

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

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### Teen hacks Apple's iPhone connections

SAN FRANCISCO, California: A teenaged New Jersey hacker has successfully altered his Apple iPhone to allow it to be used on networks other than those owned by AT&T.

George Hotz, a 17-year-old student, altered both the phone's software and hardware in order to allow him to connect to his family's T-mobile phone network. Stock iPhones have been specifically designed to only be used with Apple's business partner in the enterprise, AT&T.

After considering sever offers for purchase of his modified phone, Hotz accepted one from CertiCell, a Kentucky-based cell phone upgrade and repair company. The offer wasn't for cash, however; it was for three new 8gb Apple iPhones and what Hotz calls "a sweet Nissan 350Z" new car.

"This has been a great end to a great summer," Hotz wrote in a press release. He had been working on modifying the iPhone for

about 8 hours a day since late June, for a total of about 500 hours of work.

Hotz has been protected from legal action from Apple and AT&T by a very specific clause in a telecommunications law that provides consumers an option for using phones on whatever phone provider network that they choose. Now that he has sold the phone for profit, however, his legal protection might not be as solid.

CertiCell, the company he sold the hacked phone to, currently has no method for capitalizing on their new purchase.

"We do not have any plans on the table right now to commercialize Mr. Hotz' discovery," said Terry Daidone, a co-founder of CertiCell who also offered Hotz a consulting job.

### Multi-state bomb threats affect businesses and banks

WASHINGTON: Several businesses and banks spread across at least 13 states, including Pennsylvania, have been targeted in an extortion scheme, often facing bomb threats and demands for money transfers.

The threatening calls, usually coming from an untraceable cell phone, are now believed to possibly be originating from outside the United States. Some authorities now believe they could be originating from Portugal, where officials there have noticed suspicious banking activity. The calls themselves have been described as unsettling, with the criminals sometimes making strange demands such as ordering all employees and customers to remove their clothing. Based on the callers' knowledge of what is going on in the store, some wonder if they've hacked into video cameras and store security systems.

"You just don't think of things happening like this in our area," said Millinocket Police Chief Donald Bulduc, after one of the threatening calls was made to the small Maine town's Hannaford grocery store. The caller "made it seem very realistic that they're right in the building or right outside,

almost like they have a visual." The sheer scope of businesses being threatened is baffling to authorities, with locations being selected seemingly at random. Other victims include a Dillon's store in Hutchinson, Kansas; a Nordaway bank in Savannah, Missouri; a couple businesses in Portland, Oregon; and a Wal-Mart in Newport, Rhode Island.

The calls have been just spooky enough to succeed in some occasions. The total cash sent from businesses that would admit it is so far around \$13,000, always sent from on-site cash transfer services such as banking or Western-Union type facilities.

Federal officials do not believe that these actions are linked to a terrorist group, but the similarity between all the instances despite the difference in their geographic locations gives them some information.

"The investigation and leads so far point to it being likely this is one person or one group," said FBI spokesman Rich Kolko. "This is criminal."



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

## Behrend welcomes new professors to campus

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Here it is, the first semester of a new year; and with a new year comes new faces, both student and teacher alike. Everyone knows what it's like to be a new student, a freshman. The enormous amount of stress in the first week to find and get to all of the classes on time, to learn all of the professors' names, and to complete those first homework assignments. However, what is it like for the new teachers?

Although he's only been here for two years, Dr. Paul Ashcraft says that his first experience here was a great one; it was "like coming home. It [Behrend] is like the school I graduated from. Penn State is well-known for its science department, just like A&M University and the student's are just like they were at A&M, very friendly and helpful." When asked what his initial expectations were, Ashcraft replied, "From the interview process, I got a good view of what the school was going to be like. It was exactly what I thought it would be," he laughed, "and there's no graffiti anywhere!"

Now the physics lecturer says he's "a lot more com-

fortable. I actually know what to expect from students." Hopefully his students will know what to expect from him; but, what about the "freshman" of the faculty? How are any of the new teachers handling such a new locale and experience?

"Well, you know, when I tell people I've moved here from Oklahoma they're like 'Well you won't be able to deal with the snow.' But we've got lots of snow experience in Boston. Anyway, winter weather doesn't really bother me that much," says new choir director, Dr. Jason Bishop, who received his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma just last year. He began his undergraduate work at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee and moved on to his Master's at Boston University.

**That's my commitment, to try to make the experience broad and to take people outside their comfort zone."**

**Dr. Jason Bishop**

"Musicians, especially for graduate work, tend to follow certain individuals that they want to study; and so, my locations were determined by the person who was there that I wanted to study from. It's funny; I know it must be this way other pursuits too, but with music in particular, especially with graduate work, we tend not to be looking at the institution so much as the teacher." Bishop's atti-

tude proves that not everyone has to be nervous about a first semester. He urges students not to stress out about first homework assignments while also embracing the feeling they embody. "I think there's something very positive about the nervous energy that comes along for first year students trying to complete their first assignments. The work book is only for the purpose of stimulating conversation in class. Some people look at that and get stressed. I think there's value in that energy. It's like an ice-breaker for the rest of the year."

Very confident in his abilities as a chorus instructor, Bishop says his program is "new for this institution."

"You go into a new situation with a set of expectations and when you learn about said situation those expectations are molded by reality; I know what I want the choral program to work like this year, and moreover, I know what I want the curriculum to look like this year. I really do think that the point of college; to expose you to things outside of your experience so that you grow mentally. That's my commitment, to try to make the experience broad and to take people outside their comfort zone."

While Bishop may have his seemingly ambitious confidence, Ashcraft advises new professors and new students this semester to "get a mentor you can trust and lean on them heavily."

## Saudi Arabia reaches arms deal with United States

By Dennis Paskorz  
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On Aug. 16, 2007, a \$30 billion military grant was signed with Israel. This military aid grant will be received over a 10 year period by Israel from the United States for the purpose of obtaining contracts with the arms industry. The United States represents 20% of Israel's total military budget. Support in this amount makes the US Israel's largest military supporter.

Israel is allowed to use 26.3 percent of this grant on contracts with Israeli weapon companies. Previous US military grants stipulate that all of the money is used for contracts with US weapon suppliers (e.g. GE, Boeing, Lockheed Martin). The \$30 billion military aid package is equal to 1.2 percent of the 2006 US national budget.

The growing concern over Iran's nuclear energy program is shared by Israel and the Bush administration. Both suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapons. Israel has an estimated 100-200 nuclear weapons.

Iran denies their nuclear program is working towards nuclear weapons. Iranian president Ahmadinejad requests the US spend the resources for progress and development of Middle Eastern countries instead of increased military aid.

The common concern over Iran, talks of \$20 billion in military aid to Saudi Arabia, and recent pressure from the US that halted Israeli weapon export to China are supposed causes of the \$9 billion increase from the last military aid package. Israel wanted to export spare parts for radar detector drones that would increase their range and success rate. US military officials did not want to indirectly support China as a growing military power.

Israel's military record concerns the UN which is calling Israel's use of cluster bombs during last years struggle with Hezbollah as immoral. The reasoning is that as many as 350,000 remain unexploded in Lebanon, posing a terrible threat to civilians. Cluster bombs are launched from the air and ground and then break into smaller bombs. The aforementioned cluster bombs were made in the USA and bought with a previous investment in peace.

### THUMBS UP



- Lucky Charms
- Superbad
- Penn State Football
- Nice Weather in Erie!
- No Classes on Monday

### THUMBS DOWN



- Slow internet connections
- Bruno's Coffee
- "That Guy"
- Creepers
- Suite hallways as "common areas"

### Quotes on Civility

"Like the body that is made up of different limbs and organs, all moral creatures must depend on each other to exist."

— Hindu proverb

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility



Are you interested in sharing your love of writing with your classmates at Penn State Behrend? E-mail Christopher LaFuria at csl5005@psu.edu