

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

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### Russia and Indonesia sign \$1 billion arms deal

JAKARTA, Indonesia: Russian and Indonesian officials have agreed on terms to allow Indonesia to purchase at least \$1 billion worth of Russian-made helicopters, fighters, tanks, and submarines, signaling closer economic and military ties between the two nations.

The United States banned arms sales to Indonesia in 1999, citing human rights concerns at the time. That ban caused the country to look elsewhere for dependable and affordable military hardware, and soon started purchasing Russian-made jet fighters. The U.S. lifted its ban in 2005, but Indonesia has decided to continue dealing with Russian firms.

The two countries also agreed on new programs to expand and improve Indonesia's aging mining and oil production industries. Analysts suggest that these new ties signify Russia's intentions to once again become a player and possible counterpart to the United States in world politics and affairs.

The event also marked the first time in almost 50 years that a Russian president has visited Indonesia, which is the fourth most populous country in the world. President Putin stopped there on the way to the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit being held in Australia.



Source: CNN.com; Yahoo! News

### Clues reveal possible source of mysterious bee disease

WASHINGTON: Scientists researching a malady termed Colony Collapse Disorder that has caused billions of dollars of damage to the U.S. beekeeping industry and various agriculture may have discovered one of its causes: an imported virus.

The possible culprit is called Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus. Despite the name, the virus is not Israeli in origin but was discovered by scientists from Hebrew University. Once the virus infects the hive, it can cause paralysis in the wings of the workers, causing them to die once they attempt to take flight, leaving the queen and young bees healthy but unable to provide for themselves, leading to the collapse of the colony.

The virus first started showing up in bee samples dating to 2004, the first year that the U.S. started importing honeybees from Australia. Subsequent research show that the virus was never detected there because Australian bees were genetically immune to it. American bees had no such protection, causing it to sweep across the North American continent.

Even so, there are indications that IAPV is not the lone cause of the massive destruction of U.S. hives.

"This research give us a very good lead to follow, but we do not believe IAPV is acting alone," said Jeffery Pettis, a scientist and member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bee Research Laboratory. "Other stressors on the colony are likely involved."

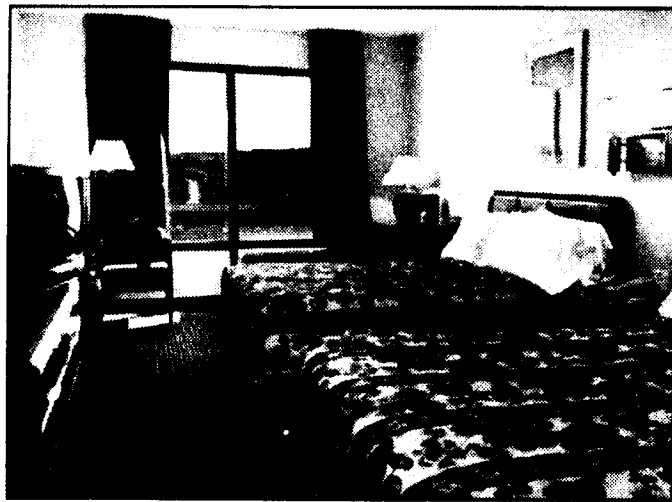
One of the other possible problems is a common parasite called varroa. Varroa mites have plagued bees in North America for years but were never problematic enough to cause the kind of destruction now being reported. Now, however, the combination of varroa mites and IAPV, along with possible other factors, may be too much for domestic bees to handle.

## Suite life is a pretty sweet life continued

"The demand for housing ebbs and flows," says Geering, who has been working as the Director of Housing since 2001. "Some years we would have no wait list, or less than one hundred. Other years, like this year, we obviously get more demand."

Plans are in place for another building on campus. Tripp Residence Hall, which was a project planned to be constructed with Almy and Ohio, was never built, because its funding was taken to renovate Perry and

Will it be enough, though? Tony Bruno, who took the large part of the task in orchestrating the arrangement, says that the hotel would need to re-evaluate whether it can continue with this plan. The hotel is currently in charge of transportation, which proves to be a major expense with gasoline, maintenance, and driving wages. Bruno would like to see more of a partnership in the future between Scott Enterprises and the school when it comes to transportation expenses to bring the kids to the school.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rooms like this are serving as dormitories for Behrend students forced to live at Days Inn.

construct Senat instead. The plans, though, are still approved - but it would be a process of three to five years for the entire building to be funded, designed, contracted, built, and inspected.

In the meantime, University Gates Apartments are supposedly expanding, creating space for around 144 new students in October of 2008.

As would Cooperberg and Hudson, who now have only one trip to the campus and back. But, as they sit in their wireless-capable rooms watching free HBO on a provided 27 inch television, ordering a pizza from room service, things don't seem that bad.

Hudson plans to get an apartment within the next week or two. Cooperberg has no such plans, as when he applied to Universal Gates Apartments he discovered they were completely full. For him, it seems to be his only option to stay in the hotel, and hope that somewhere a spot will open for him in the spring.

"I still love Penn State, regardless of the situation," Hudson was eager to point out, "They're still number one."

