentenced to two years for corruption

Ousted, and a fugitive seeking political asylum in the United

### Top Stories

Kingdom, Thailand's ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra now faces a two year jail sentence if, or when, he returns to the country. The Thai Supreme Court found him guilty of corruption in a 5-4 ruling by the Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions section of the court and issued the sentence over a land deal. The court acquitted his wife who was the purchaser of the land.

#### Canadian farmer vows to continue providing customers with raw milk despite order

A Canadian farmer has announced that he will continue to provide his customers with raw milk despite the fact that courts have ordered him to stop providing his customers with the product. "Yes, we will continue with what we're doing," he said, after being ordered by the courts to stop selling the product. He made these comments while drinking a glass of milk.

### Wikipedia Current Events

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launches Chandrayaan, its first unmanned lunar exploration mission.

•The Macau security law draft was unveiled. It is based on the similar Hong Kong Article 23, which drew over 500,000 protesters.

#### Seven arrested in cruise ship drugs seizure

Cocaine with a street value of £1.2 million (US\$2 million) was seized as the P&O cruise ship Arcadia arrived in its home port of Southampton, on the south coast of England, early yesterday. Seven people from the Manchester and Birmingham areas of the country were arrested on the dockside, with four of them being remanded in custody. Between them, the four allegedly had 30 kilograms of the Class A drug strapped to their bodies.

The detained four appeared at Southampton Magistrates' Court earlier today charged with the importation of a Class A drug. The other three have been released on bail pending an appearance at the same Court on 27th October.

The four, none of whom are crew members of the 1,952-passenger Arcadia, have been named as Mrs Quinn, 26, of Rochdale, Lancashire; Mr Hylton, 41, of Manchester; Mrs Dyce, 25, Handsworth, Birmingham; and Mrs Dupee, 19, of Handsworth, Birmingham.

The arrests were carried out in a joint operation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigators and UK Border Agency officers; dozens of personnel were involved. Peter Avery, the Assistant Director of Criminal Investigation of HMRC, said: "Drugs devastate lives and communities and we are determined to prevent them reaching UK streets. Our

investigations will not only focus on those transporting the cocaine, but also those that finance and mastermind this illegal trade."

The three-year-old ship had just returned from a 23-day cruise around the Caribbean, having stopped in Antigua, St Lucia, Grenada and Barbados among other islands. A P&O spokesperson said that this was the first time they were aware of P&O passengers being arrested for smuggling cocaine.

### **Psychiatrist Dr Jerald Block tells Wikinews about addiction to the Internet**

Dr Jerald Block is a psychiatrist based in Portland, Oregon, United States. Dr Block has attracted some media attention due to one particular theory of his - the idea that Internet addiction can be viewed as a distinct mental condition.

In an interview with Wikinews, Dr Block explains all about this theory, including what needs done about it, and the idea that withdrawal can cause a violent response from an addict. Below is the full exclusive interview:

#### *Interview*

Wikinews: When and how did you first come up with the idea that it is possible to become addicted to the Internet?

I have been working in this area since 1993. Earlier, really. I was initially trained as an Industrial Engineer before becoming a MD. I remember reading and writing about the impact of technology on people for an ergonomics class in college, way back in 1985. Even then, I found the topic fascinating.

WN:Do you have any ideas for how Internet addiction could be treated?

Harshly vs. gently. The hardball approach is to punish for excessive use and restrict/limit access.

Perhaps send the individual to a computer-free outdoor camp for several weeks. Some practitioners do this and think highly of the method. My concern with it is (1) it generates tremendous anger; (2) there is a high relapse rate, since the restriction is to something enormously common in society, enjoyable, and the limits are imposed rather than self-endorsed; (3) what behavior will take the place of the computer? Is it any better?

The gentle approach is to talk about the issue, come to some agreement about whether it truly is a problem, and then try to negotiate some sort of mutually-agreed on treatment plan. This method also has its difficulties -- it is time consuming, expensive, and does not guarantee the target behavior -- the computer use -- will ever be adequately addressed (at least from society's viewpoint). Finally, both these methods can be helped along with the conservative use of meds, all of which would be "off-label" and targeted at OCD/Depressive sx's.

WN:Activities such as gaming and viewing pornography predate the Internet, as does the potential to be addicted to them. What is different about it when it is online? Well, with regards to porn, there are the three As -- Anonymous, Affordable, and Accessible. One has the illusion of anonymity so, when looking at porn or researching one's oWN:paraphilia, individuals may no longer feel the shame that they might have in the past. And, the porn is cheap and readily available.

With gaming, I'd modify the list somewhat but it remains mostly true. I'd also add that games (and porn, sometimes) provide an

effective outlet for aggression that is (1) time consuming, (2) socially acceptable, (3) entertaining, (4) empowering, and (5) engaging. In moderation, the preoccupation can prevent people from acting on angry impulses. However, over time, it may exacerbate such issues and make things worse.

WN:What do you want to see governments do in response? The government can help by channeling interest into the topic and more research through the CDC, NIH, and special investigative bodies. At present, the game and porn industry has no stake in seeing research conducted and it is not clear who does. As a result, there is little money budgeted to exploring the issue using the standard methods we use in science. Then, ironically, it is claimed that there are no "good" studies...well, of course not -- there is no money to pay for them. Actually, though, there have been some good studies...if you understand their limitations. For example, Nick Yee's work is interesting but his sampling methods are clearly non-random. We also have several consulting firms, like Nielsen or NPD. They have done some huge RANDOM studies which they issue news releases on. However, research which documents things like some recent ones from NPD...that some 4- 5 million people play 45+ hours per week in the USA and buy around two new titles each week... are sold for thousands of dollars and inaccessible via libraries. They are written for the game industry to clarify their sales strategy and target consumers, not for the medical community, and almost entirely unavailable to clinicians. I do not believe the government should get into mandating content, censorship, or any of that. It is a waste of time, money, and

resources. I do think, however, that the government should phase in a requirement that games or the computer's OS come with the ability to limit access to porn or games, as the computer's owner directs. People should be able to ask the system to budget or cut themselves off of games or porn, as they wish. The limits could be around time and/or content and would be reversible, with time, effort, or money.

WN:What advice would you give to someone who is addicted to the Internet, assuming treatment is unavailable?

Advice... I do not have generic advice -- it really is case specific. Obviously, the patient needs to figure out how serious they are about wanting to "cut back" and then what, specifically, is stopping them. With excessive porn use, often I prescribe SSRIs or related medications. We need to develop clear protocols to treat computer-related pathology.

WN:Why do you think there is a lack of major studies or official policy on Internet addiction? Major studies cost lots of money. In the USA, any study needs to pay for the IRB, the researcher's time, the technology, the statistical analysis, the fixed costs, etc.. In addition, this is complicated in the USA since there are few funding sources with a clear mandate to research this topic. Those that do exist are often intertwined with ethical or political agendas which pull investigators away from conducting unbiased research. Finally, I think what research dollars are available have been distracted by a secondary issue: the concept that violent media creates violent people. This may (or may not) be true but, at best, the effect size seems to be small and costs in addressing it

are huge. It seems to me that a more immediate and dangerous issue is that of compulsive computer use. That being said, in Asia, pathological computer use is recognized as a BIG problem and several governments have funded research. Thus, some of the best studies have come out from there.

WN:If someone was addicted, they likely would remain housebound and online, making detection difficult. How would you suggest identifying people in need of treatment could be located? People who need treatment usually know it long before others. They berate themselves for staying awake until 5 AM playing Spore or some such thing and, at 5:05 AM, they very well KNOW that they have a problem. The key is to make accessible to them some sort of self-selected limit that they could activate AT THAT TIME -- at 5 am -- to restrict themselves in the future.

Outside of that I am interested in seeing if we can detect any increase, societally, in pulmonary emboli or deep vein thromboses. Being sedentary all day/night can cause either of these life-threatening issues. Also, I am interested in complaints of "delayed sleep cycle" to pulmonologists in sleep clinics. Finally, I am interested in episodes of violence that occur after computer limits are set, such as I have written about with the school shootings at Columbine.

### **India's first lunar mission launched**

India's first unmanned lunar mission was launched off of the shore of Andhra Pradesh this morning. India now joins the United States, Russia, Japan, China and the European Space Agency as being the only nations

to launch satellites to the moon.

