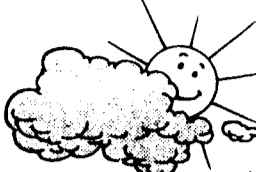




WEEKEND WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
		
Partly Cloudy/ Chance Snow High: 28° Low: 18°	Chance Snow High: 28° Low: 15°	Chance Snow High: 18° Low: 5°

BEHREND BRIEFS

REDC wall panel to aid architects

A new construction project is under way between the Junker Center and the Smith Chapel, but it's only temporary! In preparation for construction of the Research and Economic Development Center, a wall panel representing prospective exterior construction materials is being erected. It will be used to evaluate the appearance of the \$30 million building.

This mini project will include poured concrete walls, metal siding, polycarbonate siding, and windows. Director of Operations John Ream said architects and the University will evaluate the materials to arrive at the best visual combination, taking into account colors, texture, and setting. Construction of the REDC is expected to begin later this year.

Curricular changes hold for faculty review

Proposed curricular changes for the Political Science major (POLSC) are on hold for faculty review until Thursday. The proposal includes addition of a Political Theory course and the renaming of a subfield.

Proposed curricular changes for the master's degree in Business Administration (B ADM) major also are on hold for faculty review. The proposal includes changes to six existing courses and the addition of 25 new courses.

Copies of the proposals are available in the school offices and in the library during the hold period.

Faculty comments on the political science changes should be directed to Dr. Archie Loss, interim director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, or to Shannon Sweeney, chair of Curricular Affairs. Faculty comments on the business administration changes should be directed to Dr. John Magenau, director of the School of Business, or to Sweeney.

Penn State has ties with NASA shuttle

Americans and others around the world shared a stunned sadness as the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy unfolded over this past weekend. The particular sense of loss felt by those close to the space program and seven Columbia crew members has reached within the Penn State family, as several members of the University community have direct or historical ties to NASA and the shuttle program or had research and astronaut colleagues lost in the skies over Texas on Saturday.

Some Penn Staters are on the front lines of piecing together what went wrong, including NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe and Columbia investigation leader Harold Gehman, U.S. Navy (Ret.). Others -- particularly researchers at Penn State's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center -- are not only lamenting the loss of Columbia and its crew, but also the years of Hershey medical research that was aboard Columbia. Finally, others in the University community are dealing with the tragedy in a way that very few can -- as fellow astronauts. Alumni Paul Weitz, Guion Bluford, the first African-American to fly into space, and Bob Cenker flew aboard space shuttle missions in the 1980s.

A fourth alumnus, James Pawelczyk, currently assistant professor of kinesiology and physiology at Penn State, flew aboard Columbia on STS-90 in 1998 and was in training for his mission as many of the seven Columbia crew members lost on Saturday were just entering the astronaut corps.

POLICE AND SAFETY

1/29/03	10:30	Complainant reported being struck by car near Ohio Hall.
1/29/03	15:15	Complainant reported that a sign in Reed had been taken.
1/31/03	07:15	Complainant reported the club car utility vehicle used by their department had been vandalized.
2/1/03	02:10	Complainant reported the theft of a pair of shoes.
2/2/03	04:38	Report of a disturbance, possibly a fight in the south side of Perry Hall.
2/2/03	10:47	Theft of several items from apartment reported.
2/4/03	16:15	Complainant reported that several items were taken from his apartment sometime this past weekend. A list was also submitted.

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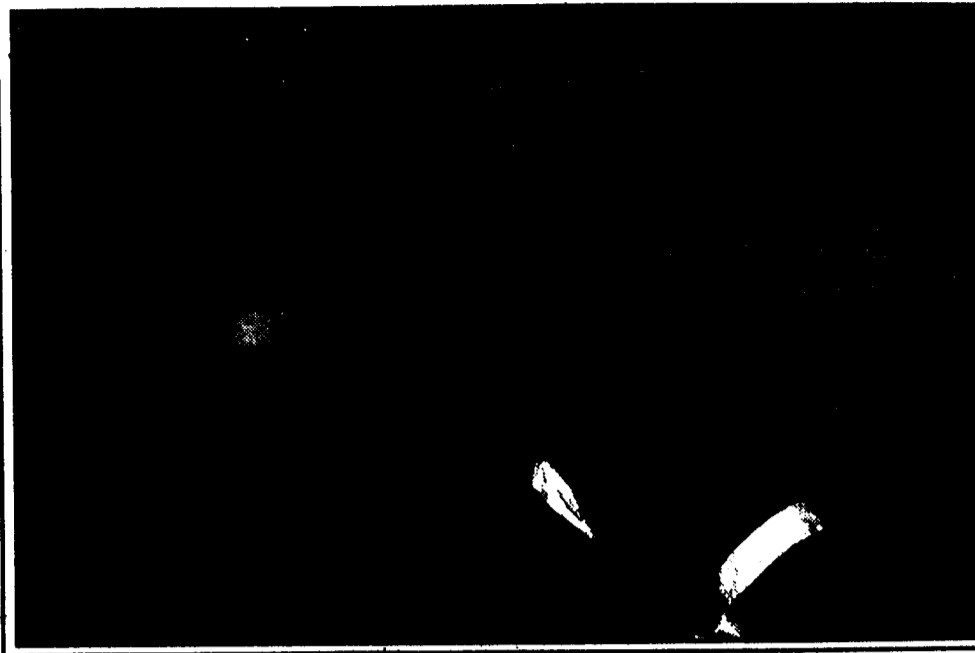
Prepare yourself for the world, as the athletes used to do for their exercise; oil your mind and your manners, to give them the necessary suppleness and flexibility; strength alone will not do."
- Lord Chesterfield

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



FOCAL POINT

Christmas in Afghanistan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This snapshot of Christmas in Afghanistan offers a glimpse of how soldiers spent their holiday.

