

# ANGLOW

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FEBRUARY 2007

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**FOCUS: SPECIAL INTERVIEW****Make peace not war !****An interview with Peace Corps press officer Nathan Arnold**

*By Anessa BOUCHENTER & Laura NECHITA*

**The Peace Corps is a US governmental organization created by J. F. Kennedy as part of his campaign "to make the greatest possible difference". Since its inception in 1961, over 187,000 American Peace Corps volunteers have served in 139 countries, on a multifaceted range of cultural, social and economic development programs.**

**What is the Peace Corps today ? What does it do ? Where ? How ?**

**- How different is the Peace Corps today from what it was almost half a century ago?**

While times have changed since the Peace Corps' founding, the agency's mission is the same as it was then. The three core goals of the Peace Corps are as relevant today as they were 45 years ago:

- . To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- . To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- . To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The work of Peace Corps volunteers has emerged as a successful model for encouraging sustainable development at the grass-roots level. Yet, the Peace Corps' larger purpose is to empower people in developing countries to take charge of their future and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between Americans and the people of other countries. There is no doubt that Kennedy's vision of the Peace Corps still is alive in today's corps.

But the Peace Corps is also moving forward, a change President Kennedy would have wanted. The corps has more married couples serving, older Americans volunteering and people from a wider variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds sharing their customs and skills. Today, many of the Peace Corps volunteers are working in information technology, business development and HIV-AIDS awareness and education. Several of these specialties would have been unfathomable to people in 1961.

**- How many volunteers do you have ? Where are they ? Where do they come from?**

Currently 7,749 volunteers serve in 73 countries. This is the second highest total in over 30 years. The pdf file attached gives you a detailed picture of their geographical and historical presence in the world.

Today our volunteers are spread between Africa (roughly 3100), America and the Pacific (2600) and Asia/Europe (2000). In 2006, Ukraine hosted the highest number of volunteers (371) followed by Honduras (217) and Ghana (178).

Peace Corps volunteers are really all over the board demographically speaking. Although the average age is 27, volunteers range in age from 18-80. 16% of volunteers are minorities. 59% are female. 93% have bachelor's level degrees, and 13% have graduate degrees.

The volunteers' suitability for service is based on a full evaluation of their application and ability to meet the requirements of the job assignment for which they are being considered. Suitability for service and technical qualifications are not necessarily a factor of age or degree status.

#### **- What do they do?**

Volunteers serve for 27 months, three of which are training.

While the nature of their work varies according to the needs of each country, all volunteers have a strong work ethic, a generosity of spirit, a commitment to service, and an approach to problems that is both optimistic and pragmatic. Volunteers work in six general sectors: education, youth development, business, health and HIV/AIDS, agriculture and environment.

They speak the languages and adapt to the cultures and customs of the people they serve, and in the process share and represent the culture and values of the American people, earning respect and admiration for our country among people who often have never met an American.

There are many stereotypical images of Americans throughout the world, and the women and men who serve as Peace Corps volunteers are in the unique position to put a face on America and to demonstrate that Americans are of all colors, all faiths, and all backgrounds.

#### **- How do you select the countries where you send volunteers?**

To serve in a country, Peace Corps volunteers must be invited by the government. Peace Corps only serves in countries that want a true cooperative partnership. Second, in determining whether to send volunteers to any given country, we send in an assessment team to determine if there are real jobs to do and whether the security is adequate. Finally, much is based on budget (appropriated by Congress, since Peace Corps is a government agency) and a determination of where the need is greatest.

#### **- Are there countries where you are not welcome ?**

With a waiting list of about 25 countries that have expressed interest in hosting Peace Corps volunteers, there is no reason to serve in areas of the world where we are not wanted. Peace Corps continually assesses hosting countries to see what might be the right fit for the agency, given resources and funding.

Peace Corps will sometimes leave countries, after careful consideration, for a multitude of reasons. Most commonly, the safety and security situation in the country may not be right to host volunteers. For example, last year, Peace Corps left Chad and Bangladesh due to safety concerns in those countries. Peace Corps volunteers do not serve in conflict areas.

In some cases, countries become successful enough to not need volunteers, this has occurred in India and several Caribbean countries.

#### **- How does the Peace Corps deal with anti-Americanism at grass-root level in some of the countries where its volunteers serve?**

While the Peace Corps prepares volunteers with three months of training, nothing can prepare a person for the first time they face anti-American sentiments. When I was a volunteer in Zimbabwe shortly after 9/11/2001, I overheard a discussion where people were talking about how America "deserved what it got". Yet, through entering the conversation and putting a human face to America, I was able to open a dialogue where we all better understood each other's culture. Of course, there are people out there who are not open to the views of others, but for the majority of people, having a real American in their community does change perceptions.

Volunteers thrive because they are not used as instruments for diplomacy or propaganda, but rather are asked to remain as apolitical as possible. Peace Corps has become successful by letting

the work of our volunteers speak for itself. In fact, communities often compete to have a volunteer of their own.

**- The Peace Corps is directly subordinated to the American government. Do its priorities change with every government?**

In part because it maintains a nonpartisan stance, the Peace Corps has always had a solid working relationship with the Legislative Branch of government. The Peace Corps enjoys bipartisan support from both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Congress is responsible for approving the budget that funds the Peace Corps. Over the last couple of years, the Peace Corps has received record levels of funding to continue its mission.

**- What are the financial resources of the Peace Corps ?**

The current operating budget for the Peace Corps is \$318.8 million, all of which comes from U.S. tax dollars.

Peace Corps does not support projects – just volunteers who receive a living allowance that enables them to live in a manner similar to the local people in their community. Peace Corps pays for airfare, medical expenses and a “readjustment allowance” upon completion of their two years of service to help them have a smooth transition back to life in the US.

Volunteers who want funding for their specific projects, must rely on grants and donations. The Peace Corps Partnership Program, Peace Corps’ fund raising agency, allows people to donate funds to specific Peace Corps projects, such as a job training center in Ukraine or a beekeeping operation in Togo.

The donors are mostly individuals, but many companies and foundations also contribute. Volunteers are encouraged to set their goals at achievable levels so that the money they need can be raised by a community or a few donors. One hundred percent of each tax-deductible contribution goes toward the project of their choice.

**- What are the fields where you have been most successful?**

Peace Corps volunteers change the world, but they do so one person at a time. If you look at the successes of the Peace Corps they have been at a micro level. However, they all add up.

Here are just a few telling examples among many other successful projects:

- In Turkmenistan in 2003, Jane and Jack Bardon developed Tri-lingual Medical Dictionary (Turkmen-English-Russian) now used in all regions of the country.
- In Guatemala, from 2002 to 2004, Jennifer Avery worked to develop fair voting practices and promote the inclusion of women and youth on the local councils.
- In Vanuatu in 2005, Chris Bartlett developed affordable rechargeable batteries and solar-powered battery chargers for villages without electricity. This also contributed to protecting Vanuatu's coral reefs.
- In Azerbaijan in 2005, Elizabeth Decker started a weekly English-learning television show, broadcast on “Gutb TV,” which has an audience of 400,000.
- In Romania in 2005, Stephanie Paul helped coordinate both the first organization coalition specifically addressing the trafficking in human persons issue, and the first annual national anti-domestic violence campaign.

**- Are there countries where you think you haven't achieved the intended result?**

Results are felt in many ways. Just the fact that Americans are sharing a culture with another country is in many ways a positive result of the Peace Corps program. While Peace Corps has built countless wells, schools and farms, the greatest success may be the relationships formed. There

will always be volunteers who feel two years wasn't enough time to implement a project, but for the most part, volunteers have done amazing work.

**- If you compare the world today with the world in 1961, would you say there is less or more understanding of Americans on the part of other people and of other people on the part of Americans?**

Throughout the world, people think they understand America based on images they see in the media and through word of mouth. Peace Corps introduces to people to the fact that there is no one "American" way to think. America was built on an ideal of respecting and holding different values and cultures. America is ever changing, and thus, the ideals Americans hold change too.

**For a detailed picture of the Peace Corps' geographical and historical presence in the world, please download pdf file attached.**

**For more information, please visit the Peace Corps' website:**  
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

## POLITICS & SOCIETY

### Legal eavesdropping ?

By Elodie LECADIEU & Romain DONDELINGER

**The Bush administration recently announced it would allow judicial review of the spying program secretly authorised by the President after the September 11 terrorist attacks. This move was welcomed by most lawmakers on Capitol Hill but raised a flurry of sensitive questions.**

Until mid-January, individuals suspected of being a threat to national security could be spied upon by the American National Security Agency without a court warrant. This secret domestic surveillance program was revealed a little over a year ago and has since been heavily criticised on both sides of Congress as a serious threat to individual privacy.

