

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Lenny Smith  
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### Woman gets \$2.4 million after sponge left in body

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla.- A first grade school teacher from Broward County, Florida was awarded \$2.4 million who was left permanently disabled when a sponge was left in her body.

The foot-long sponge was accidentally left in Karlene Chambers during a routine Cesarean produce on Sept. 11, 2001. Two weeks after the surgery, Chambers began suffering from severe abdominal pain. Chambers was admitted to the intensive care unit at another hospital.

Later X-rays showed a ribbon in Chambers' body. Ribbons are placed on sponges incase they are left in a body during surgery. The rib-

bon is made of a special type of material that shows up well in X-rays.

Jury members heard representatives for Chambers discuss her medical problems. The incident ravaged her abdomen and uterus. Doctors say she will never be able to have children again.

After a 12-day trial, the jury announced the verdict on Tuesday. Since the initial surgery, Chambers has undergone a second to remove the sponge.

### Simpson court hearing set for Nov. 8

LAS VEGAS- Prosecutors will hear evidence against O.J. Simpson, along with five other men accused of kidnapping and robbing two men at gunpoint, a judge announced Thursday.

The defendants and their lawyers will appear before Justice of the Peace Joe Bonaventura on Nov. 8. One lawyer requested a later hearing date, however, Bonaventura said, "I have to consider the state, co-defendants, witnesses (and) the general public."

Clark County District Attorney David Roger has the option to present the evidence to a grand jury before the Nov. 8 hearing date, instead of making the evidence public.

A grand jury would deprive the defense attorneys the chance to cross-examine



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
O.J. Simpson being led away by police in Las Vegas, NV.

each witness and present their own witnesses. At the end of the hearing, the judge will be asked whether to hand the case over or trial in state court.

Simpson and his co-defendants are accused of holding memorabilia dealers Bruce Fromong and Alfred Beardsley at gunpoint in a hotel room on Sept. 13. The defendants were taking boxes of autographed footballs and other memorabilia that Simpson claimed belonged to him.

Each man faces 10 charges that include kidnapping, armed robbery, assault with a weapon, burglary and conspiracy. A kidnapping charge carries the possibility of life in prison.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

### Underground work proves deadly once again

By Lenny Smith  
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Tragedy has struck underground once again. Five workers from RPI Coating were killed on Tuesday, Oct. 2 when a machine they were using caught fire in Colorado at a hydro-electricity plant.

The five workers from Santa Fe Springs, California were working at the Xcel Energy's Cabin Creek Station plant in Georgetown, Colorado, which is about 30 miles west of Denver. Nine workers were using a machine used to coat the inside of the 12-foot-wide pipe with epoxy when it caught fire 1,500 feet below the surface.

Officials are reporting that the workers survived the initial blast from the machine because they were able to make contact with them. The workers said no one was seriously injured. Four of them made it out safely while five remained trapped. The trapped workers were able to give rescue workers their whereabouts saying that they had moved 1,400 feet away from the fire, but had reached a dead end.

Clear Creek County Undersheriff Stu Nay said that the workers were left with only two options. "There was coming out through the fire, or try to climb vertically 1,000 feet straight up," Nay said.

Officials say that they will thoroughly investigate what caused the fire, but first, rescuers must remove the bodies. However, until authorities clear the tunnel's air quality, no one is able to reach

the bodies.

Family members have not been notified yet because the county coroner has not been able to identify the bodies.

Marc Dyer of RPI Coating said that the company was devastated by the loss

occurrences.

