

NEWS

National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster
paw175@psu.edu

Turkey begins attacks across the Iraq border

IRBIL, Iraq: The Turkish military began artillery bombardments of Kurdish lands in northern Iraq this week, putting more pressure on already-strained relations between Turkey, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan and the United States.

Turkey has been fighting against what it calls "Kurdish seperatist guerrillas" since the end of the Ottoman Empire, when Turks took control of the region, including some predominantly Kurdish areas. With attacks by rebels continuing to this day, Turkey is taking advantage of Iraq's political instability to retaliate against the Kurds who live in that country's nearly autonomous northern region.

"The Turkish military responded to these unacceptable attacks and will continue to respond," a statement released by the Turkish military said. It also threatened to send troops and ground units

into Iraqi/Kurdish territory.

The United States has been reluctant to get involved in the issue, and has had its own recent diplomatic problems with Turkey after acknowledging Turkey's genocide of ethnic Armenians from 1915 to 1917. It is also unwilling to militarily oppose Turkey because that country has been a traditional American ally and member of NATO for over 50 years. However, the United States is also committed to the safety and territorial security of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan since the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government.

Iraq's stated position is to seek a diplomatic solution to any international disputes.

World pirate attacks on the rise

NAIROBI, Kenya: Pirate attacks around the world have increased more than 14 percent in the last year, according to a report released by the London-based International Maritime Bureau (IMB) on Tuesday.

The agency further described the area around the African continent to currently be the most dangerous, with 37 pirate attacks in Indonesia and 26 successful attacks off the coast of Somalia alone within the last nine months.

"The seafaring industry is very concerned about this," said IMB senior analyst Cyrus Mody. "There is absolutely no regard for law in that area. Not only is it not good for business in Africa, but it blocks humanitarian aid and is bad for the general stability of the continent."

Pirates in the area have gotten so good at ship hijackings and cargo captures that they've even moved on to armed, official nationally-flagged transports, tankers and fishing vessels.

General political instability in the region as well

as a lack of an international naval presence has given the pirates almost "totally free rein without any sort of deterrence from the law," Mody said. "They've got a free hand right now."

Modern pirates often employ larger speed- and motorboats filled with heavily armed men to sneak up on or outrun slower-moving freighters and transports. Common weaponry includes shotguns, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, rocket launchers and small cannon.

Up to date international piracy reports and regional warnings released by IMB can be found on the International Crime Services website, <http://www.icc-ccs.org/prc/piracyreport.php>.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

Student's lost wallet turns up empty continued from page 1



Keegan McGregor/THE BEHREND BEACON
A sign hung on this coffee machine alerted students to the student's lost wallet.

When claiming an item, you need identification and an accurate description of what you have lost. Then you sign off on the record, showing that the item has been picked up, and it is entered into the database as found. If a student asks about an item that has not been checked in, Police and Safety takes down the object and the student's contact information in case it is turned in.

The value of some of the items is surprising, says Quiggle. Along with the usual books, keys, and "stinky clothing and sneakers," she has seen cell phones, PDAs, advanced calculators, even a couple of laptops. The most impressive, she recalls, was an envelope stuffed with someone's tuition bill – thousands of dollars in cash. "People are surprisingly honest here," she mused.

Behrend as a whole does seem fairly decent. Although the vast majority of thefts are due to students' own carelessness, there is always a good chance of recovering what was lost. Marian Buck, a Behrend student, speculates that if she ever lost anything valuable, that she would have a 50-50 chance of seeing it again. Sue Saridharen, who has a campus job at Bruno's, says that she often finds leftbehind valuables at work. She turns them into her boss, who keeps the item on hand until the unfortunate student comes looking for it again.

Whenever a person loses something valuable at Behrend, there is still hope. Whether by personal motivation and kindness, or provided services on campus, many people rediscover what was lost in the end.

