# NEWS

# National and world news in brief

By Matthew Schwabenbauer mjs5387@psu.edu

## Cuba signs Human Rights Agreement

NEW YORK, NY - Days after Raul Castro was Cuban citizens since the revolution in 1959. sworn in as the new president, Cuba has signed two human rights agreements with the UN. One of the agreements regards social, economic and cultural rights, and the other grants civil and political rights.

The agreements are part of the UN Bill of Human Rights and grant Cuba the freedoms of expression, association and the right to travel abroad. The agreements are a radical change in human rights policy from the administration of Fidel Castro. Felipe Perez Roque, Foreign Minister for Cuba who signed the agreements claimed they had nothing to do with the change

of presidency and instead suggested it was just a way of publicizing rights that have been enjoyed by

The Cuban government's critics have urged the administration to follow through with the agreements by freeing dissidents. Currently, there are at least 200 political prisoners being held in Cuba. Carlos Lauria, a representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York has asked Cuba to follow through with the agreements and "immediately and unconditionally release the 22 independent journalists currently imprisoned for their work."

Roque first announced Cuba's decision to sign the agreements in December. He also stated that in 2009, Cuba would welcome scrutiny from the UN Human Rights Council, which Cuba previously resisted due to fears of a pro-US bias.

# Israeli attacks kill 32 Palestinians

On Wednesday, Israeli forces launched a continuous series of air strikes in the Gaza Strip which have claimed the lives of 32 Palestinians (as of press time). The Isrealis claim the attacks are in response to a killing on Wednesday, in which Hamas, the militant organization currently in control of the Palestinian government, fired a rocket and killed an Israeli student.

In the northern Gaza Strip, an Israeli airstrike claimed the lives of four children on Thursday. The children were playing soccer near the Jabaliya refugee camp. The Israeli army claimed the intended target was a rocket-launching cell. Palestinians are skeptical of that statement due to events that occured on Wednesday. Ehud Olmert, Israeli Prime Minister, said the "terrorists" would pay for the attack.

Later on Thursday, Israeli strikes killed two Hamas militants in Beit Hanoun and a security post in Gaza City, near the home of Ismail Haniya, a Hamas leader.

US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice plans to visit the Middle East next week to meet with Olmert and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas. Rice claimed the Palestinian rocket attacks "need to stop," in which 200 Palestinians have died since November.

The attacks have killed Palestinian militants, but also civilians including a six-month-old baby and the four children.

Olmert said he would not make peace with people murdering civilians. "The only requirement we have from the Palestinians is stop killing innocent Israelis, stop shooting Qassam rockets at the civilian centres of Israel so that we'll be able to do business together," he said. Olmert has received criticism from Palestinian activists, which accuse him of harboring double standards. Prominent Palestinian activist Hanan Ashwari lashed out at Olmert, critizing him for condemning attacks on civilans yet doing so himself. "There has to be security for everybody," she said.

#### Source: BBC News

"Lost Boy" comes to Behrend

Continued from page 1.

he ran into while making his film. At one point when it looked like he would have to scrap the project, he sent it to Nichole Kidman and Brad Pitt as a long shot. Kidman ended up narrating the film, and

Pitt helped to bring in the money the project needed. God Grew Tired of Us won two awards at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival; the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award.

Quinn also talked about how difficult it was to film

in Africa and keep the long term in mind. "It was a constant mental struggle," he explained. Having to continue filming without being able to offer immediate help to the homeless and hungry boys never got any easier. But now in the long run, it is definitely paying off. Awareness about the strife is growing and money is pouring in to organizations in Sudan.

Dau told of his days journeying through several countries, and his experiences as one of the oldest boys in a

things like the automatic doors at grocery stores and how to order food at a restaurant, he was going to college for an education. Glazing over his associate's degree, and the two organizations he has

founded to aid Sudan, he says, "This is success. I build my own house - I have my own house in Syracuse,

New York. I brought my mother here. I have a 15-month old daughter. This is the true American dream."

America, and getting his first jobs at

McDonald's and UPS. Even while he

and his friends were getting used to

After Quinn and Dau spoke, they took questions from the audience. Quinn discussed future projects, which may include visiting Sudan once again and keeping up on progress in the African country. Dau talked about the hardest adjustment in coming to America, "Choices. It's a lot of work; I have to think about it beforehand. What do you

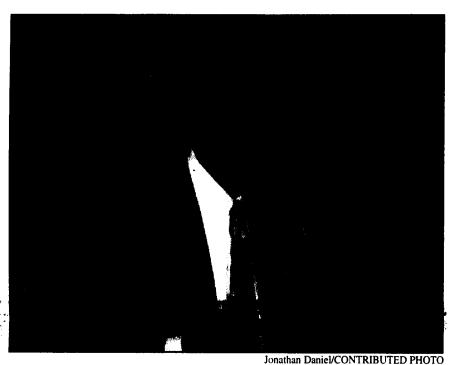
#### **By Nick Haller**

#### staff writer nph5012@psu.edu

Insightful, informative and influencing are the three words that came to mind after leaving the Zurn building at Gannon University. On Wednesday night Feb. 27 Steve Scully spoke about the on going political race happening in our nation.

Scully, a former WSEE broadcaster and native of Erie. PA has moved up through the ranks of television and politics and has landed a spot at C-SPAN. Scully is an executive producer and political editor who over sees many debates and interviews that air on the show. He also hosts Washington Journal, a daily three-hour public at affairs program.

Michelle Toth a member of Leadership Erie said, "He was awesome and insightful, he really made me think and made me want to get more interested in politics."



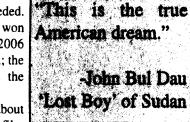
Erie native Steve Scully speaks to an audience at Gannon University on Feb. 27.

Scully said. "The press is not the decid- paign, according to Scully. ing factor of the Presidency, but we are

C-SPAN reporter talks politics at Gannon

her chances rather than helped them. media no incentive to attack his cam-

Wayne Patterson a participant of the



refugee camp. For some time, 1,200 boys were under his care. "Most of them went insane," he said. Dau talked about how sometimes he was able to feed these boys powdered milk, and it would bring them back from insanity.

However, this was not the focus of his speech. Dau talked about coming to take, and what do you leave behind?"

Dau closed the evening with a mention of a trip to Sudan that he had just returned from three weeks ago, and with it a message of hope. "I love to see the trees. They are the same. It is so good to be back. And southern Sudan is doing good. It is doing so good."

Scully's speech mainly focused on how the election process will end up and how each candidate has constructed him or herself during these past few months.

Scully thinks that we are going to see a campaign in Pennsylvania that we never seen before because if Senator Hillary Clinton wins both Texas and Ohio it will make the race closer than it has ever been since 1980. "It seems out of her hands, but if she can pull these two off it might end up going to the convention," stated Scully.

Scully believes that Clinton's political campaign made a huge mistake as thinking as her of the front runner and that her not dealing with the press hurt

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a factor."

"I support Senator Barack Obama, because it seems Clinton has been slipping and also a brighter future seems to be in place." said Toth.

Scully said, "Math and momentum are winning this democratic campaign right now." Scully is talking about Obama and how he has won over the country with enthusiasm and something different that this country has never seen before.

Scully contrasted both Clinton and Obama's campaign by saying that there are alto of twists in the Clinton campaign. This is why the media is eating her up rather than Obama who has been on the straight track and has given the

Leadership Erie class said, " I am really not into politics, but Steve Scully really made me interested and made me want to know more about what's going on."

Scully then continued about the facts and said that Senator John McCain is running the same campaign we have seen the past eight years, which is strength and economic prosperity. But Scully suggests it's time for change, and the America needs something new.

"We need change, and in the ballots that we fill out will be that measure," stated Scully.

### Flu cases increase around campus

Continued from page 1.

When sick with the flu, students must also attempt to deal with their heavy workload. "I got behind in my classes a little bit," Lanctot said.

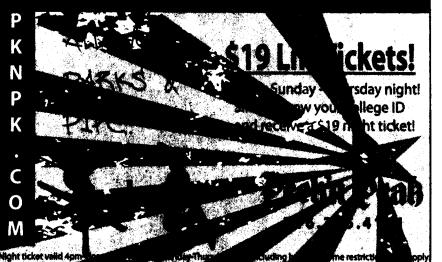
Peg Spear, Director of University Health Services at University Park, reminded faculty and staff of the Faculty Senate's policy on class attendance in a university-wide e-mail this week.

"Instructors should provide, within reason, opportunity to make up work for students who miss classes for other legitimate but unavoidable reasons," Spear wrote in the e-mail.

"I e-mailed all my teachers to tell them I wouldn't be in class," Brown said. "They were all considerate." Brown is worried, however, that her absences will count against her grade.

The increased number of flu cases is a common trend across the country. According to statistics from the Center for Disease Control website, 49 states and the District of Columbia were reporting widespread activity.

"Students need to listen to their bodies [when they start to feel sick]," Pasky McMahon said. "Slow down and treat your symptoms."



**COLLEGE I.D. NIGHT!** 

# Quotes on Civility

"Politeness is the art of choosing among one's real thoughts."

- Adlai Stevenson II, politician, U.S. presidential candidate (1900-1965)

Janet Neff Sample Center for Manners & Civility

### Music at Noon: The Aspen Ensemble

Nominations are now being accepted fro the following awards

Excellence in Research (through a school director)

pserie.psu.edu/faculty/awards/awards-index.htm

#### By Walaa Ahmad

staff writer

**Faculty:** 

The Aspen Ensemble group, violist Victoria Chiang, cellist Michael Mermagen, flutist Nadine Asin and pianist Rita Sloan will arrive at Behrend on Thursday, March 6 at the McGarvey Commons to perform a mixed quintet of flute, piano and strings drawn from the famed Aspen Music Festival. Admission is free and open to the public.

In 1989, Kay Logan and the Warren philanthropist were founded the Music at noon. The music was honored with an Adventurous Programming Award given by Chamber Music of America and the American society of composers.

The Aspen Ensemble Behrend program will be drawn from Bohuslav Martinau's Madrigal Sonata for flute, violin and piano, Beethoven's String Trio in C minor, a Mozart piano quartet, and "The Jet Whistle," a Heitor Villa-Lobos composition for flute and cello.

"The Aspen Ensemble brings an unusual ability to color each work with a new orchestration," said series director Gary Viebranz, who also is director of instrumental ensembles at the college. "Their diverse repertoire will allow our audience to experience a reinvention of the group with each musical selection." For more information about The Music at Noon event contact the Aspen Ensemble's at (814) 898-6289.

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