

The Behrend College Collegian

RECEIVED
Monday, October 31, 1996

Erie, PA 16563

Vol XLV, No. 8

OCT 30 1996

BEHREND COLLEGE
LIBRARY

Woman may have agreed to own killing

Leaving her Maryland home, Sharon Lopatka left a note telling her husband that she was going to visit friends in Georgia and would not be returning. She then asked him not to seek vengeance.

But Lopatka had planned on going to North Carolina, where she expected to be sexually tortured and killed by a man she met on the Internet, police said Tuesday.

Last week, Lopatka's body was found in a shallow grave behind a mobile home in Collettsville. Robert Glass, the home's owner, was charged with first degree murder and is being held without bond.

According to investigators, computer messages from Glass were discovered from Lopatka's home computer, indicating that she went to North Carolina knowing what awaited her. Why remains a mystery.

E-mail messages, apparently from Glass, "described in detail how he was going to sexually torture...and ultimately kill her," police documents said.

An autopsy showed death by strangulation. Initial tests on whether she was sexually tortured were inconclusive.

X-plicit Players free to perform

Two topless performance artists have regained the right to perform in the parks of Berkeley, Calif.

A hung jury liberated Debbie Moore, 44, and Nina Shilling, 50, of breaking Berkeley's anti-nudity ordinance last week with a 10-2 vote in favor of acquittal. The women, who perform in parks as the X-plicit Players, claim that they "embrace the trees and embrace each other with our bodies."

"I just encourage anyone who hears this news in their faraway places to feel encouraged to...go out and celebrate breast freedom and enjoy the magic of being in such a trusting position," said Moore.

The women faced up to 18 months in prison and \$3,000 fines. Prosecutors may seek another trial.

Fire safety system not found on TWA flight 800

Officials say that the 747 that exploded in midair off Long Island, New York was built in 1971, three years before the device was put in the first 747. Now, the device is regularly installed, but still not required. The fuel vent line that leads to where the flame arrester should have been installed is currently under study by investigators.

Crash investigators found soot in the fuel vent line which indicates that fire ran through tubing that stretched between the center fuel tank and the reserve tank in the right wing. Investigators know that the center fuel tank exploded, and there was also evidence of fire in the reserve tank in the right wing.

So far investigators aren't sure how the fire traveled. Flame arresters were recommended however, not required after 1967. Out of the 1,090 Boeing 747s in service, about 260 were built without flame arresters.

Air bags now more dangerous than believed

Federal regulators now acknowledge that a child can be killed by an auto airbag even when properly restrained by a safety belt. The danger is so great that the head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says kids should ride in the back seat until age 12, not only 5 or 6 as safety experts once advised. Dual air bags, required by law in all new cars after 1998, have saved 1,136 lives. However, experts acknowledge that bags injure and even kill children and short adults when the bags inflate during a crash. The number of children killed by airbags has risen to 28, 12 which occurred this year alone. Families of children killed by airbags want big warning labels in cars and trucks saying that airbags can kill children that are properly belted in. Passenger air bags are estimated to kill two children for every life saved.

Gulf War veterans exposed to nerve gas

Twenty-thousand Gulf War veterans are being notified that they may have been exposed to nerve gas during postwar weapons demolition in Iraq. The exposure to these chemical agents may be to blame for the mysterious illnesses suffered by thousands who served in the 1991 war. Originally only 120 estimated troops had been affected by the gas, now Pentagon officials say that possible exposure may have occurred during an extended time frame and in a broader area. Twenty-thousand troops served within the area during that time. The Pentagon and CIA, trying to reconstruct how the gases were spread, are asking veterans to call a toll-free number, 800-472-6719, so that they can be interviewed about their experiences. The units involved are believed to be mainly the Army's 82nd Airborne, 24th Mechanized Division, and the 101st Airborne Division. Complaints of effects range from depressed immune systems to damaged nervous systems.

Clinton: Another four years

by Doreen Foutz
News Editor

Bill Clinton has earned himself another four years in the White House. Dole fell to Clinton by a 60 to 33 vote margin thanks to Religious Affairs which sponsored a "mock election" Monday, October 28, in the

Results of the '96 Mock Election

Presidential Race:
33 Bob Dole
60 Bill Clinton
18 Ross Perot
2 Howard Phillips
1 John Hagelin

Attorney General:
36 Mike Fisher
48 Joe Kohn

Auditor General:
29 Bob Nyce
63 Bob Casey, Jr.
5 Robert Lord
8 Sharon Shepps

State Treasurer:
35 Barbara Hafer
42 Mina Baker Knoll
6 Dean Snyder
5 John Famularo
10 Michael Klein

Representative for Congress:
45 Phil English
52 Ronald DiNicola

Sen. in Gen. Assembly
49th District:
51 Jane Earl
40 Anthony "Buzz" Andrezski

Rep. in Gen. Assembly
1st District:
63 Linda Bekko Jones
117 students voted



How do you work this thing? Julie Cain, 05 Math hesitates before making her big decision. Religious Affairs sponsored a "mock election" Monday in the Wintergreen Lobby.

Wintergreen Lobby with a polling booth open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Students need to become more involved in the future of their country," said Kelly Shroul, coordinator of Protestant campus

ministry.

Only 117 students took the opportunity to voice their opinion.

"I was surprised that so few students voted. I know it wasn't fair to all of the students because

it was only in one location, and it was not fair in the fact that it only catered to the students that are there on Mondays. But, hopefully next election we'll have the opportunity to do something different," said Shroul.

Hands on experience



FIELD TRIP! Walking through the Wintergreen Gorge with ECO-ACTION and Dr. Eva Tucker, students from Diehl Elementary's fourth grade class learned about the formation of the Gorge and fossils.

by Doreen Foutz
News Editor

Approximately ten students from Eco-Action and 50 students from Diehl Elementary School's fourth grade class explored the Wintergreen Gorge last Friday as part of the Adopt-A-School-Program.

Assistant Professor of Geoscience, Dr. Eva Tucker lead the students on a tour through the Wintergreen Gorge.

"He explained about the leaves on the trees and why they change, and erosion as we walked," said Richard Hollerman, 07, Electrical Engineering, member of Eco-Action.

On the tour, the elementary students learned about how the gorge was formed as well as

river had cut out the channel for the gorge, the formation of rivers from streams into oceans, clouds

Eco-Action.

The Diehl students looked for fossil rocks and found quite a few to take back with them as Dr. Tucker explained how the rocks were deposited there by the water.

"I think it was highly successful. It was a very worthwhile experience for the children to experience the natural world when they come from an inner-city school," said Bryant.

For information on how to get involved in the Adopt-A-School program contact the Academic Support Programs Coordinator, Mari Trenkle in the Provost's office.

"It was a very worthwhile experience for the children to experience the natural world when they come from an inner-city school."

-Scott Bryant, member of Eco-Action

finding out how the fossils end up there.

"Tucker explained how the

and where rain comes from," said Scott Bryant, 06

Telecommunications, member of