The Chandrayaan-1 satellite was launched from the Satish Dhawan space centre at 6:22 am (0052 GMT) from Sriharikota, which is about 88 km (55 mi) north of the southern Indian city of Chennai. The cost of this mission is estimated at 3.4 billion rupees (US\$78 million). While the launch has been criticized for being a waste of Indian government dollars, when the money can go towards more humanitarian causes, India is hopeful that it's venture will put it into competition for commercial satellite launch services. The satellite features five components built by India's technology sector, and six components from foreign nations.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-11 is the rocket which will carry the Chandryaan-1 satellite probe. The probe is being sent on a two-year orbital mission around the moon for achieving substantial goals for a detailed map of the mineral resources, chemical and topographical characteristics of the moon's surface. Some of the mission will include examining the surface for sources of water, and taking comparison photos of the light side and dark sides of the surface.

Both China and Japan already have satellites of their own: orbiting the moon, and just last month China became the third country in the world to carry out its own: independent space walks. India's previous space endeavors have mainly been related to launching weather and communications satellites.

### **2008-09 Wikipedia for schools goes online**

Monday saw the latest edition of the vetted version of Wikipedia,

which is aimed at educational use, go quietly online. The extensively revised version covers over five thousand topics, targeting the eight to seventeen years age group. Partnerships with the Shuttleworth Foundation and the Hole in the Wall project will see it distributed in South Africa and India as well as copies being available globally via the offices of SOS Children UK's umbrella organisation, SOS Kinderdorf worldwide.

First launched in 2006 as a 4,000 article edition, the extract of Wikipedia has employed hi-tech distribution methods, as well as offering a website version which has steadily climbed up in ranking to above other reviewed Wikipedia rivals and copies; the 2007 version was available on the BitTorrent peer to peer network to keep distribution costs down: and was equivalent to a fifteen-volume printed encyclopedia. Monday's release is compared to a twenty-volume print edition.

"Our goal is to make Wikipedia accessible to as many people as possible around the world, and SOS Children is a great partner that helps us make that happen."  
—Sue Gardener, Wikimedia Executive Director

Key to the process for selecting articles is the English National Curriculum and similar educational standards around the world. The initial vision was to bring this wealth of knowledge to schools where access to the Internet was poor or unavailable, but copies of Wikipedia for Schools can be found on many first world school intranets and web servers. Among the compelling reasons to adopt the project are the vetting and additional study materials which overcome the oft-publicised

concerns many educators have with the million article plus Wikipedia that anyone can edit.

In today's press release announcing the launch, Wikimedia Foundation Executive Director Sue Gardner expressed delight at seeing the project bring out a new version, "Our goal is to make Wikipedia accessible to as many people as possible around the world, and SOS Children is a great partner that helps us make that happen. Wikipedia is released under a free content license so that individuals and institutions can easily adapt, reuse and customize its content: we encourage others, like SOS Children, to do exactly that."

Running 192 schools in the developing world, SOS Children sees Wikipedia for schools as a key piece in fulfilling the educational aspect of their mission. SOS Children's Chairwoman, Mary Cockcroft gave us an introduction and, a Wikipedia administrator himself, the charity's CEO Andrew Cates spoke to Wikinews at length about the project.

Wikinews: You are part of SOS-Kinderdorf International, can you explain a little about how this works in terms of distributing funds raised in the UK and involving UK citizens in work outside the country?

Mary Cockcroft: SOS Children ['s Villages] is a "club" of member charities in 130 countries helping orphans and vulnerable children. The club elects SOS-Kinderdorf International as secretary. SOS is a large organisation whose members in aggregate turned over \$1bn in 2007, and whose projects include owning and running 192 schools and family-based care for 70,000 children. However much of

these funds are raised locally, with for example the member charities in each of India, Pakistan and South Africa raise considerably more funds in their own: country than SOS UK does from the UK. Nonetheless SOS Children UK principally raises funds to finance projects in the developing world, and has only financially small projects in the UK (such as the Schools Wikipedia, which is very low cost because of extensive use of volunteers). This year we expect about 80% of our UK income will leave the UK for overseas SOS associations, and some of the remaining 20% will pay for project oversight. We do not spend money in the UK on Direct Mail or TV advertising. Our UK office is involved in overseeing projects we finance and a small number of high-skilled volunteers from the UK help overseas. However around 98% of SOS staff worldwide are local nationals, as are most volunteers.

WN: How much work does the UK charity actually carry out within the home country? Are there failings within the government system for orphans and other needy children that you feel obliged to remedy?

MC: We are deeply unhappy about the situation of children in out-of-home care in the UK. However our care model of 168 hour-a-week resident mothers does not fit with the UK philosophy for children without parental care. Internationally SOS always has a policy of sharing best practice and we are working to improve understanding of our way of working, which appears to us to have far better outcomes than the existing one in the UK. Ultimately though the legal responsibility for these children lies with government and we cannot

remedy anything without their invitation.

