

NEWS

National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster

Kansas reverses Intelligent Design standards

TOPEKA, Kansas: The Kansas State School Board has repealed the controversial state science standards that required school science teachers to criticize the theory of evolution and offer Intelligent Design as an alternative.

A coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans were elected to the school board after controversy over the pro-Intelligent Design standards caused voters to eject several former members. The new school board voted 6-4 in favor of adopting new standards that follow the scientific method more closely. The vote marks the fifth time in under eight years that the state's science standards have changed, but the new standards should stay in place at least until the next election in 2008.

"I think we're good for two years," said Democratic board member Janet Waugh, who supported the new standards. "Who knows what the election will hold in two years?"

Although the new standards have passed, a large portion of Kansas' fundamentally religious residents have already started taking steps against them. Retired lawyer John Calvert, co-founder of the Intelligent Design Network, has canvassed the state collecting thousands of signatures for petitions against the new standards, which he claimed "promote atheism" and weaken traditional family values.

The much-publicized standards hearings in 2005 in which the former school board proposed the Intelligent Design-friendly curricula drew reporters from as far away as France and Japan, and was the target of political and scientific satire in the United States and around the world.

Koreas agree to restart peace talks

SEOUL, South Korea: Between high-level phone conversations and low-level meetings near the Demilitarized Zone, leaders of North and South Korea have agreed to a new round of peace talks.

The two countries, which have been at war with each other since 1950, agreed to resume peace talks that were interrupted by North Korea's advances in nuclear technology and test firings of rockets into the ocean that have enough range to attack cities in South Korea. While neither country has gained territory since a cease-fire was enforced in 1953 and the Demilitarized Zone was established, soldiers still occasionally engage in skirmishes and there is no travel between the countries by land.

President Bush said the new agreement was a "step in the right direction." "There's a lot of work to be done to make sure that the commitments made in this agreement become reality," Bush told reporters in a news conference Thursday. "But I believe it's an important step in the right direction."

Also on the table is food aid to the North, which suffered a poor harvest in previous years and requires millions of dollars in imported rice to sustain its population. South Korea is willing to provide more food aid since an agreement earlier this year in which North Korea agreed to a sweeping disarmament policy that would reduce tensions between the two countries.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

Microsoft debuts new operating system

By Lenny Smith
assistant new editor

Microsoft Corporation recently launched their newest operating system. Windows Vista is the first release since 2001's Windows XP. Vista comes in four editions, Home Basic, Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate. Microsoft has upgraded just about every aspect of your computer experience.

Vista makes communication between friends and coworkers much easier. Internet Explorer has been upgraded to version 7. The explorer's stylish new design provides you with Quick Tabs instead of having multiple windows open at one time. Windows Meeting Space allows all Vista users to instantaneously share their desktop and documents to work on projects together, share information, or pictures.

Surfing the web with Vista is much safer than before. Microsoft says, "New dynamic security protection and integrated anti-phishing technology in Windows Internet Explorer 7 help protect your PC, including your personal and financial information." Vista also gives parents new protection for their children. Parents can monitor usage, control time limits, set program controls and retrieve detailed activity information.

Outlook Express has been replaced by Windows Mail. The new e-mail software realizes that e-mail has become a vital part of most

everyone's daily life. The software has new features that allow you to manage junk mail, viruses attached in e-mails, and phishing, which are attacks at your personal information.

DirectX10 and Games Explorer are the newest ways to get the most out of your computer gaming. DirectX10 has features that allow you to plug in your Xbox360 controllers to get the most out of your games.

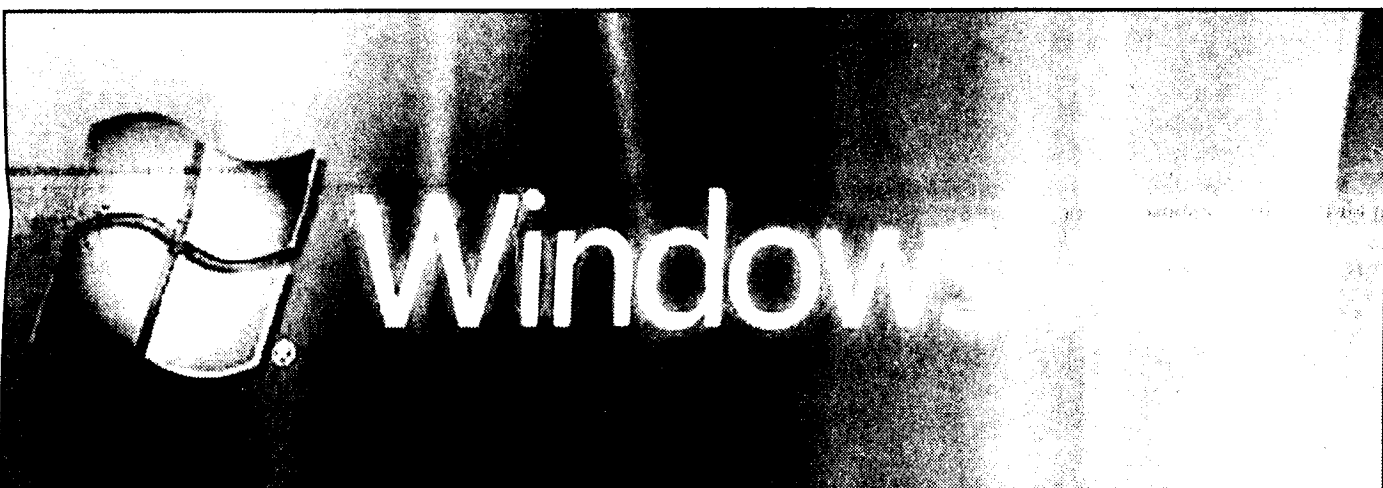
Windows Flip 3D is a part of Windows Aero interface. The Windows Flip 3D allows the user to tab through their open windows with ease giving them a preview of the window on the screen before picking the screen.

