

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster

### Court applies First Amendment to MySpace

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana: The Indiana Court of Appeals overturned a ruling by the Putnam County Circuit Court that placed a Greencastle Middle School student on parole for criticizing a school principal on her MySpace account.

The school and the state filed a delinquency petition against the student, identified only as A.B. in court documents, after principal Shawn Gobert discovered the expletive-laden website criticizing parts of the school dress code that restricted body piercings. The school claimed that publishing those comments under an internet handle constituted "harassment, identity deception and identity theft" on the part of the student making the comments. The juvenile court dismissed several of the charges but still sentenced the student to no less than nine months probation.

The student appealed, claiming that her First Amendment rights had been violated and her comments were protected because they were legitimate political speech criticizing a school policy. The appeals court agreed, determining that the juvenile court had unconstitutionally restricted her right to free speech.

"While we have little regard for A.B.'s use of vulgar epithets, we conclude that her overall message constitutes political speech," wrote Appeals Court Judge Patricia Riley on behalf of the three member appeals panel.

### Vigilante death squads haunt Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil: Government police groups arrested 15 people suspected of being involved in assassination groups that plagued Brazil on Thursday.

Death squads are a growing problem in Brazil, where understaffed and often corrupt police forces struggle to suppress the crime that runs rampant in the cities and the countryside. Instead, some people turn to groups of armed vigilantes, who charge anywhere from \$500 to \$2,500 per head depending on the target. Gunmen in Caruaru City average four jobs a week, killing about 200 people a year in that city alone.

"Unfortunately, these extermination groups exist all over Brazil. They reflect the lack of state presence and are a blemish on our image," said Marcos Antonio da Silva Costa, a federal public prosecutor in Pernambuco province, where Caruaru City is located.

Brazil currently ranks as the fourth-most violent country in the world, with a murder rate of about 30 per 100,000 residents a year.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

### Senior gift to spruce up Junker to REDC continued from page 1

passers-by will be able to enjoy changing scenery and fragrances from the garden. The area will be designed as a meditation area, and will serve as a bright oasis for those touring the campus. Although Perennial flowers grow back each year, there is only a certain time of year when they bud and flower. Every few weeks there will be something different to look at. The garden will also add a new option for those who schedule their weddings at the chapel.

Planting can only be done at certain times of the year, but over the next year the garden's construction will begin and add just one more unique feature to the constantly changing campus landscape.

Those interested in the project or who want to donate to the garden can contact Rebecca Grimaldi at [rcg12@psu.edu](mailto:rcg12@psu.edu).

Anyone interested in writing or taking photographs for The Behrend Beacon can email [cs15005@psu.edu](mailto:cs15005@psu.edu)

### Students question where parking permit fees and fines go continued from page 1

Currently, a new parking garage is being constructed near the REDC to help fix the very problem Nguyen stressed. This will add 382 parking spaces that are expected to fill up three levels, and will be ready for the start of the fall 2007 semester. This is only the tip of the iceberg of what is being done to take care of Behrend's parking problem. According to the Director of Operations, John Ream, parking lots are assessed every spring to decide if anything needs to be done to repair them.

"Most of the damage is done through freezing weather," Ream said, "It's not always necessary to pave the whole parking lot." He said that parking lots generally only need to be resurfaced approximately every 10 years. However, maintenance crews go through all of the parking lots every summer to do spot repairs.

"We went through Erie Hall and filled cracks with tar," Ream said, referring to work done during the summer of 2006. He also added that the Nick and Reed parking lots received a complete overlay, and new travel lanes were created throughout the campus. The Wilson Picnic Grove also got a makeover, according to Ream.

Another big question that comes up for students is how costs for parking at Behrend compare to other local colleges, such as Mercyhurst College or even other Penn State branches. Parking fines are higher at Behrend than Penn State Harrisburg by about \$10, but they are equal to the fines given at University Park. Permits themselves are more expensive for University Park, as prices vary depending on the dorm where a student lives. When comparing Mercyhurst College to Behrend, parking fines come out equal for the most part, with only a few dollars in difference. However, permits are free at both of Mercyhurst's campuses.

According to Behrend's website, the reason parking fees are higher than other campuses is because many other campuses use part of tuition to cover lot maintenance, while Behrend relies solely on money generated from permits.

Behrend students can rest assured with the knowledge that the money they pay for their parking permits goes right back to the lots. And while those bright orange parking tickets are never enjoyable to find underneath a windshield wiper, they ensure there will always be activities for students and income for the more than 80 clubs and organizations available.

### Behrend staff attempts to improve diversity among faculty members continued from page 1

over those we are less likely with," Onipede said.

Under the diversity section on Behrend's website, there is a list of challenges the college is focused on meeting. "Challenge 4: Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce" is focused on attracting more women and minorities to the college. Christiansen, who analyzed the challenges, said, "We're making progress, but it's going to take time." Christiansen feels that because of new programs opening in the fall, the campus is widening the range of professors. "We have already hired a few women who will be working here in the fall and we still have a few more positions to fill and candidates to look at. I'm hoping these changes will widen the range of diversity," he said.

Onipede feels that Behrend has a greater challenge when it comes to diversity, due to its resources, size and location. According to the U.S. Department of Education, out of the 7,194 African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics who have a Ph.D., 1,621 of them have it in Education. Education is currently a degree that Behrend does not offer. Only 577 have a Ph.D. in Engineering, which is the most highly populated major at Behrend. Although these are not excuses as to why Behrend does not have a wider range of diversity, Christiansen feels that these statistics could be playing a part.

Onipede feels that in order for changes to be made, the college needs a more aggressive approach. "More proactive steps need to be taken to attract and retain women and minority faculty and students. The administration, staff, faculty and students need to be involved in these efforts," Onipede said. Christiansen feels that the Engineering department is making a great effort. Director of Engineering and Engineering Technology Ralph Ford is behind the program of widening diversity here 100 percent according to Christiansen.

Although changes are not evident yet, the administration at Behrend hopes to expand the diversity amongst faculty and students greatly. "We want students to be able to relate to the professors that we have. Dipo is a great asset to our campus. He is the example of the faculty we want to attract here." Christiansen said. He added, "We ultimately want a faculty that is a cross of all American society. Hopefully one day our campus will achieve that."

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WHERE INTELLIGENCE GOES TO WORK

### Quotes on Civility

"Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."

- Eric Hoffer

Janet Neff Sample Center  
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