

Freedom To Differ

A blog that speaks freely about legal and policy issues facing the media and the internet

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Tuesday, 20 February 2007

Daily News Links

- Federal police are seeking information from overseas law-enforcement agencies about more than 100 Australians suspected of being involved in a worldwide child pornography internet ring. Read more [here](#) (from [Australian IT](#)).
- Telus, the Canadian telephone company, included a new “adults only” section last month on a list of items its wireless customers could download. Read more [here](#) (from the [New York Times](#)).
- While the average parent usually buys their child a mobile telephone with security in mind, researchers at the Australia Institute have condemned the marketing of mobiles to children as promoting consumerism and destroying childhood. Read more [here](#) (from [Australian IT](#)).
- China's mobile operators estimate Chinese customers will send around 14 billion Lunar New Year text messages on their mobile phones during the week-long holiday, the Xinhua news agency said. China Mobile and China Unicom, the country's two largest mobile operators, said they had prepared their networks for the message deluge to avoid any disruption in traffic, Xinhua reported. Read more [here](#) (from [Australian IT](#)).
- Nickelodeon will begin a weekday program that incorporates material produced by children. Read more [here](#) (from the [New York Times](#)).
- Lonelygirl15, Jessica Rose, gets a role in an upcoming Lindsay Lohan film. Read more [here](#) (from [The Age](#)).
- In Spain, the Madrid bombing trial is opened to streaming video by [datadiar.com](#). Read more [here](#) (from the [New York Times](#)).
- Cuban search engine allows users to trawl Castro speeches. Read more [here](#) (from the [Sydney Morning Herald](#)).
- Starting this week, Suretone Records, a label distributed by the Universal Music Group, plans to distribute video files featuring popular acts like Weezer and new bands like Drop Dead Gorgeous on file-sharing networks that the industry has long viewed as illicit bazaars for pirates. Unlike the music audio and video files that major labels sell at services like iTunes, the video files will not be wrapped in protective software to limit copying, executives say. But they will also be incomplete: users who download them will see perhaps half the video and will be directed to the label's own Web site to watch the complete version — and the advertising planned to run alongside. Read more [here](#) (from the [New York Times](#)).
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) looks at the Nigerian email scam. Read it [here](#).
- Adventurer Robert Swan sets sail on a polar expedition next week to launch what he says is the world's first online education center in Antarctica that will offer children a real-time glimpse of life on the ice. Read more [here](#) (from [CNet News.com](#)).
- The next generation of TV dramas will let viewers break free from the shackles of the couch and restrictive broadcaster schedules, says Sony Pictures Television. In a first for the studio, it has acquired all international television, digital sell-through, gaming and mobile rights to a futuristic animated show called Afterworld. Produced by Emmy Award nominee Stan Rogow (known for his work on *Lizzie McGuire* and *All I Want for Christmas*) and written by Brent Friedman (*Mortal Kombat 2*), Afterworld will be distributed across all platforms including TV, the web and mobile phones. Accompanying this will be original web-only content to draw viewers even further into the plot. Read more [here](#) (from the [Sydney Morning Herald](#)).
- Schibsted, which owns the biggest-selling tabloid in Norway, is now the biggest player on the Internet in Norway and neighboring Sweden. Read more [here](#) (from the [New York Times](#)).
- Internet services firm NetRegistry has bought the assets of domain name and

web hosting outfit PlanetDomain from Primus Telecommunications for about \$8 million. The deal brings PlanetDomain's 100,000 small to medium business customers onto NetRegistry's books, boosting the firm's customer count to about 250,000. Read more [here](#) (from *Australian IT*).

- Magazines and other publications have built Oscar Web sites in hopes of cementing the loyalty of Web surfers. Read more [here](#) (from the *New York Times*).
- Scientists need more entrepreneurial drive and could benefit by doing more to promote solutions to big human problems, Google co-founder Larry Page told a meeting of academic researchers. Read more [here](#) (from *The Age*).
- Online coupons have always been a bargain-hunter's diversion, which may be precisely why the market has grown so slowly. Read more [here](#) (from the *New York Times*).

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About the Author

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The views I express here are my own.

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About this Blog

- **Archive**

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- **Content**

This blog mainly covers issues relating to the legal regulation of the internet and the media, but at times Constitutional law issues and politics are discussed. And occasionally I get distracted and post on movies and TV. While the focus is on Australia, developments in other nations around the world are considered as well.

- **Background**

The title of this blog is inspired by the Opinion of the US Supreme Court in *Board of Education v Barnette* 319 US 624 (1943): "But freedom to differ is not limited to things that do not matter much. That would be a mere shadow of freedom. The test of its substance is the right to differ as to things that touch the heart of the existing order."

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