

NEWS

National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster

Astronaut to run Boston Marathon in space

BOSTON, Massachusetts: Although far out of the country, astronaut Suni Williams plans to run the Boston Marathon from an altitude of approximately 210 miles.

Williams was qualified to run in the Boston Marathon by running in the Houston marathon in January and recording a qualifying time. Unfortunately, she won't be able to compete because the launch of the shuttle Atlantis was postponed and she will be in orbit. Using bungee cords to attach herself to the International Space Station (ISS) treadmill, Williams will run the marathon in space.

"I considered it a huge honor to qualify, and I didn't want my qualification to expire without giving it a shot," Williams told the Boston Athletic Association, who eventually emailed her an official bib number so she could run in space.

"She thought it would be cool if she gave it a try," said Williams' sister, Dina Pandya, who will run with 24,000 other people on Earth. "She said, 'I'll call you on Heartbreak Hill.'"

Unlike other runners, Williams will not have access to frequent aid stations, and even worse, no hot bath when she finishes.

Earthquake and Tsunami devastate Solomon Islands

GIZO, Solomon Islands: An earthquake and tsunami that devastated several small island nations in southeast Asia also destroyed most of the area's boats and canoes, hampering rescue and emergency supply efforts.

What supplies authorities were able to obtain were delivered to the city of Munda, but even though the other islands are relatively nearby, the total destruction of all the methods of transportation by the tsunami have made distribution amongst the over 500,000 people on the chain of over 200 islands nearly impossible. Even the residents' canoes were obliterated.

"The recovery operation is not going as fast as expected because of delays here in Honiara," Prime Ministerial spokesman Alfred Maesulia told The Associated Press. "Suppliers don't have the volumes of relief materials we need to send."

The official death toll of the disaster was raised to 34 on Thursday, with at least 5,500 people homeless.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

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Ashley Bressler/THE BEHREND BEACON

This bathroom of 636 East 22nd Street is just one of the uninhabitable scenes, which Jim McHenry must continue to clean and bring up to the Erie health codes. Two fly traps hang from the ceiling, both of which are completely black from the dead flies clinging to it. It is nearly impossible to imagine a family with six children once lived in these conditions.

Weeks ago, the tenants were evicted from the home after destroying the neighboring house just six months prior. The two buildings were recently sold to an Erie man, Jim McHenry, and his business partner. McHenry said, "I didn't know what I was getting into...my friend always has crazy ideas." McHenry said that his friend told him of two houses that he bought and was going to renovate and sell, and he wanted McHenry as his partner. McHenry agreed without seeing the property first. "I remember the first day we went inside...the front door was boarded up so we went through the basement." He said how the basement was sound and seemed like it had a good foundation; it was normal. He went up the stairs to the first floor door, opened it and he said, to say the least, "That wasn't normal."

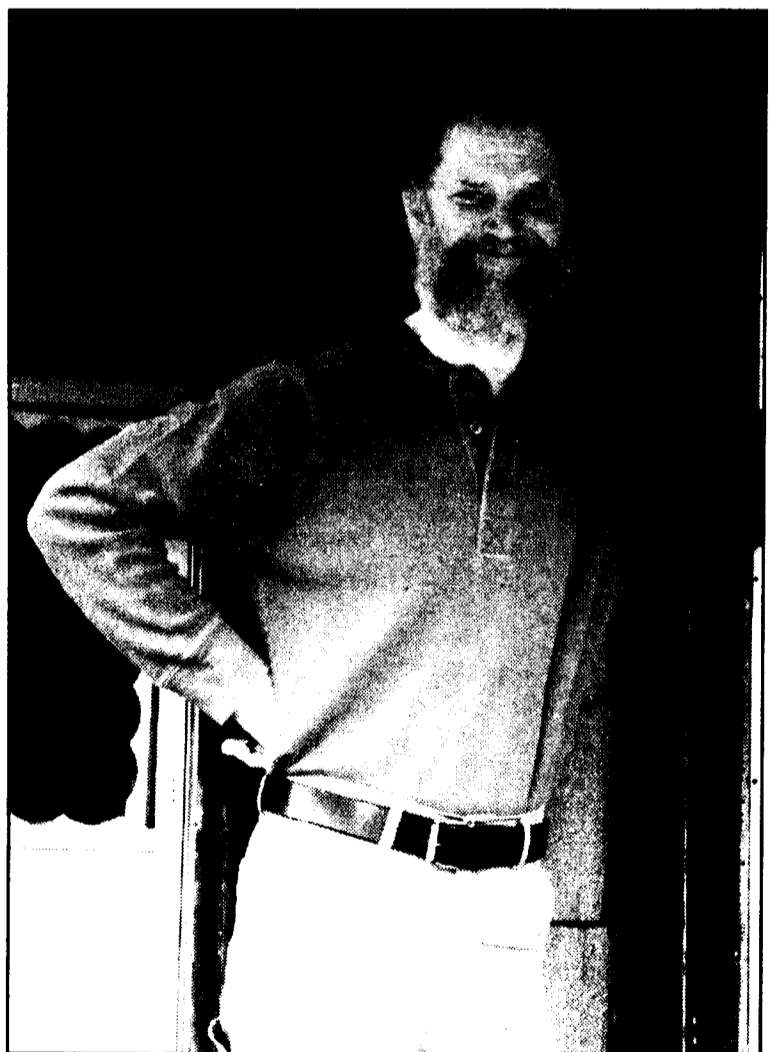
A combination of trash, human waste and animal filth filled the rooms waist-high. "Every room was full, [there was] no path to get from room to room," said McHenry. The second and third floors were the same. The floors were buried in animal fur and feces, only to be covered by thin layers of newspaper to be saturated over and over again by feces and urine. The smell of urine saturates your clothing as your head began to feel dizzy from the inconceivable living conditions of the tenants. The heat from the sun came through the rusted-shut windows baking the piles of filth to release a stench so real it was physical, thick, and heavy, consuming you, weighing you down; you began to drown. "You can only do it for like three days. Then you got to get away from it," said McHenry as he was explaining how he was managing to clean out the building.

