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Join host **ANNA MARIA TREMONTI**  
**The Current**



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### Whole Show Blow-by-Blow

#### The Current for January 18, 2007

##### Satire

It's Thursday January 18th.

A review of the 1821 autopsy of Napoean Bonaparte suggests the French emperor died a more prosaic death than some would like to think. Despite theories he was poisoned by arsenic, it turns out he simply succumbed to stomach cancer.

Currently, I guess that explains why he always had his hand in his jacket.

This is The Current.

##### Citizen Journalism Panel

Robert William Pickton goes on trial for the murder of six women in Vancouver next week. Mr. Pickton faces 26 counts of murder after DNA from missing women was found on his suburban pig farm. This trial is limited to the first six cases. Even then, it will be a long, complicated and disturbing trial.

And when the courtroom doors swing open, media from around the world will flood in. One news outlet is offering a unique perspective in an effort to break through the smothering blanket of media coverage.

A website called Orato.com put out a call for sex workers to cover the trial for Orato. Using people with no journalistic experience to report the news is part of a growing movement in the media called citizen journalism. It has its supporters and detractors.

Pauline VanKoll is a former sex trade worker who answered Orato's call. Ms. VanKoll spoke to the CBC's Vancouver morning show about her experiences and why she wants to write about the Pickton trial for the website [Orato.com](http://Orato.com).

To delve into citizen journalism, what it means for traditional media and how we get our news we were joined by Paul Sullivan and Ross Howard.

Paul Sullivan is the founder of Orato.com. He also has many years experience in more mainstream media, including CBC radio, newspapers and television.

And Ross Howard is a former reporter with Globe and Mail. He now teaches journalism at Langara College in Vancouver. He is also project director for The Institute of Media, Policy and Civil Society and president of Media and Democracy, a group that trains journalists internationally. They were both in our Vancouver studio.

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##### The Current: Part 2

##### Mail

It's Thursday and that's mail day on The Current and our Friday host Matt Galloway joined Anna Maria in studio to go through the mail bag today.

In today's mail pack we also talked to two people ... on the topic of the fleeting life of tech toys ... one listener wrote to us to say we could have offered more depth on

this issue. Magnus Hanton just graduated with a Masters in Industrial Design at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design. We reached him by phone this morning in Tofino, British Columbia.

Also in our letters segment today after reading a listener's letter on environmental problems with technology and the use of coltan in cell phones and other small electronic devices it got us thinking about coltan. What is coltan? How is it mined and what risks it poses to Africa's gorilla population and their habitat.

To tell us more we were joined by Greg Cummings. He is a Director with The Gorilla Organization - a group based in England, dedicated to protecting gorillas in their natural habitat. We reached Mr. Cummings in London.

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### **The Current: Part 3**

#### **Wikileaks - Reporter**

It is a journalist's most closely guarded contact ... the insider or whistleblower but soon, that all-important secret source may be out of work.

Within weeks, getting your hands on leaked documents could be as easy as visiting a new website called [Wikileaks.org](http://Wikileaks.org).

Its creators say the site will be a kind of clearing house for incriminating material ... a safe forum for people who want to reveal dishonest or corrupt practices in government and business.

To learn more about Wikileaks and how it is supposed to work, we were joined by Paul Marks in London. He is the senior technology correspondent for the magazine *New Scientist*.

#### **Wikileaks Panel**

A quick spin around the Wikileaks.org site reveals a source of inspiration for its creators. There are quotations from Daniel Ellsberg on every page. He is the man famous for leaking the so-called Pentagon Papers in 1971. These were top-secret documents that Mr. Ellsberg had access to through his work with the Pentagon. They revealed the US government was misleading the public about the war in Vietnam. The Current spoke to Daniel Ellsberg back in 2002.

While Daniel Ellsberg has not endorsed Wikileaks, it's clear the creators want their leaked-document network to be perceived as a tool that could facilitate ground-breaking revelations similar to the Pentagon Papers.

To discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of wikileaks, we were joined by three people. Ariane Krol is an editorial writer for the Montreal daily, *La Presse*. Dylan Blaylock is a spokesperson for the Government Accountability Project in Washington D.C. It's a group that supports whistleblowers. And Jason Gratl is the president of the BC Civil Liberties Association. We reached him in Vancouver.

#### **Last Word: Tory Election Satire**

Well, a spring election is looking more and more likely with news this week that Stephen Harper has his Conservative candidates on high alert and has scheduled a campaign training school for March.

That got us here at The Current thinking now what would that sound like? So we ended the show this morning with an insider's look at Campaigning 101 - Stephen Harper style.

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