The recent policy switch by the Bush administration has placed NSA eavesdropping under the supervision of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA). This court was created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 which prescribes the procedure for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the USA on behalf of a foreign power.

Most senators agree this is a welcome move but are demanding more information about the procedure. For instance they want to know how FISA judges plan to approve government requests to monitor individuals' phone calls and e-mails. Senator Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New-York, has asked Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, main defender of the spying program, "if there is an intention to do this on an individual basis or at least on a case-by-case basis where 5, 6, 10, 20, 100 individuals are involved or is it broader brush than that? Because if it is a very broad-brush approval and, again because it's secret we have no way of knowing, it doesn't do much good."<sup>\*</sup>

But Mr. Gonzales and National Intelligence Director, John Negroponte have refused to disclose more details about the program. On 19 January, Senators called upon FISA's presiding judge, Ms Kollar-Kotelly, to clarify the issue. She said there were no objections to showing the court's classified orders, "if the executive and legislative branches reach agreement for access to this material."<sup>\*\*</sup> Mr Negroponte then raised the question of the separation of powers, an issue which in his view needs to be resolved before turning over such information to Congress.

The argument about jeopardizing the separation of powers has been duly noted but rings hollow to many. Last summer, a federal judge in Michigan declared the eavesdropping program was unconstitutional as it violated the rights to free speech and privacy and the separation of powers. The Justice Department has launched an appeal against that decision.

The Bush administration's policy U-turn was designed to deflect criticism, but it might well prove insufficient to avoid answering many difficult questions. Domestic eavesdropping is always a highly sensitive issue on Capitol Hill. The Watergate scandal dramatically asserted the independence of the American judiciary but it also left lawmakers with an in-bred suspicion of any secret surveillance program in the hands of the executive.

Sources: \* "Senators Grill Gonzales Over Spy Program" *The Washington Post* 19 January 2007.

\*\* "Senators Demand Details On New Eavesdropping Rules" *The New York Times* 19 January 2007.

"White House Shifting Tactics In Spy Cases" *The New York Times* 19 January 2007.

## POLITICS & SOCIETY

### To stay, or not to stay ?

By Adeline MAUNOURY

**The world's largest aid operation in Darfur has been put on ice by the United Nations as violence and a lack of security threaten the lives of its workers. "To stay, or not to stay ?" that seems to be the question for many humanitarian agencies in conflict areas.**

The choice of preserving the lives of aid workers' at the expense of the needs of the local population is not an easy one to make.

Yet, after suffering repeated attacks on its compounds, having numerous vehicles hijacked, scores of voluntary workers arrested and subjected to physical assault or verbal abuse, and finally twelve staff killed in the past six months, the UN decided that they had reached the point of no-return in Darfur. The humanitarian operations saved hundreds of thousands of Sudanese lives since the middle of 2004, but as Paul Smith-Lomas, Oxfam's regional director, put it "It is completely unacceptable for our staff to have to risk their lives while helping the people of Darfur."\*

The UN revealed that, since the middle of 2006, about 250 000 voluntary workers worldwide have faced some kind of violence, most of them for the second or third time.

The question as to who is most at risk, and why, is a thorny issue.

On the one hand, New York University's Centre on International Cooperation recently issued a report claiming that locally hired staff are more at risk than expatriate aid workers. On the other hand, the UN refugee agency argued that "the risk to individual aid workers had probably decreased in recent years." \*\* In 1997-2005, international staff were involved in three times as many violent incidents as local staff.

What is certain is that humanitarian aid is a growth industry. Aid agencies' budgets have more than doubled in real terms since 1997, while the number of aid workers has risen by 77%.

It seems that aid is also becoming more of a 'competitive' trade, with pressure building for agencies to go to increasingly dangerous areas.

Sources: \*"UN: Darfur aid operation faces collapse," *Mail and Guardian* 17 January 2007.

\*\* "Doing evil to do-gooders" *The Economist* 20 January 2007.

"AU confirms Darfur air raids," *Mail and Guardian* 23 January 2007.