However, some are still skeptical about the new system. A Penn State Behrend computer technician said that people who buy the new

operating system should be aware that it is brand new and still has a lot of bugs and problems that need to be worked out. Freshman Brad Troyan said, "I have no plans of upgrading my computer. It works fine as it is and I'm already used to XP."

Vista is now available to all students through the Penn State's Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA) program. But, University computer technicians warn that the upgrade is at your own risk. They say users should proceed with caution; Vista has many hardware requirements that must be met in order for it to function properly. Since Vista is so new, support is limited. Upgrades or

installs will be performed at your own risk. It's recommended that as with any operating system upgrade, all important user data, photo, or music files are backed up on another form of media prior to the upgrade attempt.

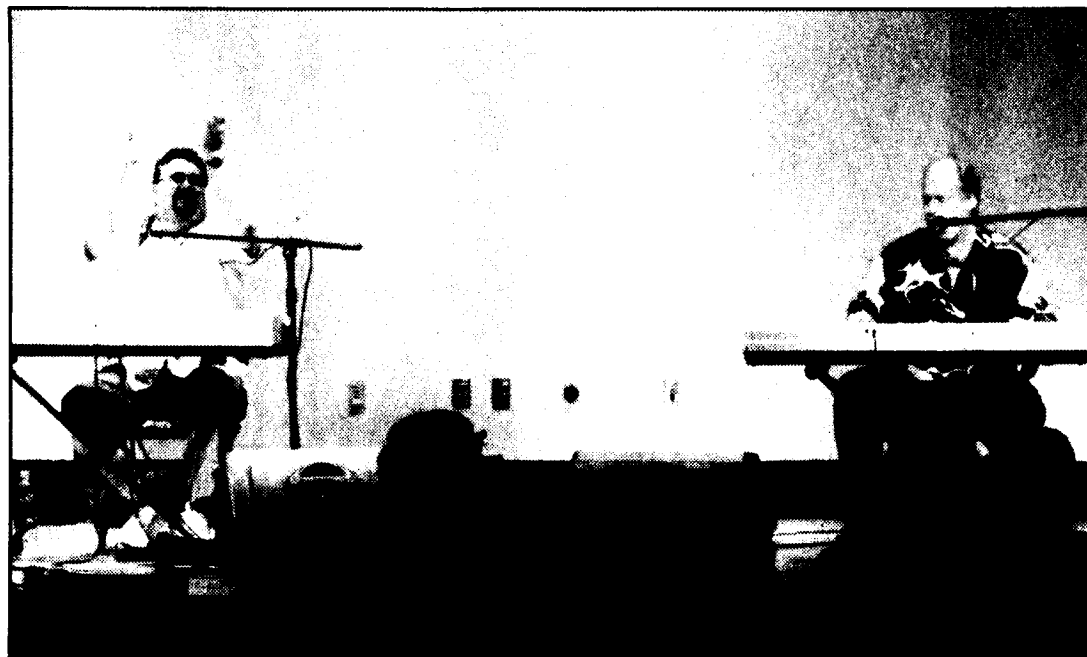


Microsoft has just released their newest operating system, Windows Vista.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Games Explorer is a management tool that gives you the opportunity to easily access, load, and install your games.

The new Windows Media Center gives users control of their entertainment. Instead of missing your favorite television show because of a class or meeting, you can record, watch, and pause live TV. This feature is only available in the Home Premium and Ultimate editions.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Behrend students enjoyed the music and comedy of The Dueling Pianos.

Anyone interested in writing, taking pictures or offering story ideas for The Behrend Beacon can email csl5005@psu.edu.

Quotes on Civility

"Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me."

- Immanuel Kant

Janet Neff Sample Center
for Manners & Civility



MOVIE LOVERS--IT'S OSCAR TIME

WIN A MOVIE PRIZE BASKET FROM THE BEHREND BOOKSTORE BY FILLING OUT OUR OSCAR BALLOT. ADDITIONAL BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE. THE WINNER WILL BE SELECTED ON MON., FEB. 28 FROM THE BALLOTS WITH THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS. STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE ON FEB. 22 & 23 TO DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT AND SAVE 50% ON A SECOND CANDY BAR WHEN YOU PURCHASE ONE AT THE REGULAR PRICE.



Best Motion Picture of the Year

- Babel
- The Departed
- Letters from Iwo
- Little Miss Sunshine
- The Queen

Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role

- Leonardo DiCaprio - Blood Diamond
- Ryan Reynolds - Half Nelson
- Peter O'Toole - Venus
- Will Smith - The Pursuit of Happiness
- Forest Whitaker - The Last King of Scotland

Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role

- Penelope Cruz - Volver
- Judy Dench - Notes on a Scandal
- Helen Mirren - The Queen
- Meryl Streep - The Devil Wears Prada
- Kate Winslet - Little Children

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role

- Alan Arkin - Little Miss Sunshine
- Jacki Earle Haley - Little Children
- Djimon Hounsou - Blood Diamond
- Eddie Murphy - Dreamgirls
- Mark Wahlberg - The Departed

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role

- Adriana Barraza - Babel
- Cate Blanchett - Notes on a Scandal
- Abigail Breslin - Little Miss Sunshine
- Jennifer Hudson - Dreamgirls
- Rinko Kikuchi - Babel

Best Achievement in Directing

- Clint Eastwood - Letters from Iwo Jima
- Stephen Frears - The Queen
- Paul Greengrass - United 93
- Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu - Babel
- Martin Scorsese - The Departed

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____