Young explained, "I took them to the house so they could gain first hand experience reporting. And so they could understand the world of the safe structure beyond Behrend." The cleaning team was forced to shovel the garbage out the windows of the house into the alley to be scooped up by a bulldozer and dropped into dumpster containers. McHenry has already filled six- 30 cubic yard dumpsters. A white-laced baby shoe lay by the dumpster and a broken baby bottle atop the wall of garbage.

A closer look into the wall of garbage, past the rusted cans, empty beer bottles and torn clothing, were small children's toys, pacifiers, and stuffed animals. Children were living in this house. Senior Heidi Brackbill said that, "As a future educator I don't know how a teacher couldn't realize what these kids were going through."

Three names, Kristie, Laren, and Mathew, were scribbled onto the wall of what seemed to be a small bedroom. This room, like the others, had to be shoveled out. The only things left were cartoons stuck to the wall and a short article that Mathew had written for his school newspaper. Mineweaser said that, "I think children are too innocent to realize." The walls were stained with children's handprints and coated with the same film as the other rooms.

McHenry said, "There was one clean room and warning written on the door. I assumed a girl lived there because of the stuffed animals...she would have had to step up over the trash to get out", said McHenry. This room was the only bit of normalcy in the whole house. McHenry tried to explain how a home can become so out of control, but could only say, "The only thing you can do is stop trying to figure it out."



Ashley Bressler/THE BEHREND BEACON

Erie resident, Jim McHenry is the current owner of 636 East 22nd Street. He bought the house after an unknown family filled it with trash. McHenry knew the house was in bad condition, but took on the task of restoring it with the hopes of donating it to Erie DAWN.

Creature Week controversy continued from page 1

states, "But more of a foolish act carried out by one or more immature students." He also adds that he believes most of the students on this campus are respectful, but unfortunately there are a few students who behave in ways that can cause "problems." In those cases, the student is brought into the judicial affairs process and is charged with the violation that fits the act they committed. The consequences are different based on the act. Some consequences are the separation between the abuser and the victim, and expulsion. In some cases, such as hate speech, there are fines and jail time because this is a crime.

In reference to the discrimination on this campus, Herrera states, "I haven't seen very strong cases of racism on this campus. I have only seen cases of misunderstandings." Although the students have

moved from it, the university does not take discrimination lightly, in fact it has rules and by laws that state the penalties that will occur if discrimination is reported.

The site <http://guru.psu.edu/POLICIES/Ad42.html> states discrimination is conduct of any nature that violates the policy set forth above by denying equal privileges or treatment to a particular individual because of the individual's age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation gender identity or veteran status.

Although most of the acts have been reported, they have yet to be proven and the University and its staff are working very diligently to find out who is behind these acts. The Multi-Cultural club has moved forward in their pursuit of diversity, and Herrera implies that it is for everyone. "I think the title 'Multi-Cultural' implies there are a number of cultures involved in this organization. It's all in the name." If anyone has any information regarding the "Creature Week" incident, they

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- Andres Herrera, MCC Adult Advisor

Behrend faculty works towards equality continued from page 1

started discussing the issue and are making an effort to evaluate more qualified female professors, not based on gender. They have also started a peer-mentoring program to help keep the qualified professors at Behrend. For example, a tenured Biology professor may support an incoming non-tenured Engineering professor and act as a mentor. Also, the campus has a College Ombudsman to hear any complaints that may arise.

Burke and his staff are continuing their efforts in making Behrend a more diverse campus, dealing with both women and minorities. "I am committed

to making Penn State Behrend an inclusive and welcoming campus for everyone," said Burke.

One of his solutions is recognizing gender and race issues and bringing it to the attention of the administration. He encourages faculty members to bring these complaints to the University's attention. He said, "Towards this end, I am asking that if you encounter situations or have concerns related to diversity, civility and educational equity, please bring them to the attention of your School director, the College Ombudsman or my office."