WN: Who first came up with the idea of doing a vetted Wikipedia extract? What was the impetus? Was it more for the developing world than first world?

Andrew Cates: I honestly cannot remember who first suggested it, but it came from somewhere in the Wikipedia community rather than from the charity. The original product was very much pitched at the developing world where the Internet is only available if at all over an expensive phone line. I worked in West Africa 1993-1996 and I know well at how thirsty for knowledge people are and how ingenious they will be in overcoming technical obstacles if the need for infrastructure is removed.

WN: In reading past year's announcements there's some pride in the project being picked up and used in the first world, was this expected or a pleasant surprise?

AC: It was a pleasant surprise. I don't think we had realised what the barriers schools faced in using the main Wikipedia were. It isn't just pupils posting material about teachers or meeting strangers: the "Random Article" button on every page could potentially deliver an article on hardcore porn. We had already started when discussion broke on banning Wikipedia from classrooms and I am sure we benefited from it.

WN: Can you give an outline of the selection and vetting process? Is it primarily Wikipedians working on this, or are people from the educational establishment brought in?

AC: It was a long and painful process, even with a really good database system. Articles were taken into the proposal funnel from three main sources: direct proposals for inclusion from Wikipedians, lists which came from the Release Version team and proposals drawn up from working through National Curriculum subjects by SOS volunteers. In a few cases where we felt articles were missing we asked the community to write them (e.g. Portal:Early Modern Britain, which is a curriculum subject, was kindly written just for us): These "proposals" were then looked at by mainly SOS volunteers (some onwiki, some offline). Our offices are in the middle of Cambridge and we get high quality volunteers, who skim read each article and then compared two versions from the article history by credible WP editors a significant period apart (this picks up most graffiti vandalism which runs at about 3% of articles). Once they had identified a "best" version they marked any sections or text strings for deletion (sections which were just a list of links to other articles not included, empty sections, sex scandals etc). A substantial sample of each volunteers work was then doubled checked for quality by one of two office staff (of whom I was one). We then have a script which does some automated removals and clean ups. Once we had a selection we posted it to relevant wikiprojects and a few "experts" and got any extra steers.

WN: Will you be making use of BitTorrent for distribution again this year? Was it a success in 2007?

AC: BitTorrent was a bit disappointing in that it got us the only substantial criticisms we

received online. A lot of people find it too much effort to use. However for the period we offered a straight http: download we had huge problems with spiders eating vast bandwidth (the file is 3.5G: a few thousand rogue spider downloads and it starts to hurt). As per last year therefore our main two channels will be free download by BitTorrent and mailing the DVDs free all over the world. At a pinch we will (as before) put straight copies up for individuals who cannot get it any other way, and we have some copies on memory sticks for on distributors.

WN: Is it your opinion that the UK Government should be encouraging the adoption of projects like this as mainstream educational resources?

AC: Clearly yes. We have had a very enthusiastic reaction from schools and the teaching community. We think every school should have an intranet copy. We expect the Government to catch on in a few years. That is not to say that Wikipedia is as good as resources developed by teachers for teachers such as lesson plans etc. but it is a fantastic resource.

WN: You're a Wikipedia administrator, all too often a thankless task. What prompted you to get involved in the first place? What are the most notable highs and lows of your involvement with the project?

AC: Funnily the thing I have found most amazing about Wikipedia is not widely discussed, which is the effect of Wikipedia policies on new editors. I have seen countless extreme POV new editors, who come in and try to get their opinions included slowly learn not only that there are other opinions to consider but that elements of

their own: opinion which are not well founded. Watching someone arrive often (on pages on religions for example) full of condemnation for others, gradually become understanding and diplomatic is one of the biggest buzzes there is. The downside though is where correcting things which are wrong is too painfully slow because you need to find sources. I was a post-doc at Cambridge University in combustion and I know the article on Bunsen burners has several really significant errors concerning the flame structure and flow structure. But sadly I cannot correct it because I am still looking around for a reliable source.

WN: Do you believe schools should encourage students to get involved contributing to the editable version of Wikipedia? Does SOS Children encourage those who are multilingual to work on non-English versions?

AC: I think older students have a lot to learn from becoming involved in editing Wikipedia.

WN: To close, is there anything you'd like to add to encourage use of Wikipedia for Schools, or to persuade educators to gain a better understanding of Wikipedia?

