

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster  
assistant news editor

### Trial for Private Lynndie England commences

FORT HOOD, Texas – Opening statements were heard on Wednesday for the court-martial of Pvt. Lynndie England for her participation in the Abu-Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.

Pvt. England, who had earlier pled guilty, was made to stand trial after her plea-bargain testimony for lesser punishment was contradicted by that of several other witnesses.

The prosecution plans to reveal a case in which Pvt. England was a ready and willing participant in the abuse of prison detainees. "Pfc. England was very actively involved in what was going on," stated prosecutor Captain Chuck Neill.

If convicted by the jury of Army officers, Pvt. England faces 11 years in a military detention facility.

### Armed Nigerians seize US oil platform

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria – Several dozen armed militia troops forcibly took control of a Chevron oil production facility to protest the arrest of their leader on treason and unlawful assembly charges.

The arrest of Moujahid Dokubo-Asari, head of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF), has started to cause widespread unrest in the country. Supporters of the movement are threatening to start seizing oil production facilities across the country in protest of governmental inequalities.

"Apparently the militants are now heading for more stations," an unidentified source related to Chevron claimed. "The situation can only get worse."

This may negatively affect the world oil market. Nigeria is the world's eighth largest oil producer and the fifth-ranked exporter of oil to the United States. Despite the oil revenue, the vast majority of Nigerian people live in a state of abject poverty. Most of the money rests in the hands of a few oil barons and foreign oil exploitation businesses, several of which are U.S.-owned.

The Nigerian national government still maintains authority there, at least for the time being. Chevron officials were not available for comment.

### Millions flee ahead of Hurricane Rita

HOUSTON, Texas – As Hurricane Rita inches closer and closer to shore, local officials are issuing mandatory evacuation orders.

Even Houston, a city of three million people, received a compulsory evacuation order from its mayor as all levels of government scramble to avoid another disaster like Katrina.

The full evacuation of a large city has never been attempted before and problems are quickly becoming apparent. Traffic moving on highways out of Houston quickly became prohibitively congested, with reports on Thursday noting that outbound traffic was moving unsteadily at only 3-4 miles per hour over a 48 hour period.

While the powerful now-Category 4 Rita threatens the already-inundated New Orleans with more water and heavy rains, its main target seems to be centered around the Houston / Galveston area. Galveston, which was destroyed by a killer hurricane in 1900, is one of several low-lying Texas cities in the area that are in serious danger of a direct hit. "We hope that whoever is left here... will move on out today," Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said.

Hurricane Rita also threatens a significant portion of the U.S. oil refining capacity as it swirls toward the Texas coast. Any disruption to this area, which processes about three million barrels of oil a day, could cause gasoline and heating oil prices to skyrocket.

If Rita regains strength and makes landfall as a Category 5 hurricane, it will be only the third Category 5 hurricane to do so in the last 70 years.

### Jet fakes emergency for soccer fans

LIMA, Peru – A chartered jet carrying nearly 300 soccer fans from Gambia faked an emergency in order to land the plane so they could watch a soccer game.

The airplane, which was apparently chartered by the president of Gambia himself, deviated from its flight plan to Lima to land almost directly at the site of the stadium in Piura. The flight crew faked a fuel-loss emergency that required it to land immediately, leading Peruvian authorities to dispatch emergency response crews to the new landing site.

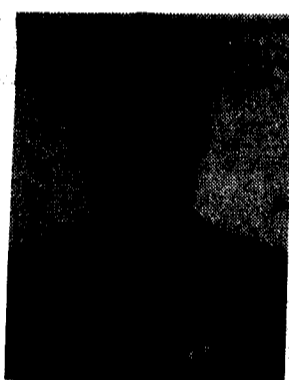
The aircraft landed without incident, and before anyone quite knew what was going on, the passengers were already well on their way to the stadium, where they watched their team triumph 3-1 over Qatar.

Peruvian authorities are still debating what, if any, punishment to apply against the offending airline.



Source: CNN.com, NOAA

## Is there anyone to blame for the mass casualties caused by Hurricane Katrina?



"There were many mistakes made, mostly on the local and state level, but the hurricane itself did the real damage."

James Duberow,  
BioBehavioral Health 01



"I think we should focus on rebuilding and stop pointing fingers."

Casandra Sheldon  
Chemistry 05



"No. The hurricane is a natural force of nature. We need to stop focusing on why it happened and focus on rebuilding."

Illona Joseph  
Accounting 05



"It was an unforeseen circumstance caused by a natural disaster."

Walter Kubeja  
Physics 08



"Some people didn't have a way out, so it wasn't their fault."

Beth Krahnke  
Elementary Ed 02

### Interested in photography?

#### Sports Fan?

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## Classifieds

"Never befriend the oppressed unless you are prepared to take on the oppressor."

— Ogden Nash, American poet (1902-1971)

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



## International Film Series Kicks Off Begins with award-winning "The Sea Inside"

By Justin DeSantis  
staff writer

Each Monday, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences will be holding the International Film Series. The series highlights movies picked by the Humanities Language department.

"The idea was to present one movie per language taught at [Penn State Behrend]," explains Dr. Soledad Traverso. Traverso has taken over duties of the series while creator Dr. Juan Fernandez-Jimenez is on sabbatical. This will be the tenth year of operation, as the International Film Series began in 1995.

The first film in the section is entitled "The Sea Inside." Although the title may not be familiar to you, it is in no way a film of small proportions. Traverso explained that this year's film breaks with tradition.

"Usually, I pick two films. One Latin American film and one Spanish film from Spain," says Traverso. "However," she continues, "this year's film is very expensive, but is also very good."

The film was nominated for two Oscars. It won for Best Foreign

Language Film of the Year, and a slew of other top nominations. While his ultimate goal is to win an Oscar, he is content for the time being with independent film awards.

"I chose a movie that wouldn't come to the local cinema," explains Traverso.

The film itself is very powerful. The relevance of the movie to western themed audiences isn't immediately apparent. "The Sea Inside" portrays the life of Spaniard Ramon Sampedro. A paralyzed man, he fights for 30 years for the right to die with dignity. The movie tells of his journey, not so much the angle of wanting to die, but a more powerful meaning that the viewer will gain as they watch.

"The movie presents what a human being goes through, much more than 'I want to kill myself,'" says Traverso.

There are two more films in the series as well. Traverso asks each language teacher which film they would like to choose. The German film, "Free Radicals," and the French film "La Promesse." "Free Radicals" deals with Manu, a survivor of a plane crash whose life changes dramatically after she tries to piece it together

again. The film focuses on people and the choices that they make and the ones they haven't looked into yet.

"La Promesse" deals with two men, Igor and his father. The men rent their apartment to illegal immigrants, and also hire them illegally. After the building inspector visits, the movie changes focus towards where Igor and Roger differ in their values.

Each of these movies deals with conventions that may not have been previously viewed before. This is true of the not only the protagonists of the movies, but of an audience who has yet to see these works. These films are an enriching way to see other cultures' cinematography and how they view the world they live in.

All the movies will be shown in Reed 117. The first movie, "The Sea Inside," will be shown Monday, September 26th. "Free Radicals" will debut October 3rd, and "La Promesse" will premiere Monday, October 10th. No admission will be charged, and each film in the series is open to the public.