## Apple has got the right "touch"

By Jessica Carlson  
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On Wednesday, Apple CEO Steve Jobs held an invite-only conference to announce price cuts on the iPhone, as well as new improvements on the iPod.

It's been a mere two months since the Apple iPhone hit the shelves of Apple and AT&T stores at a price of \$599 for an 8 GB device, and \$499 for 4 GB. On Wednesday, however, Jobs announced that the 8 GB will be sold for \$399 and the 4 GB will be discontinued.

Along with price cuts on the iPhone, Apple also introduced new models of the iPod. One of the new devices is the iPod Touch. With its 3.5-inch touch screen it appears almost as a mirror image of the iPhone, and holds some of the same technology, such as Wi-Fi Internet capabilities. The only thing the iPhone has that the iPod Touch does not is the phone and built-in camera. The Touch will be sold at \$299 for 8 GB or \$399 for 16 GB.

Another additive to the Apple technology of the iPhone and iPod Touch will be Wi-Fi access of iTunes throughout Starbucks coffee houses. They will have the ability to access, listen to and purchase music on iTunes from the in-store Wi-Fi network. The cost of the songs will still be \$0.99, but

the Wi-Fi will be free. "The No. 1 question we get form our customer is, 'What song is that?'" said Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz.

As if that was not enough, Apple also released a new version of iTunes on Wednesday that allows iPhone owners to customize their own ring tones for an extra cost of \$0.99 on top of the price of the song. "The (iPhone's) been extremely well accepted; we want to put the pedal to the metal. A holiday season is approaching," said Jobs.

Some more basic updates include a better battery life and a thinner, metal casing for the iPod Classic (the new name for the "original" iPod). The iPod Nano will have a wider, 2-inch, higher resolution screen and video-playing capability. New colors will be offered, along with a thinner, all-metal casing like the iPod Classic. Prices will also be lower for the Nano. The 4 GB will drop from \$199 to \$149 and the 8 GB will go for \$199, originally \$249. The iPod Shuffle will also be sold in five new colors as well, but its storage and price will remain the same at 1 GB for \$79.

Some customers who have purchased the iPhone in the last two months for \$599 are angry at the price cut. When Jobs was asked what to say to those customers his replay was simple and straightforward. "That's tech-

nology. If they bought it this morning, they should go back to where they bought it and talk to them. If they bought it a month ago, well, that's what happens in technology."

Customers can expect the iPod Touch to begin arriving in stores later this month. The Apple-Starbucks deal

**"The (iPhone's) been extremely well accepted; we want to put the pedal to the metal. A holiday season is approaching."**

**-Steve Jobs  
Apple CEO**

will begin to take action at 600 stores in New York and Seattle on Oct. 2. By November the services will extend to 350 stores in San Francisco and by the end of 2008 will be nationwide.

## Old and new join forces for a fun-filled weekend

By Rachel Reeves  
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On Saturday, Sept. 29, Behrend alumni from all over the country will be returning to their old campus to reconnect with old friends, show their families around, and meet the new generation of Behrend students.

It is no mistake that this reunion takes place on the same weekend as the students' Family Weekend. Although some events are set up exclusively for the alumni, like a golf outing in the morning and a scholarship lunch, most activities coincide with the students' family weekend events. Together students and alumni will be able to attend sports competitions, ice cream on the lawn, and a family dinner.

Rebecca Grimaldi, Director of Alumni Relations, hopes that the blended events will encourage a good relationship between those currently attending Behrend and those who have graduated. Former students of all ages are expected, from those who have graduated many years ago to those who have only just left and would like to visit the friends they still have at Behrend. Grimaldi hopes that the alumni can encourage and mentor the students, while in return the students can, "invite them back [and] make them feel like part of the family."

The upcoming reunion is only one of the ways that a Behrend graduate can be involved in their old school. The Behrend Alumni Scholarship Society sells Penn State

Creamery ice cream to raise scholarship money for new students. In fact, half-gallons of the famously fresh ice cream will be on sale for Family Weekend.

Alumni also return to campus for classroom visits to show how their career paths have panned out. Some even make themselves available to be interviewed by the students themselves. This way, alumni can answer specific questions on how to most effectively take advantage of their Penn State educations.

Even as they support the school they once attended, alumni can also look to Behrend for assistance in the working world. The Behrend magazine sent out to alumni everywhere allows old classmates to notify each other of family, personal, and career announcements. The online career center facilitates networking and can make the adjustment from student life to professional life a bit easier. Graduates can even get some financial relief through the school. "Most helpful for recent alumni who are making the transition from student to the working world are short-term insurance benefits," Grimaldi points out.

The reunion weekend is just one short-term event in the midst of a longstanding and highly beneficial relationship between graduates and their school. Students and alumni can spend a day together enjoying food and cheering on Behrend athletics, making new connections and solidifying old relationships. Although a student can graduate and leave Behrend, they never stop belonging.

## Quotes on Civility

**"Different is a nice change from same. It doesn't mean better or worse. It means interesting."**

**-Virginia Clark Clarkson  
The Alphabet of Civility**

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility

