

## NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster  
managing editor

## Health authorities track source of tainted spinach

WASHINGTON: Health Department officials searching for the cause of a nationwide outbreak of E. coli have narrowed the search down to a trio of counties in California after a bag of tainted Dole spinach was found in the refrigerator of one of the outbreak victims.

The affected bag of spinach was found in New Mexico, but officials warn that the outbreak has been linked to illnesses and hospitalizations in 23 states, from California to Maine.

"It's certainly premature to say only this bag is going to test positive," said Dr. David Acheson, a representative of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, which is a division of the Food and Drug Administration. "There are others in the works."

The outbreak, which has killed one person and sickened at least 146, is in danger of retarding the growth of the relatively new bagged-salad and greens industry.

"I'm afraid with this new food fear, people are going to stop eating salad because even if it's in a bag they are going to have to wash it and it becomes inconvenient again," said Marcia Mogelonsky, a Mintel International business and research analyst, pointing out that bagged greens were a \$1.5 billion dollar industry that has grown a great deal in recent years.

"It was projected to keep growing, and now it's not going to," Mogelonsky said. Natural Selection Foods LLC, a large produce company based in California, has instituted a nationwide recall of its bagged spinach brands, in addition to RLB Food Distributors on the east coast. In all, 36 brands of bagged spinach and salads have been completely removed from store shelves.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

## Yale offers free online courses

BOSTON, Massachusetts: Yale University announced on Wednesday that it will begin offering courses online to any interested members of the public, completely free of charge.

The free online classes will include complete syllabi and reading lists, course lecture transcripts, and actual video of each lecture being given. While several other institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton already offer transcripts for some of their courses online for no charge, Yale is the first to focus on and include video of professional instruction and class interaction.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share a vital and central part of the Yale experience with those who, for whatever reason, are not in a position to pursue a Yale education at first hand," Yale President Richard Levin said in a written announcement. The average tuition for a Yale undergraduate is almost \$46,000.

Beginning in 2007, seven courses will make their free online debut in their entirety, including "Introduction to the Old Testament," "Fundamentals of Physics" and "Introduction to Political Philosophy."

Yale administration officials emphasize that the online courses are for personal education purposes only, and that the free online courses do not count towards any college credit or Yale degree program.

## Africans flee to Europe

DAKAR, Senegal: In desperate attempts to escape the civil wars and rampant lawlessness of central and sub-Saharan Africa, Africans are taking to the seas in an effort to migrate to the relative security of Europe.

Nearly 25 thousand Africans have set sail from the coast of Senegal in overcrowded, swamped and sometimes improvised watercraft. Some are killed in transit to their destinations on the coasts of Spain and Italy, but increasing patrols by the Spanish, Italian and Senegalese military and police forces are turning back or imprisoning the desperate migrants.

The increased presence of patrols in the Mediterranean Sea have caused the Africans to find new points of departure.

"We have patrol vessels and aircraft out in the seas and skies every day," said Lt. Col. Alioune Ndiaye, a Senegalese police spokesman. "Instead of leaving Senegal, more and more migrants are now departing from farther down the coast, from Gambia and Guinea-Bissau."

"A greater number have left or are still leaving. It's a matter we're struggling with. The magnitude is very alarming," Gambian police spokesman Superintendent Aziz Bojang reported.

Officials report that since European Union border security forces, called Frontex, started patrolling, more than 2000 refugees and smugglers had been intercepted in their attempts to land on the Spanish Canary Islands.

## LRC aid in success of students

By Chris Brown  
staff writer

Doing well in school can be hard even for the most studious students. Sometimes there just doesn't seem to be enough time in class to grasp all the material. The professor may be moving too fast, or the new material being covered just doesn't make sense. Any number of obstacles can make it difficult for students to do well.

However, there is hope. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) in the Lilley Library offers the Peer Tutoring program to help students succeed in the classroom.

The Learning Resource Center is on the second floor of the Lilley Library and is the main hub for seeking help at Penn State Behrend. Over the past few years, the Peer Tutoring Program has expanded, and last semester over 150 courses had tutors that were available to give help. Generally, tutoring starts after the second week of classes to give students a chance to finalize their class schedules and determine the areas where they need help.

This year, the LRC has already seen a large number of inquiries about the program. Ruth Pflueger, Director of the LRC, attributes this to the large incoming freshman class this year.

Seeking help is easy and tutors are very approachable. Writing and math tutors are available for walk-in hours six days a week. During these hours no appointment is necessary for help; they are in the LRC Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Evening walk-in hours are also in Reed 3 Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

The evening and Sunday hours and locations are for both the Math and Writing labs. The Math Lab has moved this year to Roche hall and the daily hours are from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays. There is also an Engineering Lab for help in 240 REDC; appointments should be made for anyone seeking help in an engineering course. Tutors are also available in Perry, Niagra, Senat, Ohio, and Lawrence Residence halls. Check with an RA for time and subject availability. If a tutor

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isn't available for a certain class, the LRC will search for a tutor in that subject, by seeking out prospective tutors through teachers.

It can take up to two weeks to find a tutor though so it is important to check early with the LRC. In case these times don't fit a schedule special appointments can also be made by calling the LRC at (814)898-6140. To find out more information visit the Peer Tutoring page

by accessing the Learning Resource Center's homepage via [pserie.psu.edu/academic/lrc](http://pserie.psu.edu/academic/lrc).

The Learning Resource Center also offers Supplemental Instruction for difficult classes. This semester this extra help is being offered in Phys 211 and Phys 212.

These sessions are lead by a student that did well in the class before and help students prepare for the difficult course; often focusing on class preparation, note-taking, how to study, and giving extra explanation on course content. To check for times and locations visit the LRC's webpage and click on the Supplemental Instruction link.

Any student that is interested in sharing their ideas with the Beacon News Page can contact Chris LaFuria at [CSL5005@psu.edu](mailto:CSL5005@psu.edu) or stop in the Beacon office.

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