



Check out Penn State football  
Page 10

Secret ninja cult uncovered  
Page 6



# THE BEHREND BEACON

Friday, October 14, 2005

A Penn State Erie Student Publication

Vol. LIII No. 8

## Student recounts time spent in Louisiana

By Ashley Bressler  
staff writer  
arb271@psu.edu

Adam Gorniak is now slowly adjusting to life in Erie after spending the past month in the rain soaked wreckage of Louisiana, where he was helping the local people there rebuild their shattered lives. It has been over a month since the business major left Penn State Behrend and his family in the Erie area to join the National Guard where he would be helping the victims of hurricane Katrina. When Gorniak was last interviewed in the first week of September, he had just arrived in Alexandria, Louisiana and was still awaiting his orders. Gorniak remained in Alexandria for one more day. He was then sent to the city of Hammond, which is about sixty miles north of New Orleans, with a few other local students. He was stationed in Hammond until hurricane Rita hit. Gorniak says he was glad to see so many people from the Erie area helping with the relief effort. The National Guard established its headquarters at Camp Keystone, which gave the men and women serving a grounded sense of home.

While in Hammond, Gorniak said his main jobs were to recover intelligence, aid the local survivors with needed supplies and load the trucks that transported supplies such as, ice, water and tents. Gorniak said he also took part in setting up distribution points in various cities, including Covington and Livingston, which he said was a massive operation that required a great deal of organized help. According to Gorniak, the supply-distribution sites were located in warehouses and old Walmart buildings. Gorniak said the



Adam Gorniak/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
An aerial view of the aftermath left in Hurricane Katrina's wake.



Adam Gorniak/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A bird's-eye view from a helicopter of an amusement park that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

and kiss us on the cheek. It was really awesome. They had nothing, and were asking us how we were doing. Some of them even cooked dinner for us. They didn't have anything, but still were so happy to cook us this good, real, Louisiana food."

A lot can happen over the course of a month, and missing classes for that long can unfortu-

nately mean repeating the semester. Along with the other Penn State Behrend and Edinboro students, Gorniak has fallen behind in his studies.

"There weren't computers in our quarters, so keeping up with class work was impossible. Even if I did have the resources I wouldn't have had the time to do any of it. We were so busy," Gorniak said. he would have been completing his eight semester this fall with plans to graduate in the spring of 2006, but because of his national guard service, he will need to take on a heavy load, at least 18 credits, in the spring if he hopes to start the summer with his business, economics and marketing degrees.

Gorniak says that he believes the situation is getting better in Louisiana, and the efforts of the National Guard have truly been effective. The majority of Gorniak's focus was on the smaller cities where the people were without electricity. Although in the month that he spent in Louisiana, he was sent to New Orleans a number of times. Gorniak said that by the time he arrived in New Orleans, the majority of the victims had been moved to safety. He said at that point, the Guard's efforts shifted to locating the bodies of those who had lost their lives in the devastating storm and pro-

viding clean drinking water to survivors. While in New Orleans, Gorniak said he gained a much better perspective of the destruction during a helicopter flight over the city. From the air, Gorniak said he was able to see the Superdome, which was filled with flood water, and he also recalled seeing a drowned amusement park, which can only now be described as a "water park."

In most cases, when individuals are given the chance to help others and truly play a part in determining whether human existence prevails, they will surely walk away with a new perspective. Gorniak said his first-hand experience with the destructive power of mother nature has given him a whole new perspective. Gorniak said that before he was called to active duty, he, like so many other people, would see, the catastrophe on television and hear about it on the news, but it didn't have a real effect on him. But coming home from the devastation of Katrina, he now knows what these people are actually going through and the hardships that they encounter each day. Even though Gorniak said he feels as though he has been able to help in ways he could not have imagined when he signed up for the National Guard. He knows that there is still a chance that he could be assigned to go to Iraq at any time.

Here at Behrend, there have been numerous organizations that have already been helping to raise money that will go towards relief efforts, but there are other ways that students can help those who are in great need of national assistance. There are a number of local churches, clubs and organizations that are sending volunteers to Louisiana to help. In a more grounded approach, one could start a fundraiser, earn even a few hundred dollars and send it to the American Red Cross. The local American Red Cross is putting together care packages and taking donations for this as well. When a hurricane hits an area, the storm may only last for a few hours, but the devastation left behind can last a lifetime.



Local Halloween entertainment, Page 7

### Contents

News.....	1-3
Editorial.....	4
Humor.....	6
Student Life.....	7-8
Sports.....	9-10

### Contact Us

Newsroom:  
898-6488  
Fax:  
898-6019

E-mail:  
editorinchief@psu.edu

Our offices are located downstairs in the Reed Union Building.

## Apartment development on schedule

By Jenna Gregory  
staff writer  
jag464@psu.edu

Students are flocking to sign up for the new apartments being built near campus. James Properties is in charge of the construction of the University Gate Apartments; planned to open August 2006. Three buildings are projected to be completed by next year to house over 60 apartment units. Despite all these plans, where are the buildings? Where is the heavy machinery and swarms of construction workers? If you sign a lease now, will your apartment be ready by next year? James Properties and Odyssey Construction Group seem to think that student leasers have nothing to worry about.

After the development of Senat Hall got so far behind schedule, it is reasonable to have worries about the completion of these new apartment buildings. Mike Redlawsk, the president of James Properties, is "very confident" that their schedule for the construction has taken the appropriate precautions for the hazardous Erie weather, and the building will be done before August. "We can have the toughest winter Erie ever had and it's already dialed into the schedule," says Odyssey spokesperson Dave Penman.

There has been some forestry clearing over the past few weeks, but construction still has not commenced; however, that will all change soon. "We begin pouring footers on Monday," says Penman. Footers, for those of you who are unfamiliar with construction, are the cement bases for the buildings that are poured into the ground. Footers give the building support and harness them to the ground. After the footers have been poured, students should

expect to see the buildings go up rather quickly. Odyssey is using a construction method called panelizing for the main framing of the buildings. The panels are being built at a different location, and then are hauled onto the site in 12 to 14 foot pieces. Redlawsk said that once the pieces are there, the "walls go up super fast." Once the framing is done and the construction moves to the inside, the building process should go smoothly. "The longest part of building is doing the interior,"

said Redlawsk; we should expect the buildings to go up quickly. In terms of expectations, Penman said, "before Christmas at least the first building up, it just depends on when winter hits."

This is the first time in Behrend's history that off-campus housing will be available without having to commute. Behrend's location and lack of housing options is often an obstacle for students. If you do not receive your desired housing on campus, you are often stuck dealing with Erie weather, which can lead to a dangerous commute to school if you chose to move off campus. James Properties is providing a great service to Behrend students and does so with open arms. "Our goal is to provide the nicest, closest housing a student can find," said Redlawsk. He also said that "we really like what we do," and students aren't problematic, "they are great tenants."

If you are interested in signing up for a lease at the new, and on schedule, University Gate Apartments; Mike

Redlawsk is eager to hear from you! There are still plenty of openings and leases are being signed everyday. For more information on the apartments students can call: (814) 899-5160 or email univeristygate@jamesproperties.com.



Kathryn Carstater/THE BEHREND BEACON  
James Properties begins construction on the off-campus apartments.