

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster

### Yahoo sued by human rights group

NEW YORK: The World Organization for Human Rights USA is suing Yahoo, Inc. for cooperating with the government of the People's Republic of China in arresting and detaining dissidents who used the internet to express non-approved political speech.

Yahoo joins Google and Microsoft and a growing number of other American companies under fire for helping the communist Chinese government suppress political speech in return for being allowed access to billions of dollars worth of business in the mostly closed Chinese market.

"They should not be participating actively in promoting and encouraging major human-rights abuses," said WOHRUSA executive director Morton Sklar after the lawsuit was filed.

Yahoo spokesmen admitted that information requested by the Chinese government had been released, claiming that if they did not, Yahoo employees in China could be arrested and face civil and criminal charges according to Chinese law.

"[This matter] is better suited for diplomacy than it is in the legal forum," said Yahoo spokesman Jim Cullinan. Cullinan also said that the company was "distressed that citizens in China have been imprisoned for expressing their political view on the Internet."

The lawsuit names three Chinese citizens as plaintiffs, including a journalist sentenced to ten years in prison in 2005 for political speech. Several other people were involved, but were reluctant to join the lawsuit in fear that the government would take action against their families in retribution.

### Colombian volcano eruption forces evacuations

NEIVA, Colombia: A volcano dormant for hundreds of years suddenly erupted late Tuesday night and again early Wednesday morning, prompting the evacuation of thousands of Colombians from the surrounding area.

The volcano Nevado del Huila had not been active for at least 500 years, when the Spanish first colonized the area. The eruptions also caused widespread damage to the infrastructure around the volcano by triggering floods and mudslides.

"The bridges were swept away, the highway used by the indigenous in the zone was destroyed for various kilometers and the problem we have now is the lack of a route to deliver goods and medicines to the population," Colombian Police General Orlando Paez said.

Scientists monitoring the volcano are anxious that further larger eruptions could occur, causing even more damage and possibly forcing the evacuation of an even larger area.

"The seismic activity remains light but permanent, and we can't rule out another bigger event in the next hours or days," said Government Institute for Geology and Mining Director Mario Ballesteros.

A related volcano in the Colombian range, Nevado del Ruiz, erupted in 1985, causing massive mudslides that completely destroyed the town of Armero and killing at least 21,000 people.

Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Smokin' Joe" Frazier, former world heavyweight boxing champion, will be appearing in the Junker Center on Friday, April 20 to raise funds to develop a boxing/wellness youth center in Erie.

### Behrend responds to Virginia Tech continued from page 1

to physically step in to help. It bothers me that we have been trained in everything from suicide counseling to roommate conflicts, but we are not told what to do when there is a fire drill. We just have to work on impulse, but if we aren't given instructions for fire drills, what are we supposed to do if someone has a gun?" said Yong. Resident Assistants at Behrend are required to take part in hours of training for all kinds of situations each year. They also role-play with mock situations, where they are given a crisis and are expected to respond to it. Yong said she has been trained to deal with suicide attempts, but nothing as far as a massive school shooting that would require her to protect all of the students on her floor.

Daley said, "It is not a matter of if it will happen. It is a matter of when it will happen." In light of this statement, which many may not want to even consider, Daley explained that preparing for the worst may be in the long run the best. Taking the small step to having a critical-response training session for resident assistants, professors, faculty members and any willing students could potentially be the key in preparing all for a perilous situation in the college setting and in the world outside of Behrend. Consulting Psychiatrist at Behrend Dr. Fuat Ulus also said that simple training techniques could make a world of difference in a school shooting situation. Ulus has published the article, "Help Managers, Employees Prepare for Workplace Violence," in *Eastern Pennsylvania Business Journal*, (April 16-22, 2001, Vol.12, No. 15), and said the techniques he discusses in the article can also be applied to the college setting. "There have been many people frozen with fear, allowing the gunman's shooting at them one-by-one precisely enough to kill each target," said Ulus. "Would dead and wounded counts be far lower if everybody knew what they needed to during the tragedy?"

Behrend, along with most colleges and universities in the United States, have open campus grounds, allowing anyone to walk in. Daley said this makes security at college campuses very difficult to enforce, but that doesn't mean the students shouldn't know how to react just like the trained professionals. Some of the steps Ulus suggested students take in critical situations were first and foremost do not panic, and remain calm. He also said, "Flight is the attempt to reach the closest safe area by the fastest means. Panic, on the other hand, is just rushing around aimlessly. The last, but not least, is begging him/her not to harm you while you try to hide under your table. At this point, attempting a dialogue would be pointless. Therefore, RUN! A moving target is more difficult to hit."

According to Daley, hours of training and acts of precaution can be made to try to assure the safety of students at a college campus, but nothing is ever certain and anything is possible. Ulus' research begs the question, how many school shootings need to happen, how many people have to die before Behrend students, professors, and faculty members are trained to physically and emotionally deal with a similar situation? "It is sad. We don't learn. We talk the talk but don't walk the walk," said Ulus.

### Communication students continued from page 1

"I never saw SWAT teams, only state troopers," said Oberste, who was eating breakfast at the time. "We all heard the sirens, but when we heard the gunshots we decided it was time to go inside."

Oberste went on to say the first thing he did was call his girlfriend, worrying about where she was on campus. Ten minutes later, he called his parents, telling them he was okay and not to worry. The phone lines were becoming tied up and getting a phone call out was difficult, even sending emails took longer than usual. "Facebook [the internet student connection link] was the best way to find your friends and to see who was alright, and who wasn't," said Oberste.

Even on a campus of nearly 26,000 students, everyone seemed to know someone who was affected. Classes were cancelled all week, allowing students to be with their friends and attend services. A large service was held Tuesday with over 10,000 students attending. Only standing room was available, and even then it was hard to find a space.

"Most students went home to their families, the rest are here with their friends, mourning and taking time," said Oberste.

Oberste said he thought the campus was transitioning very quickly, probably due to the number of students. His biggest fear isn't of something like this happening again, but of people leaving the campus and not giving it another chance. Oberste worries that incoming freshman will change their mind and not want to come.

Drawn to the campus for its engineering program, Oberste spent the rest of the week relaxing with friends and taking time for himself. On Thursday, April 19, Oberste will be leaving with his Aircraft Design Team to compete in an engineering competition all weekend in Arizona.

"It's something you don't really worry about until it happens," said Oberste. Now instead of the campus crumbling, "I think it made us stronger and will allow us to grow."

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## Quotes on Civility

"Civility wills the neighbors good, whether we like him or not."

Joseph Fletcher

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility

