

NEWS

National and world news in brief

Roberts Confirmation Hearings Held

WASHINGTON – The Senate Judiciary Committee has held hearings that could lead to John Roberts being made the next Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

These hearings, which ended Thursday, are designed to allow the Senate to question the Court nominee and determine his professional attitudes before permitting him to sit on the Supreme Court.

The public hearings were conducted in a professional and amicable manner including representatives from both sides of the political spectrum. It was clear that Judge Roberts was serious about his judicial responsibilities and wanted to be equally clear with his questioners that he would try not to let personal feelings interfere with rulings of law.

"You've devoted your entire life to the law and it's clear that you love it," said Charles Schumer (D-NY). "Most people in that position tend not to be ideologues."

However, liberals and conservatives alike were irritated that Roberts would not answer questions under oath relating to his views on important issues such as abortion, civil rights, limits to government power, separation of church and state, and executive war powers.

"You've told me nothing. It's kind of interesting, this kabuki dance we have in these hearings here, as if the public doesn't have a right to know what you think about fundamental issues facing them," claimed Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE). "Without any knowledge of your understanding of the law, because you will not share it with us, we are rolling the dice with you, judge."

The Senate will begin confirmation voting next Thursday.

Oceanarium Dolphins Rescued from Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS -- A group of eight dolphins that was swept out to sea from the Marine Life Oceanarium in New Orleans was rescued on Thursday by its trainers and caretakers.

Although naturally wild creatures, several had spent their entire lives in captivity and were ill-prepared for life in the wild. Furthermore, several were injured when they were forced from their 30-foot high tank by the 41-foot high storm surge caused by the hurricane.

"Once we realized the dolphins had been swept out to sea during the hurricane, we feared that they had died," Moby Solangi, owner of the aquarium, said. "We are just thrilled that they have stayed together during the past couple of weeks."

The six other dolphins at the Oceanarium had been relocated to hotel swimming pools further inland before the storm struck.

By Pat Webster
staff writer



sourced from CNN.com

Hurricane Ophelia lurks off Atlantic coast

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC – Hurricane Ophelia continues to swirl menacingly off the coast of North Carolina but is not expected to make landfall.

As punishing rains continue to batter the Outer Banks, many people are keeping one thing in mind: it could be worse.

"Mother Nature plays strange tricks in strange ways," said Sandy Sanderson, director of emergency management of Dare County, NC, "but the Outer Banks has been spared a direct hit."

Residents of the mid-Atlantic coastal region are thankful that Hurricane Ophelia did not turn into another Katrina. At most, it will continue to brush by the coast in a northeasterly direction and dump plenty of rain. Even as a relatively weak (category 1) hurricane, landfall could cause plenty of damage, but it doesn't seem to be in the cards this time.

Iran Claims Readiness to Share Nuclear Technology

UNITED NATIONS – The President of Iran has publicly declared that Iran will share developed peaceful nuclear technologies with friendly Islamic states.

Iran's current nuclear program is based on refining uranium to provide energy in light of declining world petroleum reserves, and Iranian leadership claims that the production of nuclear weapons is not a goal.

"We have firmly decided to use this technology for peaceful purposes within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, international regulations and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency," President Ahmadinejad said.

The United States, which at this point in time has no official diplomatic ties with Iran, remains wary that nuclear technology will lead to the development of nuclear weapons. The European Union has been in negotiations with Iran for some time, seeking guarantees that this will not happen.

Indonesian Rebels lay down arms, government forces withdraw

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia – Both sides in a civil war that has lasted more than thirty years have reached historic peace accords in a willingness to work together to rebuild the tsunami-devastated region.

Rebels in the Aceh province have begun turning in scores of grenade launchers, machine guns, and rifles to the national government, and federal troops are withdrawing from rebel-held areas in twin gestures of goodwill that may reshape the years to come.

The Free Aceh Movement revolutionaries and Indonesian government have been hammering out deals that appealed to both parties, claiming that now was not the time to "add to people's suffering," when together they could help their devastated country.

The rebel movement has agreed to stop fighting, disarm, and recognize the authority of the national government. The government has granted amnesty to all rebels, released those imprisoned and granted incredible measures of self-government and resource control to former rebel areas.

