

At a Glance...

Blast kills three

PORTAGE, Indiana-A powerful explosion killed three workers and demolished part of a steel plant, rocking the southern end of Lake Michigan yesterday.

According to police, eight others were injured at the Beta Steel Corp. facility in a blast at 7 a.m. local time just as shifts were changing.

"It was like a time bomb. The whole ceiling was caving in. It was devastating," said a supervisor who was inside the plant when the explosion hit.

The blast appeared to be centered near a pressurized tank used to kill hot-rolled band steel produced at the \$75 million "mini mill" plant which opened in 1991.

Police and fire rescue workers were searching the twisted girders and debris inside the plant. John Rogers, spokesman for the Portage Police Department, said he did not know if the toll would rise but confirmed that three workers were killed.

Rogers estimated that 50 to 60 workers were inside the windowless, blue, steel-walled plant at the time of the explosion. The blast blew two gaping holes in the roof and collapsed walls.

Witness said the blast could be felt for miles around. One resident of the surrounding neighborhood said he thought his roof was falling in.

Beta Steel is one of about 30 steel and heavy manufacturing companies at the industrial are called the Port of Indiana about 40 miles southeast of Chicago along Lake Michigan.

Rabin killer guilty; gets life

TEL AVIV, Israel-An Israeli court convicted the killer of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, sentencing him to life imprisonment.

Yigal Amir confessed to the killing after a Nov. 4 peace rally, claiming to save Israel from further bloodshed by stopping Rabin from trading land for peace with the Palestinians.

Amir's lawyers pleaded for a manslaughter conviction, saying that he was so obsessed with removing Rabin from office that he was not in full control when he opened fire. Manslaughter carries a 20-year sentence.

However, the three-judge panel agreed that the killing was premeditated and gave Amir the Mandatory sentence. The death penalty is reserved for Nazi war criminals.

Dole claims GOP support

The battle for the Republican presidential nomination is over, according to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. However, Dole is

being vexed by Democrats in the Senate, Ross Perot on the horizon, and Pat Buchanan in the wings.

As Dole counted another round of victories in the primaries, commentator Buchanan sent mixed signals about his intentions. And House Speaker Newt Gingrich renewed his plea that Buchanan stand by the GOP.

Perot's signals were more straight forward--he launched a nationwide speaking tour bent on bringing about defeats of both Dole and President Bill Clinton. According to Perot, the GOP primary process is "beyond sick."

Dole has not let any of it rain on his parade. "Our country has reached a defining moment," Dole declared Tuesday night without waiting for results from Nevada, California and Washington state. "I am the Republican nominee."

Dole did lock up a majority of Republican delegates with a four-state Midwestern sweep a week ago. Tuesday's were Dole's 23rd, 24th and 25th consecutive victories over Buchanan, who agreed that Dole had locked up the GOP nomination.

Death by sauerkraut

BUDAPEST, Hungary-A barrel of sauerkraut became deadly when an 80-year old woman fell in and drowned while attempting to scoop out a portion, a Hungarian daily reported last week.

The woman, identified as Julianna Farkas, an ethnic Hungarian from Oradea, Romania, was discovered by neighbors when they heard the woman's three-year old great-grandson alone and crying in the yard, the paper reported.

According to reporters at the daily, police assumed the woman became dizzy while leaning on the sauerkraut, which was in a shed, and was overcome by the fumes.

The liquid in the barrel was 12 inches deep, according to police.

Tutors make impact

Tutoring is a rewarding experience

by Bob Misulich
Collegian Staff

The afternoon tutors at Diehl Elementary School are making a significant impact on the life of those third and fourth graders they are helping.

Penn State Behrend works in cooperation with Diehl Elementary School to encourage young people to make an extra effort in education.

The program not only helps youngsters get a good foundation in learning, but also makes a difference in the Penn State-Behrend student volunteering time.

From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., the tutor spends time working with the children on their math, reading, spelling, and English.

Every tutor is assigned two kids, and a teacher is present at all times.

Behrend tutor, Mike Morano, said he volunteers because of the rewarding feeling he gets when he knows he is making a difference in someone's life. "I like to share their accomplishments, and the kids are proud of their progress."

"The students are very bright, and they really appreciate everything you do for them," said tutor, Kim Carlson.

Kim said she thinks this as a great opportunity for her to work with kids, which is something she really enjoys. "The kids love the attention they get, sometimes parents are too busy," she added.

Student organizations are also taking an active part in the Diehl

Elementary School. The Delta Chi's are hosting a soccer demonstration to expose children to the rules of the game, and how to play safely. The Zeta Beta Tau's are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt, and Lambda Sigma will participate in Diehl's Easter play. The German Club will be exposing the youngsters to a festival describing German culture and holidays.

The Diehl students will get a taste of college life at Dobbins as a reward for earning honors merits. The Lion mascot will be greeting the young scholars at the door.

If you would like to make an impact on these young people's lives, contact Mari Trenkle at X6140

Ban on British beef

by Jennifer V. Colvin
Editor in Chief

In response to consumer fears of mad cow disease, the 15-nation European Union declared a worldwide ban on British beef exports yesterday.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, known as mad cow disease slowly attacks the brain, giving it a sponge-like consistency as nerve cells are destroyed.

The disease in cows is similar to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans. It resembles Alzheimer's - it produces apathy, irritability, dementia, balance problems and severe muscle spasms.

However, the human form of the disease can take many years or even decades to develop.

Because the time to develop

takes so long for CJD, it is possible that many more cases will materialize in Britain where 10 Britons have died recently.

Scientists are concerned that the handful of cases identified so far could be the beginning of a larger epidemic.

Cases of CJD have risen from 28 in 1985 to 55 in 1994. But what has surprised British scientists the most is the change in the diseased nerve cells which suggest the disease has changed since first discovered in 1985.

Mad cow disease is believed to have started in sheep; this form is known as scrapie. Until 1989, British farmers fed rendered sheep parts to cattle as a protein supplement.

Scrapie is believed to have infected cows only through improperly treated sheep parts in the food resulting in mad cow

disease.

The practice was banned in 1989.

Recently, British scientists announced that there was evidence for a link between mad cow disease and CJD. This comes after years of government denials of any possible link.

The British meat industry has been in crisis since last week's report.

Most EU countries and many others had already shut out British beef.

According to the European Commission, the measures ban the export of all live cattle, beef and beef products from the United Kingdom to any other country.

The World Health Organization is hosting a meeting of experts to study the suspected link between mad cow and CJD.

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SGA Report

by Sean Slekkinen
Collegian Staff

The Student Government Association holds its weekly meeting every Wednesday at 5:15 in Reed conference room 114.

Vice president Dave Miller moved to loan \$300 to the Tempus Literary Magazine to cover production costs of this year's issue. The money would have been repaid with revenue generated from magazine sales, but according to senator Steve Landon, carrying the debt over into next semester is in violation of university policy. The motion passed, but will become void if determined that it violates school policy.

Sparked by Michael Zampetti's investigation into prayer at school ceremonies, SGA voted on two separate motions aimed at temporarily removing it from graduation. Zampetti's first motion was for an SGA resolution in favor of a one year trial period in which a prayer would not be said at commencement. The motion was defeated 7-6. An amended motion that provided for an additional but separate religious ceremony was also defeated.

The Eric Community Blood Bank will hold a blood drive on April 10 in the Reed commons. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health.

The budget committee will hold a mandatory meeting Friday morning at 8:00 in Reed 3.

WPSE

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"We know that the station has to meet (those) goals and given the fact that both our full time staff positions are over turning simultaneously, it gives us a chance to rethink."

Questions have also been circulating about WPSE changing its format and though its not out of the question, it will mostly be up to whoever takes the new position as general manager.

Whoever it is will have a tough time filling Anzivino's shoes, but WPSE is ready to face that obstacle when it comes.