

# NEWS

## PA Trooper accused of doctor's murder

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Over a year ago, a small neighborhood in Indiana County was shocked when one of its residents was brutally murdered. Dr. John Yelenic was found dead on April 13, 2006 inside his home. He was 39 at the time, with a wife and a child. For a year, Yelenic's case was left unsolved, with no one being accused of the crime. Finally, someone has been charged.

Pennsylvania State Trooper Kevin Foley, 42 of Indiana, has been named a suspect for the murder. Investigators claimed Foley had been having an affair with Yelenic's wife, and had made public threats toward Yelenic.

The possibility most disturbing part about the entire ordeal, is that Yelenic seemed to know he was soon going to be killed. According to the grand jury indictment, some time before he was killed Yelenic told his attorney that he would be willing to pay him to investigate his death. He claimed that he was certain

that his wife Michelle was going to have her state trooper boyfriend kill him.

It also seems that the timing of Yelenic's murder was no coincidence. The day after his death, Yelenic was supposed to sign divorce papers that would cease support payments to his wife of \$2,800 a month, and would disallow her from receiving \$1 million if he died.

Yelenic was worried that because of Foley's status as a state trooper, he would not be convicted of the crime. "It is extremely difficult to have to arrest a member of the law enforcement community, but as in any case, we follow the evidence wherever it leads," said Attorney General Tom Corbett. According to Maj. Robert Lizik of the Pennsylvania State Police, "The criminal system shows no immunity regardless of the type of chosen profession you might have or the type of uniform you might wear."

Yelenic's family is pleased to have the case put to rest. An attempt to proceed with Yelenic's divorce was put forth

by his family, claiming it was what he would have wanted to happen. Judge Carol Hanna denied the request, a ruling that was later held up by a state appeals court.

The night of the murder, Foley attended a hockey game at Center Ice Arena in Salem Township, and was said to have no visible injuries. The day after, Foley was said to have a large gash above his eye, and scratches below it. Surveillance cameras at businesses in the neighborhood show a vehicle which matches the one Foley drove at the time sitting near Yelenic's home the night of the murder. Also, bloody footprints in Yelenic's home were matched to Asics sneakers, a brand Foley often wore, and a fellow state trooper testified to the grand jury that following the murder, Foley started wearing a new brand of shoes. In addition to that, investigators identified a blood sample underneath Yelenic's fingernail that was matched to Foley's DNA. Foley does not yet have an attorney and is being held in the county prison with no bail.

## Asian Buddhist nation is in turmoil

By **Dennis Paskorz, Jr.**  
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Myanmar is turmoil.

Myanmar, or Burma, is a Buddhist nation in southeast Asia fledged with economic and political turmoil. Myanmar is controlled by a military government, the "State Peace and Development Council," led by Senior General Than Shwe. Under this leadership Myanmar is struggling as one of the poorest nations in Southeast Asia. In April 2006 the military regime put inflation on the rise (30-60%) by raising the salary for government workers. As of August 2007, fuel ration prices dramatically rose by 500%. Thuan Tun, Myanmar ambassador, justified in August by saying public protests were not widespread so the people must be content.

Protests that began in August lead to Sept. 18, 2007 when a Buddhist pro-democracy uprising began to grow. One thousand monks began to march against a recent religious ban, rising fuel prices, and poor general well-being for the Myanmar people. On Sept. 24, 10,000 monks in traditional, red robes took to the street in peaceful protest, marching from Yangwon's Shwedagon

Pagoda (Buddhist temple) to the center of Yangwon. One witness reports that tens of thousands of people joined the monks. Buddhist monks have been the center of protests cropping up all over Myanmar.

The Theravada Buddhism tradition is the major religion of Myanmar's people. They follow eight precepts taught by Buddha, e.g. "I undertake to abstain from taking life." They also follow Four Noble Truths, e.g. "Suffering exists in life." Buddhist monks are historically peaceful and take to a life of eliminating human suffering."

Buddhism maintains a tenet to harm no living being.

These peaceful protests have met severe opposition from the military government. Aug. 22, protesters were beaten with sticks. Aug. 23, journalists were beaten. Aug. 24, there was increased troop deployment to protest hot spots. Aug. 25, political protesters were threatened with 20 years in jail. Sept., warning shots were fired throughout the month. Sept. 18, tear gas was shot into the crowd. Sept. 25, a military curfew was enforced, and internet access was shut-off. Sept. 26, at least eight people were beaten, shot and killed. Three hundred monks and civilians were seriously injured.

## Riding that extra mile to serve the people: Ken Schmidt speaks for Harley-Davidson

By **Aeriale Cooksey-Kramer**  
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When asked about what makes Harley-Davidson so special, Ken Schmidt would usually hear the dull, mechanical reply of, "Well, Harley-Davidson makes good quality products." He would continually shrug off these answers and shake his head saying, "Everything is good quality these days!"

Former executive Ken Schmidt, serving now as the primary spokesperson for Harley-Davidson, opened up the 2007-08 Speaker Series in the McGarvey Commons in Behrend's Reed Union Building Tuesday, Sept. 25. The history of Harley-Davidson, the corporate turnaround that set the company throttling full force into the heavyweight motorcycle industry, as well as Joe Paterno's tongue were all topics discussed in Schmidt's well-spoken, witty and humorous speech. His comments and slideshow representation had the audience not only chuckling, but also truly contemplating what makes Harley-Davidson stand out over all other motorcycle industries.

Dating back to World War II, many people viewed those who rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles as dangerous, that these groups of men on choppers were simply trying to attract

attention. This kind of negative attention went on for decades, especially with the media and press portraying the people who rode these bikes as 'bad guys.' They were seen as "abhorrent and disgusting." Schmidt describes the people of decades ago that believed those that rode Harley motorcycles were bad news, and would eventually become the root cause for the company of Harley-Davidson to lose money and the few customers they had obtained.

"The mailman that lived down the street from you who rode his Harley back and forth from work everyday never lived on your radar. You didn't see him. He was invisible to you because he did not match that which you had been led to believe," said Schmidt.

Schmidt then went on to discuss how the company made its large break into business, keeping customers, and letting the world know what Harley-Davidson was all about. People had to put their faith and trust back into a company that once led them to believe, or rather, the media led them to believe that Harley attracted tattooed men in leather chaps who simply desired media attention. Harley-Davidson had to restore the world's faith in their company. When other companies said 'No' to demonstration rides on their motorcycles because they had a fear of liability, Harley brought customers in, encourag-

ing them to test out their products for a 15-mile ride. Schmidt described the true answer to what makes Harley-Davidson so successful and what makes the company stand out when compared to their competitors. "We surveyed people, asking for their opinions, their ideas, and asking them what they want. Many customers wanted motorcycles that fit their body type better." Schmidt smiled, nodding his head. "People weren't willing to go to Harley. Harley had to go to the people!"

Harley-Davidson began taking the world's ideas, transforming their opinions into better engines, making their ideas into seat styles that works for all body types. One of the company's biggest slogans that stands true to its word is, "What is your dream?" The customers' opinions, ideas, and complaints are what make Harley-Davidson one of the top-selling, nationwide motorcycle companies of today. There are 625 Harley dealers in the United States, and plenty more in countries such as Germany, China, Japan, Canada, and Australia.

Schmidt ended his speech on a loud note of applause, giving the crowd something to savor for the next few days. "Harley doesn't do what every other company does," he concluded, grinning broadly for his audience. "We go out of our way to be different."

## Behrend offers students protection against meningitis

By **Molly Bonavita**  
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The Health and Wellness center is urging all students to be vaccinated for meningitis. Most students have probably read a letter from the Department of Housing that informs them to get the vaccination if they live on campus or to sign a waiver that says they won't have the vaccination due to religious or personal beliefs, but the Wellness center wants to step it up and have the whole student body vaccinated. This is because recently, Erie native Anne Ryan passed away due to meningococcal meningitis in the hospital at the University of Pennsylvania which is where she attended. Although she did not attend this campus, there has been a raised awareness of meningitis and it has triggered a greater need for college campuses everywhere to be vaccinated.

Meningitis is something that many have heard about but for those who don't know meningitis can occur in three forms: viral, bacterial, and fungal. The viral form is more common and not as serious with minimal treatment required for most patients. The type that Ryan had is the bacterial form which is more easily spread and appears to only be a simple cold with symptoms like: headache, fever, sensitivity to light, and extreme fatigue. If this form is not treated soon enough, it can have long-lasting effects on the nervous system such as hearing loss, seizures, brain damage or it can cause death within 24-48 hours. This is due to the fact that the infection leads to a dangerous

swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

What does this mean for Behrend? Since the bacterial form is so deadly, it is also very easily spread. One can be infected just as easily as getting a cold from a classmate. Inhaling bacteria from coughs and sneezes, sharing drinks from the same cup, sharing eating utensils, or even getting the bacteria on your hands and putting your hands on your face are simple ways to spread and be infected by the disease. "It's as easy as getting a cold and the worst part is that it looks like a cold," says Health and Wellness Center Director, P a t t y M c M a h o n . Also, studies have shown that freshmen are more likely to spread the disease because their immune systems are not yet adjusted to the life of a college student. Because of the ease that the disease can spread, outbreaks can occur on a large scale on college campuses with many students infected.

According to McMahon, the Wellness center has always been advocating the vaccination, but in light of Ryan's death the Wellness center wants to make it clear how easily meningitis is spread and how deadly it is, but also that it can be prevented just as easily.

These facts may seem a little nerve-racking, but there is good news. The meningitis vaccine that more campuses, including Behrend, are requiring students to have protects you against the four types of bacterial forms of meningitis. It does not protect against the viral forms, but those forms are more easily treatable. "This is the best thing for students to do anytime because it is the only medication for preventing bacterial meningitis even though it is not one-hundred percent," McMahon insists. Aside from getting the vaccination, McMahon says that the best ways to prevent meningitis is "wash your hands, don't share drinks or eating utensils, cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and get plenty of sleep."

This vaccination is available at the Health and Wellness Center and most insurance companies will cover the cost. Also if a student is infected and goes to the Health and Wellness Center, they will send you to the hospital immediately to receive a spinal tap, which is a procedure that will detect if the meningitis is present, and then given the necessary treatment if needed. McMahon adds, "If anyone is interested in receiving the meningitis shot, they should call the Health and Wellness Center and schedule an appointment. There are plenty of shots available in stock."

**Inhaling bacteria from coughs and sneezes, or sharing drinks from the same cup are simple ways to spread and be infected by the disease.**

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