International monitors are now observing the situation.

REDC construction continues

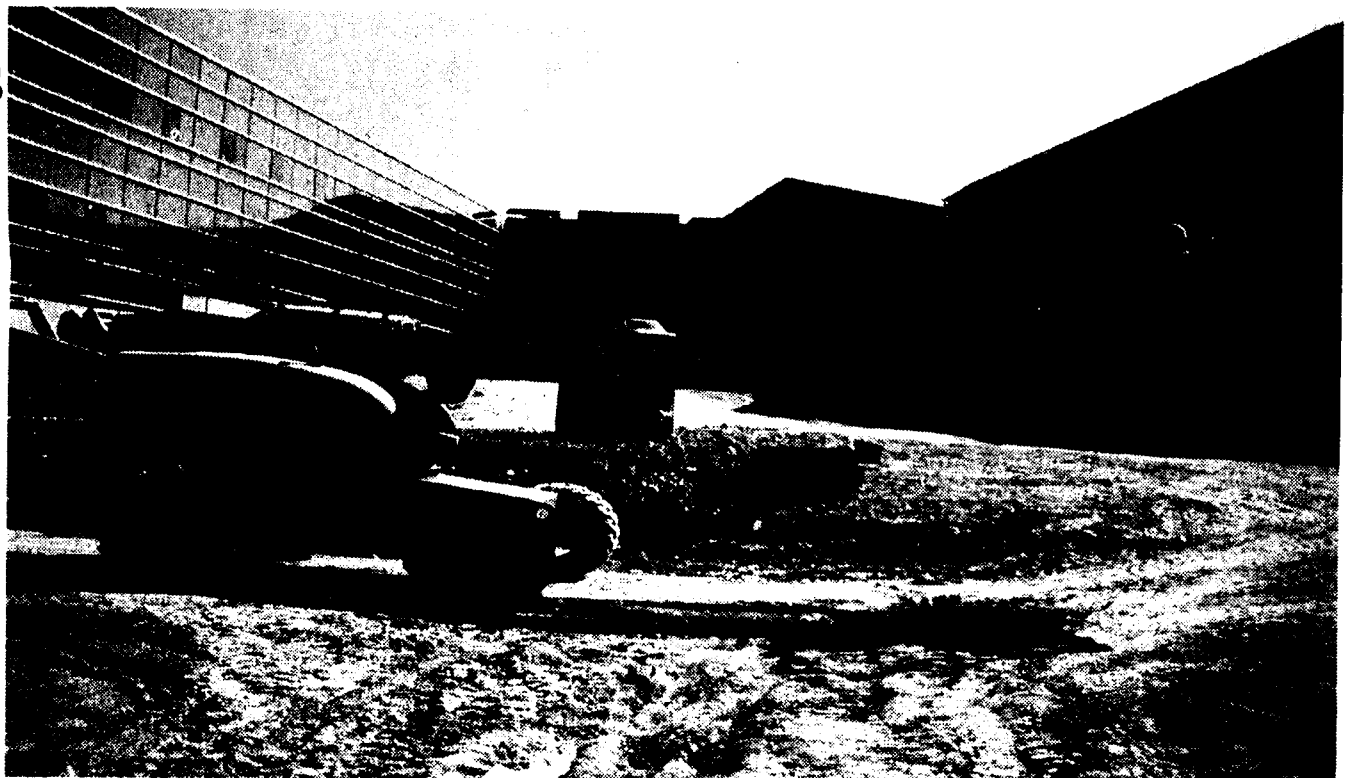
By J. William McConnell
staff writer

Anticipation for the Research and Economic Development Center (REDC) has been building for 3 years, since the project's approval in 2002. It promises to be a major addition to the Behrend campus, potentially catering to students and faculty in all areas. The space it will provide will reportedly be available to everyone, whether or not the scope of the class can make full use of the new facilities.