AC: I would encourage people to feed back to the project online or via the charity. The Wikipedia community set out to help educate the world and are broadly incredibly well motivated to help. As soon as we understand what can be done to improve things people are already on the task.

WN: Thank you for your time.

### **UK Prime Minister: The world will enter a recession**

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admitted that the developed world will enter a recession.

"Having taken action on the banking system, we must now take action on the global financial recession," he said, speaking to Members of Parliament (MPs). "[There will be a] recession in America, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and - because no country can insulate itself from it - Britain too," he continued.

These comments echo those made recently by Mervyn King, governor of the Bank of England.

Leader of the opposition David Cameron said that Brown should take some of the blame for the crisis. "He claimed the credit in the boom, why won't he take responsibility in the bust?"

Sushil Wadhvani, who was formerly a member of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee also reacted to these recent comments. "The committee has been too slow to acknowledge the risks of a recession and they have fallen behind the curve," he said. "The consequence of their relative inactivity so far is that the recession is likely to be deeper and more prolonged than was necessary."

Markets today continued to fall dramatically. As of 15:30 UTC, the FTSE 100 index had fallen by 152.18 point to a value of 4077.55, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell back below 9,000 with a 2.89% drop.

### **Thailand's fugitive ex-PM sentenced to two years for corruption**

Ousted, and a fugitive seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom, Thailand's ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra now faces a

two year jail sentence if, or when, he returns to the country. The Thai Supreme Court found him guilty of corruption in a 5-4 ruling by the Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions section of the court and issued the sentence over a land deal. The court acquitted his wife who was the purchaser of the land. The contentious package of land was taken over by Thailand's Financial Institutions Development Fund (FIDF) in 1995, following the collapse of of the Erawan Trust in an effort to counter the trust's losses.

In reading the court's verdict, one judge stated, "Thaksin violated the article of the constitution on conflict of interest, as he was then prime minister and head of government, and was supposed to work for the benefit of the public, ... He is sentenced to two years in jail."

Despite his wife, Potjaman Shinawatra, having escaped sentencing in the Ratchadaphisek land deal case, she still faces jail time on return to Thailand. During July she was convicted of tax evasion and a warrant is outstanding for her to face three years in jail for that conviction. The Ratchadaphisek case centred around approximately thirteen acres of land in central Bangkok that was sold to her in 2003 for a knock-down price of 772 million baht (US\$ 22.5 million).

With the law in Thailand barring ministers and their partners from doing business with government agencies, groups who protested for the removal of Thaksin are pleased with the result. People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) supporters were reportedly shouting, "We've won!" at the announcement of the verdict. They had watched a live telecast of the court's ruling,

hailing activist Veera Somkwamkid who filed the case as a hero.

Somchai Wongsawat, the country's current Prime Minister and Thaksin's brother-in-law, has given assurances that the current government will not interfere in the court's ruling. In speaking to journalists after the ruling was handed down he stressed that the case only covered violation of the National Counter Commission Act barring government officials from involvement where they may have oversight. This was seen as the reason for Thaksin's wife, Potjaman escaping prosecution in this case.

The case's chief prosecutor has called on Britain to speedily extradite ex-PM Thaksin so he may begin his jail term. A number of other warrants for his arrest remain outstanding from additional cases brought over his time in office.

### Today in History

425 – Valentinian III became Emperor of the Western Roman Empire at the age of six.

1642 – The Battle of Edgehill, the first pitched battle of the First English Civil War between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians, was fought to an inconclusive result near Edge Hill and Kineton in southern Warwickshire.

1955 – Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem defeated Emperor Bao Dai in a fraudulent referendum supervised by his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu on the future of the monarchy in South Vietnam.

1958 – In his comic series Johan and Peewit in the weekly magazine Spirou, Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of small sky blue characters known as The Smurfs.

1983 – Lebanese Civil War: Suicide bombers destroyed two barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers of the international peacekeeping force.

October 23 is National Day in Hungary (1956); Chulalongkorn Memorial Day in Thailand

### Quote of the Day

We ought to hate very rarely, as it is too fatiguing; remain indifferent to a great deal, forgive often and never forget. ~ Sarah Bernhard

### Word of the Day

kwassa kwassa *n*

1. A dance rhythm from the Congo (DRC), where the hips move back and forth while the hands move to follow the hips.

### About Wikinews

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