## POLITICS & SOCIETY

### Star-Spangled Spanglish ?

By Benjamin SAFAR

**In the American melting-pot, cultural identities mix in unexpected ways. Is Spanglish more than a by-product of this hybridisation process? A proper language or a dialect?**

Spanglish, also known as Espanglish, Espaninglish, Inglañol, or Espan'glés, is a mix between English and Spanish spoken mostly in the United States. For example, *to watch* in English, translates to *observar* in Spanish and *watchear* in Spanglish. Sometimes grammatical structures and syntax rather than words are mixed too.

Spanglish goes back to the conquest of California, Texas, and New Mexico. It is localized chiefly along the US-Mexico border, but has spread throughout Southern California, northern New Mexico, Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and as far north as New York City. There are several kinds of Spanglish: that of a bilingual Mexican-American is obviously different from as that of a bilingual Puerto Rican but they still understand one another. It is also spoken in Panama and Gibraltar where it is not considered as proper Spanglish but as a hybrid of different lineage.

The mixing of languages is not specific to Spanglish. There are several other examples such as Czenglish or Franglish. But these mixes tend to be broken English spoken by Czech or French native speakers.

What makes Spanglish important is the increasing number of people who actually speak it. Its cultural and political profile has been rising together with the increase of the Latino population. Currently 40 million Latinos live in the United States and it is estimated that Latinos will be the largest community in the country by 2050.

Language can become a delicate issue as it is perceived as a quintessential element of cultural identity and national sovereignty. Last April the release of *Nuestro Himno*, the Spanish version of the American national anthem loosely translated and featuring Spanish-language stars like Gloria Trevi and Carlos Ponce, created a major stir in the heated debate about immigration. But it was Spanish, not Spanglish that hit the headlines then.

Spanglish is more of a dialect than a fully-fledged language: it is not written, there are no courses in Spanglish. It is rather a popular label for a collection of disparate language contact situations, where Spanish-speaking communities are influenced by English. It has a purely communicative vocation. The movie entitled *Spanglish* directed by James L. Brooks in 2004, was a rather innocuous comedy filled with puns on language barriers.

Nothing compared with the polemical impact of *Nuestro Himno*.

Sources: \*"Should we bother to learn another language?" *The Guardian* 26 November 2005.

"The immigration debate: the context; Behind a Talk, Bush's history" *The New York Times* 16 May 2006.

"Bush Enters Anthem Fight on Language," *The New York Times* 29 April 2006.

## POLITICS & SOCIETY

### Looking for missing children in America

By Julie LE COZ & Nicolas TREVILLOT

**According to the US Justice Department, about 800,000 children are reported missing each year. Who looks for them, how and for how long ?**

There are many different sorts of missing children. The vast majority of them are runaways. Then about 200,000 a year are abducted by family members, more often than not non-custodial parents. Non-family abductions account for a little less than 60,000 missing children a year, but most of them are short-term and usually a side-effect of another offence. However a little more than 100 children a year, that is two or three children a week, are victims of "stereotypical kidnappings." This is the term used in law-enforcement circles to describe "the taking of a child by a stranger in which the child is murdered, ransomed, taken with the intent to keep, transported a substantial distance or kept a long time" explains Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.\* About 40 to 50 of these children are eventually killed. Researchers now know that when children are abducted and murdered, in 74% of cases, the child is dead within the first three hours, so speedy and coordinated action is absolutely vital.

The official response and the pooling of information among the various agencies involved have both improved greatly in the last few decades. In 1982, Congress passed the Missing Child Act, which made it possible to put missing-child information into the FBI's national crime computer. In 1990, a law enabled police departments to take immediate action without waiting to see if the missing child came back. The FBI then created a Child Abduction Response Team that investigates each case on the scene.

Search techniques have changed too, but photographs are still widely used to look for leads and to keep up people's interest. Missing children's faces stare from milk cartons or tears-wrenching handwritten posters. Thanks to the internet, these photos are now published nationwide on websites set up by parents appealing for sightings. But unfortunately, this is not quite as effective as it could be. 96 per cent of Americans say they see these pictures, but just 40 per cent say they actually believe that they could help reunite a family. Even if the authorities use morphing to age the photographs of long-term missing children to remind the public that these children are still unaccounted for, many people just stop paying attention. The media also quickly lose interest.