It is designed, however, specifically for the schools of Engineering (Computer, Mechanical, Electrical, etc.), Engineering Technology (Mechanical, Plastics, Electrical, etc.) and Business (Accounting, Economics, Marketing, etc.). Classes under these majors would be shifted out of the former Engineering and Business buildings into the new facilities. "The Engineering area will become the site for some of the Science classes, and there will be in general more space for everyone," says Dr. Jack Burke.

The wind tunnel that is housed in the present engineering buildings will be moved to the new building to accommodate this shift further. With the extra space provided, the addition of more majors (most likely engineering and business oriented) in the future is not out of the picture, and would certainly be feasible within the next few years. When asked about the prospect of REDC housing more majors in the near future, Dr. Burke explained: "Not initially, it will just give us more space; it will take us a few years to pull everything together."

The REDC project has a cost of \$30 million, and is approximately 160,000 square feet. Construction initially began in spring of 2003. About a year after the plans for the project were approved by the Board of Trustees, the designs for which were made jointly by architectural firm Weber Murphy Fox through their West Lake Road, Erie branch, and NBBJ of Cincinnati, Ohio. Both companies are very renowned for their architectural achievements and this project should prove no less impressive.



The Research and Economic Development Center, scheduled to open in February of 2006, is currently under construction. Tiffany Mak/THE BEHREND BEACON

Proximity to Knowledge Park should provide an easily accessible "stepping stone" to its joint Penn State/Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation opportunities for engineering students. The REDC is located behind the Smith Chapel near the Junker Center on Jordan Road and is steadily nearing completion. The Research and Economic Development Center is projected to open in February of 2006.

Student Government Association has its sights set high this year
Financial, student life and public relations issues to be addressed by council

By Danielle Tomasello
staff writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board has been hard at work this summer planning for a brand new year at Behrend. Their goal is to tackle issues with student life this school year. Many projects have been planned to raise money for the school, help students save money with local businesses and to help create more school spirit at Behrend.

SGA is looking out for our Behrend students by creating programs in efforts to help students financially. SGA strives to strengthen the council system along with the committees. "I am working very closely with each committee trying to get them rolling, and this year by far, we are at a great start, things are going really well and plans and goals are already being created," said Vice President of SGA Deepti Soni.

From SGA's efforts, some programs including online textbook purchases have already been initiated on campus. Students have the opportunity to purchase textbooks online to provide more competition at the campus bookstore. Another goal on SGA's agenda is to create a parking lot committee to decide what needs to be done with the expansion of the Research and Economic Development Center (REDC).

"We are currently working on and plan to continue working hard on student discounts at local businesses, the online bookstore database and also the council system," said SGA President, Alexander Henderson.

SGA is very committed to helping Behrend students economically. In the future, Behrend students will be looking forward to the

drive to get local businesses to provide discounts to Behrend students who show their ID cards. SGA is also trying to get Lion Cash+ installed within these businesses. The committee is working really hard to contact these local restaurants for their support.

To further help students financially, a rally in Harrisburg will take place to increase state appropriation. This will help stabilize tuition for Behrend students. Also, SGA will raise money and awareness from THON, which is Penn State's own philanthropy. Student Affairs has also been working on trying to get discounts at local restaurants along with working on a housing affair. The Diversity Committee, which has been reinstated this year, has been working extremely hard in trying to increase diversity awareness amongst this campus. They are working closely with Multi Cultural Council (MCC) along with a few of the First year interest group (FIG) classes.

SGA has put a tremendous amount of effort into creating a more ideal Behrend. The most important component of creating these programs were the students who took the time to help. "Most importantly, we want students to realize what SGA is and how it can help students. We want students to get involved in SGA. Without everyone's involvement and input, we would not be doing the organization justice," Soni said. "Students can become more involved in SGA in various ways. Students have the option of running for a Senate Seat or they can join one of our committees. Students can walk into the SGA office

and see when and where the meeting times are, or they can email me at [dus143@psu.edu] for more information."

Behrend has a new beginning this year. Students will have a more financial friendly school and programs to participate in. Students are the most important factor to SGA.

"We have a very strong administration and senate, and we will accomplish many of our goals," said Henderson..

Classifieds

"Secrets should be Secret, told only to the Secreter and the Secretee."

- Virginia Clark Clarkson, The Alphabet of Civility

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility

