

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster  
assistant managing editor  
p.w175@psu.edu

### Civil war refugees living on floating islands

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo: Thousands upon thousands of people in central Africa have taken to marooning themselves on floating islands on the country's large lakes to avoid widespread rape, murder and pillaging by rebels and government forces.

Although the war has officially been over for nearly three years, the violence and fighting are still so widespread that over 120,000 people have escaped by casting themselves adrift.

"In and around Upemba there are thousands of people living on floating islands because it is the only place they feel safe," said Daniel Augstburger, the head of the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Congo. "There is systematic sexual violence. Hundreds of women have been treated for rape."

The eastern part of the country, known for its rich mineral resources that are rare in Africa, is still controlled by roaming gunmen as government forces brutally execute anyone they suspect of sympathizing with the rebels.

"Both sides are living off the backs of the population -- there is total impunity. There are attacks, murders, mutilation and pillaging," Augstburger said. "We are trying to get more humanitarian actors into Katanga. Congo provides us with an enormous list of crises. We can't be everywhere as we don't have unlimited resources."

Humanitarian organizations are asking for \$681 million in aid for what they are calling the worst humanitarian situation since World War II. An estimated four million people have died in the region due to starvation and war since 1998.

### Sheep theft thwarted

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas: A homeless man wasn't just counting sheep one night in the Little Rock Zoo, police reported. He was trying to steal them.

The man was arrested on several felony and misdemeanor charges after stuffing a sheep into an empty garbage can and trying to make off with it on Tuesday night.

Upon being confronted by police, Grady Carnahan insisted that he was a doctor and was taking the sheep, who he claimed was sick, to a veterinary clinic. The police did not agree and there was a short fight before Carnahan was apprehended.

Authorities are still unsure what Carnahan planned to do with the sheep. The animal has since been returned to its pen in the zoo.

### Administration approves port sales

WASHINGTON: The Bush Administration is approving a deal made by the United Arab Emirates to acquire six major U.S. ports, including New York and Miami, despite protests from both parties in Congress.

The company, Dubai Ports World, which is at least partially owned by the UAE government, is acquiring the former owner of the port, the British firm Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., in a fairly routine business transaction and claims that very little would change.

"If it was an African country or a European country or an Asian country, it would not have been subjected to this kind of scrutiny," said Abdel Khaleq Abdullah, a professor at UAE University who believes that the current opposition is nothing more than political bigotry. "But since this is just purely an Arab country, I think it just stopped some of the lawmakers who are making a big deal out of a purely legitimate business transaction."

Critics of the ownership transfer have pointed out that the UAE has a record of dealing with and supporting certain terrorist groups, and that the change in ownership could open the way for new terrorist attacks.

"At a time when we're faced with this terror threat, we should not be surrendering any port to any foreign government, let alone the UAE," said the mayor of Baltimore, Maryland, Martin O'Malley, whose city is one of the ports involved in the transaction.

President Bush maintained that there was nothing wrong with the deal.

"People don't need to worry about security," Bush said Thursday. "This deal wouldn't go forward if we were concerned about the security for the United States of America."

The UAE, however, preferred not to take its chances and hired former U.S. Senator Bob Dole to lobby on behalf of the UAE government to make sure the deal goes through. Dole's wife, Elizabeth, is currently a senator for North Carolina.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

The Behrend Beacon is looking for a new Editor in Chief for the 2006-2007 school year. If you are interested in applying, please submit a cover letter and resume to Annie Sevin at the Beacon office, located in the basement of Reed before March 31, 2006.

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## Opening doors with campus tours

By Annie Sevin  
editor in chief  
ams631@psu.edu

The annual search for Orientation Leaders (OL) has commenced once again. Orientation Directors Meredith Straub and Jennifer Haight as well as Coordinator of Student Involvement and Leadership Development Chris Fox are preparing for the upcoming Orientation Leader selection process. Each year 50-60 students are chosen to be representatives of Behrend.

Any Behrend student can apply -- there are no prerequisites. The OL application was placed online last year and can be accessed at <http://pennstate-behrend.psu.edu/orientation>. The application deadline is March 17. Fox said they currently have about 34 applicants. Last year they viewed over 80 applications.

Immediately following the deadline, the selection process begins. The directors and coordinator will look over all the applications and ask prospective OL's to have an interview. "We're trying to build on last year's success, and hopefully this

year will be even better," said Fox.

All OL's who are selected will attend a workshop on April 26 to get to know one another. At the end of the summer, the OL's will return to Behrend a week early to train for the three-day Orientation weekend.

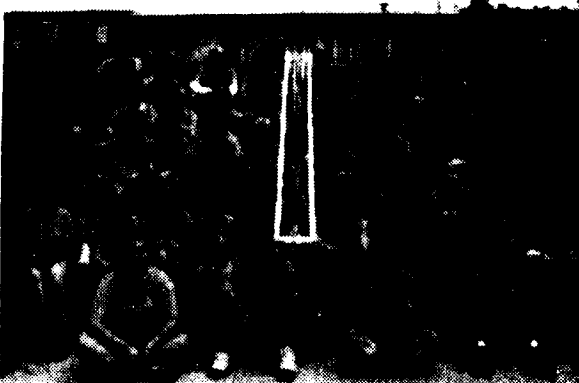
The new Orientation Directors are very hopeful that this year will be successful. "It's a great way to meet new people, to build your resume, encourage leadership and improve your leadership skills," said Haight.