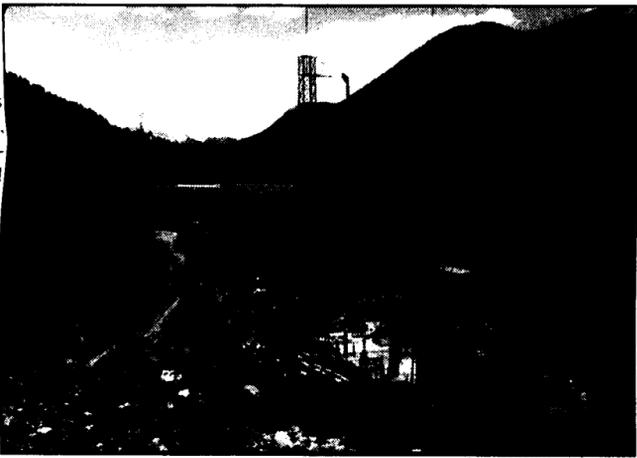
Most recently, miners were killed in a mine collapse in Provo, Utah. In Jan. 2006, 12 miners died at the Sago Mine in West Virginia. Rescuers were able to avoid a disaster when they saved nine miners from the Quecreek Mine in Pennsylvania in 2002.

Sophomore Torrie Smith agrees with Eischeid. "We are always hearing on the news about underground disasters. We especially hear, 'we are still trying to get people out, we are drilling new holes.' I feel like something else needs to be done. There should always be an emergency evacuation route out of a mine," Smith said.

However, not all Behrend students feel this way. "I think that the media magnifies what happens a lot," sophomore Brandon Beals said, "I would think that coal mining back in the day would have been more dangerous."

In fact, Beals is somewhat correct. According to statistics from the United States Department of Labor and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, during the past four years, the average number of mining deaths was 60. However, from 1996-2000, mining deaths averaged 86 deaths per year.

In all, over 850 people have lost their lives while working underground, since 1996.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five workers were killed at Xcel Energy's Cabin Creek Station in Colorado.

adding, "They were very experienced guys. They were some of our best."

Like so many times before, families were given false hope. Rescuers first thought that the workers would be rescued unharmed when they made contact with them about 45 minutes after the fire started.

Rescuers dropped breathing masks and piped oxygen into an area where the men had taken refuge, authorities said.

"I think it's terrible what happened," Penn State Behrend Sophomore Emily Escheid said, "It's unfortunate that occurrences like these seem to be on the rise. We've really been hearing about stuff like this a lot lately."

As Escheid noted, problems underground have become an all but rare

### Students thank philanthropists in annual scholarship luncheon

By Marcus Yeagley  
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On Saturday, Sept. 29, about 750 parents, students, and philanthropists sat down to enjoy Penn State Behrend's annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Junker Center. Every year, the Scholarship Luncheon gives the recipients of scholarships the chance to meet and personally thank the sponsors of their monetary awards.

The theme of this year's luncheon, "The Power of Philanthropy to Change Lives," was headlined by guest speaker Dr. Robert Mehalso, a Penn State alumnus who has spent his career developing aspects of business, engineering, and manufacturing. Serving on several boards for financial and academic institutions and currently the president of Fairport, New York's Microtech Associates, Dr. Mehalso spoke about his own years at Penn State Behrend (graduate of the class of 1964) and stressed the importance of scholarship to academia. In addition to creating a scholarship, Dr. Mehalso is responsible for the building of the campus's Mehalso Observatory.

After Dr. Mehalso's speech, the scholarship he and his wife established in 1999, the Robert M. and Elizabeth Q. Mehalso Scholarship, which benefits students in technology, engineer-

ing, and science majors, was awarded to a student and then proceeded by a long scholarship-awarding ceremony. Over sixty different scholarships were given to many more students during the course of the two hour event.

Dr. Jack Burke, Chancellor of Penn State Behrend, both began the event with an introductory speech and also presented many of the scholarships to their recipients. Dr. Burke stated that the number one reason why many people do not attend college is a lack of funds. Because of this, he emphasized the gift of scholarship and expressed immense gratitude to all of the donors.

Over \$1 million in total scholarship money was awarded to Penn State Behrend students in the 2006-2007 academic year. Jane Brady, assistant director of admissions and financial aid, said, "All of those awards are given specifically from scholarship funding that is available at Penn State Behrend for its students only."

Counting towards the \$1 million total are endowments, gifts, scholarships, and the Chancellor's Scholarships Program. State and federal financial aid are exempt from this figure.

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### Quotes on Civility

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

— Albert Pike, Scottish Rite Freemason (1809-1891)

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