

Vancouver  **10.4°C** Partly Cloudy; Tomorrow **10°C** Chance of showers 



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Show: AS IT HAPPENS

Date: 2008/04/11

Time: 17:30:01

APR 11, 2008 - As It Happens

Audio available:

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Programs prior to April 12, 2004 are no longer available.

OBERSTAR ON AIRLINES

Duration: 00:00:58

It's been a staggering week of cancellations for major U.S. air carriers. American Airlines alone cancelled more than 3,000 flights. And the situation is likely to become even worse, as the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration continues examining the safety of passenger jets, in the wake of an inspection scandal.

Delta, Alaska Airlines and Southwest Airlines have also been forced to ground planes as the F.A.A. figures out whether the airlines have complied with previous safety directives around airplane structures, wiring, and electronic components.

The F.A.A.'s safety audit was triggered by the U.S. Congress's House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Hearings last week revealed that Southwest, the most popular carrier in the States, continued to fly forty planes after they failed FAA inspections -- and that those inspectors were told to overlook other obvious safety problems.

Minnesota Democrat James Oberstar is the chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He's in Washington, DC.

ANOTHER THOUGHT

Duration: 00:00:11

Album: ANOTHER THOUGHT/RUSSELL, ARTHUR

Label: ORANGE MOUNTAIN, OMM 0027

Persons/Roles: ARTHUR RUSSELL - COMPOSER

DON CHRISTENSEN - PRODUCER
ARTHUR RUSSELL - VOCALS

NEPALESE ELECTIONS

Duration: 00:00:48

The path to peace has proven long and arduous for the Himalayan nation of Nepal. And there are still challenges to come.

But yesterday, the country took part in elections to establish a national assembly, which will be charged with rewriting the constitution and effectively ending the Hindu monarchy. The vote, the first in nine years, was a key term of a 2006 peace deal struck by Maoist guerrillas and government forces, to end a decade of civil war. The counting continues -- but already, the process has brought a few surprises.

Bikash Sangraula is a correspondent with the Christian Science Monitor. We reached him in Kathmandu.

PLASTIC BAGS DEFENDER

Duration: 00:00:02

Have a listen to this, circa 1967:OWEB>

PLASTIC BAGS DEFENDER

Duration: 00:01:13

That was a scene from "The Graduate" with Dustin Hoffman, where a family friend is giving young Benjamin Braddock a bit of handy-dandy career advice.

Well, the future may have been in plastics then, but ya gotta wonder whether that holds true now, especially when it comes to plastic bags. They're outright banned in a lot of countries, and in some Canadian cities too.

This week in Nova Scotia, the provincial government announced its liquor corporation is going to phase out plastic bags. And the Premier of Ontario is making noises about doing the same thing.

This does not sit well with the industry. Cathy Cirko is the Vice President of Environment and Health for the Canadian Plastics Industry Association. We reached her in Mississauga, Ontario.

AP PHOTOGRAPHER FOLO

Duration: 00:00:55

Back in 2004, Iraqi Bilal Hussein took a job working as a photographer for the Associated Press. He operated mostly in the war-torn region of Fallujah. But American forces suspected Mr. Hussein did a lot more than snap pictures. They believed he was linked to insurgents.

For nearly two years now, he has been held by US forces. When the photographer went before an Iraqi court this week, the judge told the prosecution to drop most of their case against him and a panel ordered him to be released. But it appears that decision isn't good enough for U.S. authorities. They're refusing to let Bilal Hussein go.

Dave Tomlin is a lawyer for the Associated Press. We reached him in Washington D-C.

TB: PENNIES FRIDAY

Duration: 00:00:44

Penniless and proud? Is that how Canadians see their ideal future?

Last night, Talkback spoke out about a proposal to abolish the penny and the nickel and the five dollar bill -- the latter of which would be replaced by a coin.

Well, those comments sparked more Talkback...this time, expressing its concerns about the effects of a penny-free country on prices and lifestyle.

TENSE**Duration: 00:00:09**

Album: REQUIEM FOR A DREAM FILM
Label: NONESUCH, 79611-2
Persons/Roles: KRONOS QUA - COMPOSER
KRONOS QUA - ENS INSTR

IRAQ VETS THEATRE**Duration: 00:00:51**

Images and stories from Iraq are broadcast into our living rooms every day. But for every picture we do see, there are dozens of events and pictures the media won't print or broadcast.

A Canadian director has decided to expose that unexposed underbelly in a special theatrical presentation next week. It's called "Winter Soldiers: The Unheard Stories from the Frontlines of Iraq".

We reached the director, Ravi Jain, in Toronto.

IRAQ TESTIMONY**Duration: 00:00:18**

Here are three more tales from Iraq -- as told by the soldiers themselves -- for the record.

MEDAK POCKET**Duration: 00:00:57**

The time of reckoning for the war crimes committed at Medak Pocket seems to have finally arrived.

Fifteen years ago, Canadian soldiers serving with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia fought a pitched battle with Croatian forces who were trying to take land claimed by Serbs. As the Croats retreated, the Canadians were held back. When they finally made their way into Medak Pocket, they found no one left alive. Serb civilians who lived there had been brutally killed, and their homes left uninhabitable.

Steve Marissink was the RCMP officer who led the scene investigation. Now, he has returned to Croatia to testify at the trial of two generals charged with organizing the slaughter. We reached Steve Marissink in Edmonton.

MEDAK POCKET: REPORTER

Goran Jungvirth has been following the trial of Generals Mirko Norac and Rahim Ademi closely. He's a journalist with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. We reached him in Zagreb.

STOLEN ANTLERS**Duration: 00:00:43**

Shane Wilson spent years carving the elaborately-detailed sculpture of a moose skull and antlers he called "Yukon Seasons". He then presented the artwork as a gift to the City of Whitehorse, the community that had nurtured him as an artist. But apparently someone wanted to nurture the sculpture itself, in private: last September, it was stolen in the dead of night from its home in the Canada Games Centre.

Shane Wilson thought he'd never see "Yukon Seasons" again. But today, the stolen antlers are back where they belong. We reached Mr. Wilson at home in Nanaimo, B.C.

LUNGLESS FROG**Duration: 00:00:55**

Even at this late date, it's possible for important, fundamental scientific discoveries to be made. So we're going to try an experiment: everyone listening, take a deep breath. Hold it. Now breathe it out. If you felt your lungs filling with air, that's terrific -- but you're no good to us. If, however, you actually just breathed through your skin, without using lungs at

all, please give us a call. Operators are standing by.

That sounds outlandish to all of you who continue to use a boring standard respiratory system. But in Singapore, scientists have just discovered a creature long-rumoured to exist -- the world's first lungless frog.

Dr. David Bickford was one of the researchers who found the frog. We reached him in Singapore.

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