Haight and Straub have been trying to remind students that volunteering to be an Orientation Leader will have more benefits than just looking good on a resume. "It's a good chance to be mentors for the new students," said Straub.

Even SGA President Alexander Henderson has been encouraging students to become OL's saying, "It's a lot of fun."

Straub points out a very important fact, "There are a lot of fun group activities and the meals will be paid for."

Anyone that has questions about OL's or is interested in being an OL can contact Fox at [cdf13@psu.edu](mailto:cdf13@psu.edu). His office is also located in the Student Activities office in the basement of Reed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Above: A group shot of last year's Orientation Leaders

Orientation weekend is Sept. 1 - 4 and will end on Labor Day. Fox said they would be implementing some new programs to coincide with Labor Day, but other than that, there won't be too many events out of the ordinary.

## Police and Safety

2/15/2006

Complainant reported finding questionable material stored on a computer that the department was servicing. More info will be forthcoming.

2/18/2006

Observed vehicle on College Drive slow down to turn into the Reed Lot, then speed up and turn in order to hit the traffic cones blocking entry to the lot. Driver was cited for disorderly conduct.

2/19/2006

Reported a student who had been thrown out of a party at the Sigma Kappa Nu house at 0030 hours was missing and could not be located.

2/21/2006

Resident reported that the window in the security door was broken by a bottle. Talked to resident in Tiffany he admitted that he broke the window by accident while playing around with a friend. Duty coordinator will refer him and also clean up glass.

## Classifieds

"I expect to pass through the world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any creature, let me do it now."

Stephen Grellet, French/American religious leader (1773-1855)

Janet N. ...  
for Manners & Civility

## Seek help for social anxiety disorder

By Jordan Gilmore  
staff writer  
jtg178@psu.edu

She sits looking at her feet while answering general questions about herself. At first, this young Behrend student, who asked not to be identified, looks out from under the brim of her hat as if trying to reassure herself that her answers are being taken seriously. She plays with her hair and attempts to sink into her chair. Every time someone walks by she lowers her voice in response to a subconscious reflex. Occasionally she laughs nervously attempting to hide her discomfort. Still, she is upbeat and relaxes gradually and cautiously. She says somewhat sadly that about a year ago she was diagnosed with social anxiety disorder and has struggled for a long time to comfortably interact with people.

This fear of interaction kept this young woman from enjoying her first couple semesters at Behrend. "I stayed away from Bruno's and just ate in my room," she says. This made it hard for her to meet new people and make new friends. She says she walked around keeping her eyes glued on the floor hoping that by doing so she would somehow become invisible. Still she could feel the eyes of those around her piercing into her, and in her mind she believed those stares were judging her. She was certain that she could hear mocking laughter echoing in her ears, and she knew that she probably deserved to be criticized. She was homesick a lot, but she had a few friends here on campus that helped her get through those difficult semesters until she was diagnosed.

According to Sue Daley, the director of the Personal Counseling Office at Behrend, this woman's experience is common for those suffering from social anxiety disorder. The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that over 19 million Americans are affected each year, making it the number one anxiety disorder in America. Daley said that social anxiety disorder affects many students to miss out on a lot of college life. Daley said many people suffering from this disease cope with it by avoiding social situations or worrying too much about what

people think about them.

The Personal Counseling Office here at Behrend is available to help any students who may suffer from this disease. Daley said that her office holds mental health screenings every semester. The results of these screenings show that this disease is common among students here. Daley says about 70 percent of the nearly 300 students who have been screened tested positive for anxiety. "Mental health is the same as everything else: get it checked. These are treatable issues, and it doesn't make sense to not seek help. Support can go a long way," Daley said.

For the young Behrend student who said she has struggled with social anxiety disorder, getting help has proved to be a life saver, and she said that getting help from the Personal Counseling Office was able to help her in ways her friends couldn't. "Until you go through it you can't understand what it is like no matter how sympathetic you are," she said with a twinge of sadness in her voice.

She said it wasn't easy for her to seek help. "It is hard to get help because people have these preconceived notions about people with anxiety or depression being psychos," she said angrily.

Daley says that people's attitudes towards mental illness are changing. "People are becoming enlightened," she said reassuringly. Daley stresses that self-monitoring is very important. If you know that you are having difficulty dealing with anxiety or stress, stop into the Personal Counseling Office in the Reed Union Building Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The services are offered for free, including appointments with Behrend's visiting psychologist, Dr. Dave Tobin, and are crisis-oriented to make sure they get you in quickly if you are in great need of help.

Although the young woman said she still feels uncomfortable in some social situations, she is much more at ease around people. She lights up as she reveals that she now eats at Bruno's. "Now I can walk around campus with my head up and a smile on my face," she said with a sly grin. As she walks off, she stops to say hello to some people. Her cheerful attitude and bright smile are evidence of her new outlook on life.