FROM FRONT PAGE

MILLER

But sometimes, being away from family just presents another opportunity to find joy in new situations.

"My company adopted a puppy that we found in a mine field," Miller said. "It was cold and hungry so we started taking

care of it and [we named him] Ranger. Now it just hangs out where we all work and we feed it and keep it warm."

Iraq and North Korea might be on the top of Washington D.C.'s agendas, but there is still danger for all troops stationed

in Afghanistan. And Miller is sure to stress that despite all the risk, it's not that scary at his camp.

"We got attacked about a week ago," Miller said. "It was the middle of the night and we were woken up by an explosion. Our captain came in our tent and told us to get our gear on and get to the bunkers." (Miller's equipment includes a bulletproof vest, kevlar helmet, and a weapon.)

"We all went to the bunkers and waited while listening to the choppers and bombers take off," Miller said. "We cracked jokes for about an hour and then returned to our cots and went right to sleep. It's not scary here at all, at least to me."

While preparing for and avoiding such attacks, Miller and his company have also avoided getting the smallpox vaccine, regardless of President Bush's suggestion that active military personnel should receive it.

"No, we haven't received the smallpox vaccine," Miller said.

And what's the weather like there? Any better than 'dreary' Erie?

"It's sunny here most of the time but it is usually cold this time of year," Miller said. "It's about 40 degrees during the day and 30 degrees at night. It's the rainy season now and so [there is] mud most of the time due to the fact that there is no grass or vegetation. I miss the cloudy Erie skies!" he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junk lies strewn about a field in Afghanistan near Jeff Miller's camp.

Boat lovers share passion in Behrend's new Sailing Club

by Jen Henderson
assistant news editor

Did you know that Behrend has a Sailing Club? Neither did many students, until recently.

Students formed this unusual club last semester after enjoying ESACT sailing classes that were offered at Behrend.

The club has not been as active as it would like; it needs some time to get on its feet with various programs and to gain new members.

"The club came about due to the outstanding success of the sailing class, which was offered for the first time this year. The class was the most enjoyable class I have taken in eight semesters at Behrend," said club member Steven Johnston. "The people at the BCMS and the students in the class were a wonderful group of people. We all enjoyed going out on the bay and feeling the excitement and power in the wind and the waves. Taking time out of a busy day to go sailing was also a welcome diversion to typical schoolwork."

President of the Sailing Club is Michael Hargather. "We have many faculty and students who want to be a part of the club and want to enjoy and experience sailing on many different levels," he said.

Members do not have to have had any previous experience.

"We have members who have never sailed before and people who have been sailing all their lives," said Hargather.

The officers for the club are Chris Agosti, Vice President, Secretary Guy Reschenthaler, and Treasurer Joe Busse.

When asked how he got involved with the out of the ordinary club Busse said, "I first heard about the Sailing Club when I was at a hockey practice. A friend of mine who I sailed with said he saw a flyer in one of the hallways in Reed. Since I have sailed for as long as I can remember, I thought it would be a fun club to join."

Agosti had inspiring words about the activity.

"Sailing is about harnessing the incredibly awesome and unpredictable forces of nature," said Agosti. "When you're sailing in the groove and the boat is heeling just right, and you know that at any minute a strong puff could blow you over, then you're sailing. When you feel the tiller pulling you from your seat, or when you feel the power of the wind in the palms of your hands as you grab hold of a line, that's what sailing is about. It's about the uncertainty of the wind and water."

Hargather said the club will be busy this spring.

"Goals of the sailing club are to learn more about the sport of sailing and everything that is involved in maintaining a sailboat. We hope to enter some competitions in the spring," he said. "Our boats are provided by the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies. We are always in close contact with the BCMS and they will help us with a lot of what we hope to do."

This semester the club plans on purchasing new equipment for the boats in order to prepare for the sailing weather as soon as it arrives. Once the weather does get better it is likely that they will be sail weekly or more.

"We want to hold at least one event this semester at the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, where all of the boats that we use are stored and owned," said Hargather. "In the fall we hope to be a part of a sailing league, in which we would be a part of weekly races and hopefully enter some larger races around Lake Erie."

Reschenthaler is excited about the new prospects of the club.

"The Sailing Club is a great new addition to Behrend clubs and organizations," he said. "With Lake Erie right in our backyard, it's finally time our campus gets a sailing club. The club is going to fun and laid back. All of us are very excited. We are all looking forward to getting out there on the lake and sailing."

Anyone interested in joining this new and interesting club can attend the meetings or email any of the officers. As Agosti stated, the experience is unlike any other.

"Sailing is different; it speaks a different language," he said. "It speaks of teamwork and camaraderie. It speaks of seaworthiness. Anybody can jump into a powerboat and go. If you like easy, take that route. I'm going sailing."



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Sailing Club members Stephen Johnston, Joe Busse, Lee Sulter, Michael Hargather, and Chris Agosti are glad to have a chance to go sailing.