But there are surprising cases when after years of being reported as missing, children miraculously reappear, often scarred for life. The strange tale of Shawn Hornbeck has renewed interest in the plight of missing children. After the boy was reported missing in 2002, his parents tried everything they could: they took part in numerous TV shows, hired psychics, created a website, but to no avail... until four years later, when a sighting led the police to discover Shawn's whereabouts. Apparently the boy was relatively well-treated by his captor: he could ride his bicycle and play outside with friends. He even had a cell phone and access to the internet, i.e. many opportunities to get in touch with his family or hand himself over to the police. This is what struck the public most.

Shawn Hornbeck, may have fallen victim to the so-called "Stockholm syndrome," but what his story really shows is that despite the grim statistics, the authorities and the relatives of missing children should continue searching.

Sources: \* « No Such Thing as False Hope » *Newsweek* 20 January 2007.

"How a kidnapped boy readjusts," *Time* 19 January 2007; "The hunt for missing kids," *Newsweek* 18 January 2007.

"So, Shawn Hornbeck could have escaped from his kidnappers. That's no reason to blame him," *The Guardian* 17 January 2007.

"Home at last: the boy they feared dead," *The Observer* 14 January 2007.

## ARTS & BOOKS

### [Gloomy superheroes on screen](#)

By Thomas BORDIER & Marie-Dominique BEAU

**In 2007 dark and gloomy will be the dominant hues in both sequels and new adaptations of comic books for screen. From *Ghost Rider* to *Iron Man*, heroes are changing faces and sport a sombre mask.**

The mood and style of the heroes created by Marvel and DC Comics publishing companies have often been read as a faithful reflection of the American psyche.

For instance, during the Depression and the war years, Marvel created patriotically themed superheroes, such as *Captain America* (1941), as well as *übermensch* archetypes which were extremely popular. They went out of fashion in the post-war years, as they were overtaken by DC Comics' *Batman*, *Superman* and *Wonder Woman*. Readers in the late 1950s and early 1960s found it easier to sympathise and identify with these superheroes in the « real world » whose problems and life-styles seemed more human. Marvel adapted to this new competition by creating the *Fantastic Four* (1961), a whole family of superheroes with more mundane preoccupations.

In the 1980s, strong, handsome, and fearless heroes like the *X-men* (originally created in 1963), *Daredevil* (originally created in 1964) and *Ghost Rider* (originally created in 1973), became hugely popular. A decade later, the pendulum swung again and the wish for more well-rounded and complex characters appeared. *Superman* and *Batman* came back in force.

A number of Marvel comic book characters were turned into highly successful film series, like the *X-Men*, starting in 2000, and *Spider-Man*, beginning in 2002.

However, 2007 will be a turning point : gloomy and angst-filled superheroes are now all the rage.

The adaptation of *Ghost Rider*, directed by Mark Steven Johnson is to be released world-wide this February. The filmmaker repeatedly said he wanted to picture a super dark hero. The main character, Johnny Blaze, sells his soul to the devil in order to save his father. At night, he becomes a ghost and must fight against evil. He has no choice but face his destiny.

Peter Parker, aka Spiderman, is also tortured by questions about his own power. *Spiderman III*, directed by Sam Raimi, will be released in May. In this third sequel, Parker's famous red and blue suit symbolically turns black, the hero loses his self-control and becomes overconfident and vengeful.

*Fantastic Four: Rise of The Silver Surfer* directed by Kevin Smith will be released in August. The four heroes encounter the intergalactic herald Silver Surfer, who comes to Earth to prepare it for destruction and wreaks havoc all around the globe.

2008 should not be more gleeful for Marvel characters. *Iron man*, directed by Jon Favreau, will also focus on the dark side of the famous hero.

#### Sources:

[www.sonypictures.com/movies/](http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/)

[www.marvel.com/](http://www.marvel.com/)

## BUSINESS & MEDIA

### Sealand: a paradise for hi-tech pirates?

By Simon CARLI & Jean-Baptiste LUSIGNAN

**Sealand is not just any ordinary island in the North Sea. It is a wartime fortress, 10 km off the coast of Suffolk in England and it is for sale.**

Although it faces the Thames estuary, Sealand stands in international waters, 3 nautical miles away from British territorial waters. Paddy Roy Bates, self-proclaimed "His Royal Highness Prince Roy", claims to have ruled this micronation since 1967. Built in 1942, on a sandbar, the fort used to be known as His Majesty's Fort Roughs. But, as a former Major of the British army and a pirate radio broadcaster, the Prince of Sealand and his family claimed sovereignty over it. The Bates faced a lot of internal disturbances: uprisings, kidnappings and a huge fire last June that almost destroyed the much coveted platform.