Multi Cultural Council holds Harambee celebrations for 20th anniversary

By Adell Coleman
contributing writer
aec185@psu.edu

Harambee is Swahili for unity and students must remember this in their everyday lives. McGarvey Commons was transformed into a Grand dining hall and students of all cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds sat together and embrace this moment of equality and acceptance. This is Harambee.

Every year in October, the Multi-Culture Council (MCC) hosts an annual Harambee dinner for faculty, students, and staff belonging to the Behrend community. This year was no exception, led by the MCC e-board, the Multi Cultural Council worked hard to put on this event. They planned everything involving the event. It was completely student run, from getting the speakers and performers, to finding the perfect color scheme (royal blue and white), the MCC e-board Elton Armady (VP), Crystal Lake (Secretary), Sasha Singh (Treasurer), Samantha Yong (SGA rep), and Earl Bass (Historian) worked hard to get this event off the ground.

"The key in planning Harambee is keeping with tradition," Junior Dain Taylor said. "Harambee is something that has reoccurred successfully for 20 years now, and the biggest fear was messing it up. But one thing is for certain it is always unique."

To keep with tradition, there is always a speaker and a special performer at the event. In the past there have been Brazilian dancers, folk life dancers and many other groups. The speakers have been people from both the local Erie area as well as University Park. This year the speaker was Mrs. Victoria Sanchez, assistant vice provost on equity and diversity at University Park. She spoke about equality and how students should be aware of their racial differences and be proud of who they are and the success they have gained regardless of those differences. She spoke about diversity at University Park and the steps it takes to have successful organizations. And she also talked about her life and the struggles she faced as a Latin American woman.

Immediately following her were the Chinese lion dancers. They floated around the stage to the banging of a drum, as a silky black lion with bells embracing them. For a moment the people inside the lion disappeared and the only thing left was the lion. He float-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students participate in Harambee events in McGarvey Commons.

ed around the room tossing lettuce out of his mouth and leaving his scroll with executive board member Singh. "The lettuce and the scroll mean good luck," said Yong. "When they lean before you, they are bowing and giving thanks."

This event was supported by many people including, Chancellor Jack Burke, David Christiansen and numerous staff members from all departments such as Dr. McMullen-Patrick, Prof. John Maganau, and Dr. Champagne, just to name a few. Harambee was even supported by other campus organizations such as the Lion Ambassadors, SAF and the many organizations under MCC such as the Organization Of African Students (OAS), the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Women Today (WT), Asian Student Organization (ASO) and the International Student Organization (ISO). It was obvious that this event was showing that it believed in a strong community.

At the end of the program, as Bob Marley's song "One Love" played softly in the background, the whole MCC and all its organization gathered to take a huge group picture. It is clear that with MCC unity is not a problem, and MCC is looking to unite the whole campus.

Behrend gears up for winter continued from page 1

department. In fact, students may be surprised to hear how committed the maintenance workers really are, especially in the wintertime.

According to Guth, many maintenance remain working on the campus while students and faculty are at home for Christmas break. When second semester begins, the maintenance crew begins committing even more by shifting their morning arrival time to 5:30 a.m. every day so that all roads and walkways are clear before classes begin. "We ask Police and Safety to watch the weather conditions overnight for things such as ice-covered roads, continuous snow through all hours of the night, or more than three inches of snowfall. If any these conditions appear, I will get a call at home and come up to the campus personally to begin working," says Guth.

Students and faculty call the department often for problems such as slippery sidewalks, cars blocked in by snow, or any other inconveniences. The maintenance department attends to those as soon as possible. Guth receives feedback from campus members often about problems regarding the amount of snow. "Expectations can sometimes be greater than what we can provide as far as clearing snow. We can't always get everything. Many people from the South East, such as the Pittsburgh, area have trouble adjusting to the change. Therefore, they have trouble understanding what it is like to live with Erie weather. Students originally from Erie seem to be used to the heavy snowfall." This winter hopefully will be a safe one with the help of the Behrend maintenance department.

Quotes on Civility

"Compassion is the basis of morality."

—Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher (1788-1860)

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