No nation in the world has recognized its independence yet, and none has even extended the courtesy to consider its national football team seriously. With 5 to 10 inhabitants and 550m<sup>2</sup> of deck surface, it has neither enough players for a whole team nor enough room for a single football field. However, in 2003, Prince Roy appointed Vestbjerg, a Danish football club, as Sealand's official team. According to the micronation press releases, the team played several games in 2004 against unknown other micronations and even intended to play against Tibet. Ruling Prince Michael (Roy's son) claimed in a recent interview that the team was still up and running. Apart from football, Sealand's sporting gifts are multifaceted. Prince Roy appointed a Canadian marathon runner, Darren Blackburn, as the very first athlete of the Principality and also claimed to be highly competitive in mini-golf and slot-car racing.

Sealand has been given front-page treatment lately as the ruling family are talking of selling the island or rather of transferring its sovereignty as in theory, principalities can't be sold. for the price tag is an estimated one billion dollars (£ 500,000,000 or € 750,000,000). A Spanish real estate company has been appointed to look over the process. They have made clear they would not consider any amateurish offers.\*

Despite its lack of lush scenery, Sealand could be an interesting investment as it has its own currency (exchange rate is 1 Sealand dollar for 1 US dollar), its own postal service, its own passports and citizenship rules, and of course, its own laws. Its internet website hosting company HavenCo boasts having no regulations concerning copyrights, patents, libel, restrictions on political speech, tax or other issues. Child pornography is the only explicitly prohibited content.

In the wrong hands, Sealand could become a haven for illegal businesses. Internet pirates and hacks of all kinds began to dream of a nation of their own where free trading of protected contents, such as music or movies could go on unfettered. A group of them, under the name of "Pirate Bay", started a website appealing for donations to buy Sealand ([www.buysealand.com](http://www.buysealand.com)). Donors were granted to become "Sealanders" as soon as the requested amount of money is raised. But, in the face of mounting criticism, Prince Michael said that he would not transfer his principality to rulers who go against international laws such as Pirate Bay members.\*\* The latter were a little miffed but with the \$20.000 they claim to have raised, they might find a more welcoming land sooner rather than later.

Sources: \*Article on [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) tagged as "Sealand"

\*\*Prince Michael's interview published on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) tagged as "Interview with Prince of Sealand"

Official website <http://www.sealandgov.org>

Former official website <http://www.fruitsofthesea.demon.co.uk/sealand/>

« The Pirate Bay wants to buy Sealand, » <http://torrentfreak.com> 18 January 2007; « Sealand won't be sold to pirates, » <http://torrentfreak.com> 18 January 2007; « Woah, overwhelming, » <http://buysealand.com> 24 January 2007; « Sealand: wish you were here?, » *Internet Magazine* August 2002; « About HavenCo, » <http://www.havenco.com>

## BUSINESS & MEDIA

### [YouTube pledges to pay its users, but what about its authors?](#)

By Nicolas CHEVET & Mathieu LEROUX

**YouTube, the largest video-sharing website on the Internet is going to share part of its advertising income with users — a system which doesn't seem that simple to set up.**

YouTube users are delighted. Chad Hurley, co-founder of the website, has asserted he wants to pay the authors of videos posted on the website thanks to advertising revenues.

In various interviews on January 27, outside the Davos World Economic Forum, he explained that brief commercials (about 3 seconds) could be inserted for example at the beginning of videos clips. He did not give many details but several schemes seem to be contemplated, some of which could be implemented within months.

YouTube which boasts over 70 billion users a month, had so far refused to consider this issue. Mr Hurley explained "we didn't feel it was a great way to build a community. We wanted to keep it pure."\* But since YouTube was acquired by Google for 1,65 billion dollars last November, prospects have considerably widened both in terms of number of users and potential revenues. The distribution of these lucrative spoils with the users who post the most popular videos thus became a possibility if not a must.

It remains to be seen what the scale of this remuneration will be, and how the website will handle the legal issues at stake.

This reversal was not so much about morals as about business models. YouTube now considers that such payments will eventually improve the quality of the on-line contents, and thus more users and more advertising income. In that respect YouTube is not a pioneering website.

Competitors such as <http://one.revver.com/revver> in the UK already pay the users who put popular videos on-line. The authors can receive as much as 50% of the income generated by the service. They also receive money (as much as 20%) from each click on the ads that are attached to their postings. This can prove very lucrative as successful videos spread extremely rapidly via blogs and peer to peer networks.

The French Dailymotion, which is currently the second biggest on-line video sharing website, also pays some of its authors and contemplates widening its reward system.

Apart from sharing advertising revenues, there are also major copyright issues to be faced as users are not necessarily authors.

The stakes are high. Obviously competition and the prospect of earning easy money online will push users to upload works they have not created themselves. Why enable them to pocket the money ?

In Davos, Chad Hurley explained the website had a system allowing it to identify the contents under copyright and to affix a sort "of sound fingerprint" in order to make sure record companies received their dues. However music is not the only medium to consider: YouTube is currently the object of a summons by Fox television (News Corp) for distribution without authorisation of the recent episodes of "24" and "The Simpsons".

To minimize the risks, YouTube says it watches every single video before publishing it, and limits uploads to 100 mega-bytes so as to bar full-length films. But despite these measures, there are already many pirated videos circulating on the network.

Sources: \*"YouTube plans revenue share with users," *The Financial Times* 27 January 2007.

"YouTube to Share Revenue With Users" *The Washington Post* 27 January 2007.

"YouTube to become YouProfit" *The Independent* 28 January 2007.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Earth to Titan

by Amy KRAFT

**On January 3, 2007, a radar survey of Titan's high northern latitudes sent from the Cassini spacecraft, reported the discovery of lakes on Saturn's most mystifying moon.**

Saturn is the second largest planet in our solar system and has been a source of fascination since the time of the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei. He was perplexed by Saturn's changing appearance at particular times in the night sky. We know now that this difference in appearance is caused by a shift in our view of the ring plane made up of numerous particles of ice and rock whirling around Saturn at varying speeds. Recently, scientists have been concerned with the moons of Saturn, hoping that they will provide clues to the evolution of our own planet.

Launched on October 15, 1997 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft, (a collaboration between NASA, ESA [European Space Agency] and ASI [Italian Space Agency]) started its 7 year voyage to the planet Saturn to study its moons and their surrounding atmospheres. The spacecraft consists of two main elements: the NASA Cassini orbiter (named after the 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian-French astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini) and the ESA Huygens probe (named after the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch astronomer, mathematician, and physicist Christiaan Huygens).\* Since July 2004, the Cassini spacecraft entered Saturn's orbit, retrieving information from the Huygens probe, which touched down on Titan in January 2005.

Titan is Saturn's largest moon, and the only moon in our solar system with its own atmosphere. This moon is the size of a terrestrial planet with a dense atmosphere of nitrogen and methane, and a surface covered with organic matter. The exploration of Titan is a top priority of the Cassini-Huygens mission because scientists believe that it will answer some questions about Earth's early atmosphere. After the most recent discovery, The European Space Agency concluded, "These northern hemisphere lakes are the strongest evidence yet that Titan's surface and atmosphere have an active hydrological cycle, though with a condensable liquid other than water."\*\* Although Titan is far colder than Earth and lacks liquid water, its chemical composition is similar to Earth's early atmosphere. Also, many of the processes that contribute to the shaping of Titan's surface: wind, rain, volcanism, tectonic activity, river channels and drainage patterns resemble that of the Earth.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology describes the method used: "The Cassini-Huygens mission, using wavelengths ranging from ultraviolet to radio, is methodically and consistently revealing Titan and answering long-held questions regarding Titan's interior, surface, atmosphere, and the complex interaction with Saturn's magnetosphere."\*\*\*

And this is only the beginning. Scientists are not sure if they should assume the Cassini-Huygens mission to be half started or half finished. Starting in July this year, the Cassini spacecraft will move up and over Saturn with the aid of Titan's gravitational pole, enabling scientists to study both the lit and unlit poles of Saturn. Thirty more Titan flybys are expected in the next two years, including one in July that will feature the radar instrument, which has already shown scientists lots of intriguing surface details on Titan.

Sources : \* "Cassini-Huygens," <http://www.wikipedia.com> January 2007

\*\* "Titan Has Liquid Lakes!" European Space Agency: <http://www.esa.int> 3 January 2007

\*\*\*"Cassini." Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Tech: <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov> December 2006

"Cassini at Saturn: Halftime Highlights." <http://www.nasa.gov> 26 June 2006.

"Below Haze, Saturn's Biggest Moon Has Lakes." *The New York Times* 4 January 2007.

## ENVIRONMENT & TRAVEL

### Global warming in Canada: a political opportunity ?

By Rémy DUPRE & Guillaume LEFEVRE

**Canada is one of the few developed countries to be a net exporter of energy. As such it has both a direct and indirect responsibility for global warming. However its government has often been accused of being lame and parochial with regard to environmental matters.**

Just before the beginning of a heated parliamentary session, natural Resources Minister Cary Lunn invited the media to his department's suburban research centre for the promotion of clean-energy technology.

It was an appropriate setting to unveil a series of "new" environmental policies, including incentives for companies to invest in more wind power and programmes encouraging energy efficiency measures for vehicles and homes. For instance, power greedy air-conditioners were declared environmentally unfriendly. The surplus electricity required to operate them in summer forces coal power-plants to fire up their production. As this increases green-house gas emissions dramatically, the purchase of environment friendly air-conditioners will now be encouraged through tax-reductions.

While the federal government's interest in environmental issues was welcomed by green activists, it was also accused of stealing the opposition's clothes as the propositions actually resurrected several Liberal initiatives buried only a year ago.

Bruce Mc Callum, President of the Canadian Bio Energy Association, called for much more drastic measures particularly in relation to the issue of oil. Canada is currently the world's seventh producer of oil with 3 billion barrels per day. This represents a huge source of income for previously undeveloped regions such as British Columbia or Alberta where oil sands were considered too expensive to develop. Canada is said to hold the world's second-largest oil reserves behind Saudi Arabia. It also has vast deposits of natural gas.

The advocates of renewable energy consider that, to date, the Harper government has been far too cosy with oil companies, and has completely failed to tackle the ensuing environmental problems. They are now waiting for a clear signal from the Conservatives on a federal subsidy called the Wind Power Production Initiative. This Liberal program, which involved spending 886 million dollars over 15 years to improve wind power alternatives, was shelved last year.

As Mc Callum put it in *The Globe and Mail*: "the Harper government claims it has turned over a new leaf, the big question is, do they have the political will to make polluters pay?"

Sources: "Ottawa set to unveil climate plans," *The Globe and Mail* 16 January 2007.  
"Welcome to the new climate," *The Globe and Mail* 27 January 2007.

## SPORTS

### Liverpool becomes American

By Nicolas CHEVET

**At the beginning of February, Dubai International Capital (DIC) was on the verge of buying Liverpool Football Club. The deal collapsed abruptly and shortly after, the club accepted the takeover offer of two American tycoons.**

The new owners of Liverpool Football Club are not newcomers to sports. Tom Hicks, aged 60, owns both the Dallas Stars hockey team and the Texas Rangers baseball team. George Gillet, aged 68, is at the head of the Canadians of Montreal. The two businessmen joined forces to gazump rival bidders DIC. Soon after the deal was made public, they declared: "We fully acknowledge and appreciate the unique heritage and rich history of Liverpool and intend to respect this heritage in the future. The Hicks family and the Gillet family are extremely excited about continuing the club's legacy and tradition".\*

The club's "legacy and tradition" was bought for a hefty price: £470 million. The transaction involved approximately £45 million to pay off the club's debt, £174 million to sign new players and an estimated £215 million to fund the construction of a new 60 000 seat stadium, and due to begin in March.

The new owners of the club have explained they want to promote their newly acquired 'brand' on a global scale. Following in the footsteps of Manchester United and Chelsea, the club will be expected to play friendlies in Japan and China as part of its new branding strategy.

However they have also made it clear that they favour success over any balance sheet. This big-spending approach to sports has soothed many a reticent supporter. What they now hope is that Premiership results will quickly follow suit.

Sources: \*"Liverpool FC agree American takeover" *The Independent* 12 February 2007.

"Liverpool face long haul as Americans target Asia," *The Guardian* 13 February 2007.

"Liverpool to invest trust in American dream " *The Times* 2 February 2007.

"Another two Americans are sold on British soccer" *The Los Angeles Times* 6 February 2007.