

NEWS

National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster
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Iran proclaims that it has joined the 'nuclear community'

TEHRAN, Iran: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced on Tuesday that Iran had, indeed, produced a large enough quantity of enriched uranium to fuel a nuclear power plant, and would continue other projects to further its nuclear power programs.

"I officially announce that Iran has joined countries with nuclear technology," Ahmadinejad said. "Our nation is a peaceful nation...our nuclear activities have been under complete supervision, unprecedented supervisions. And today we are interested in operating under [International Atomic Energy Agency] supervision," he said.

Despite numerous objections by the United Nations Security Council and the international community at large, Iran maintains that its nuclear programs are for peaceful purposes and it has every right to conduct such research.

"This is another step by the Iranian regime in defiance of the international community," U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters at a news conference in Washington. "Once again they have chosen the pathway of defiance as opposed to the pathway of cooperation. And we would call upon the Iranian regime to reconsider the steps that it has taken," McCormack said.

The new Iranian announcement came only days after newspapers reported that the Bush Administration had started planning for military operations in Iran, including a highly controversial plan that involved using nuclear weapons to eliminate bunkers and underground facilities in the country.

If used, it would be the first time nuclear weapons were employed in a conflict since the end of World War II, and for the most part the plan does not have the support of the military. Some senior military officials, who asked not to be identified, said that they were even considering quitting or retiring early over the matter.

"This White House believes that the only way to solve the problem is to change the power structure in Iran, and that means war," said an unidentified senior Pentagon adviser in a recent report by Seymour Hersh that broke the story.

"We are not going to discuss military planning," said White House spokesman Blair Jones.



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

Massachusetts passes universal healthcare legislation

BOSTON, Massachusetts: Governor Mitt Romney, a Republican, signed a bill from the state legislature this week that guarantees universal healthcare by July of 2007, making it the first state in the union to make health insurance available to its entire population. "We have found a way, collectively, to get all of our citizens insurance without some new government-mandated takeover or a huge new tax program," Romney said.

The program provides for subsidized monthly payments and a sliding scale for premiums based on family income and need. Even though the new legislation was passed, Romney was criticized for vetoing certain parts of the proposed laws that would charge businesses around \$300 a year if they do not offer their employees company health insurance.

U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy praised the new measures in his home state. "After so many years of false starts, our actions have finally matched our words and we have lived up to our ideals," Kennedy said. "You have given Massachusetts just what the doctor ordered."

ABC News recently conducted a poll that showed that 55 percent of the nation would support a similar measure of legislation on a national scale.

Missouri couple admits to sextuplets scam

KANSAS CITY, Missouri: A Kansas City couple that claimed to have given birth to a set of sextuplets in order to take advantage of the generosity of their neighbors has admitted it was a hoax.

The Eversons now face possible civil and criminal charges for accepting large monetary donations and other gifts after making public statements proclaiming their "situation." A police investigation is continuing into the total amounts of gifts received by the couple.

"We're sorry for everything we did," Sarah Everson said in an interview with reporters. "We didn't mean to hurt anybody. We did it out of financial reasons."

Kris Everson, her husband, promised that everyone that had donated money or other things would have their donations returned.

Dale Brendel, editor of the Missouri newspaper that first printed the story about the supposedly newborn sextuplets, declared that a column would run on the front page of the Examiner to explain the paper's role in the matter.

Apartments near completion

By Keith Golembiewski
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To obtain an apartment, students have to sign a lease with University Gate Apartments, which is not affiliated with Penn State. Gordan believes the apartments will give students a unique opportunity to live off campus while remaining relatively close to the campus.

The apartments feature either two or three private bedrooms and each student will have their own reserved parking space. Bedrooms consist of a

bed, desk, chair, dresser and closet. The living room comes with a chair, coffee table and couch. The breakfast island in the kitchen opens up plenty of counter-top space, while the rest of the kitchen has a double sink, range and stove with exhaust hood.

These apartment also units come with central air, high speed internet and wireless hot spots in the laundry and mail area. An on-site manager will be there during regular business hours and will be only a phone call away for repairs. Upon moving out renters will have to pay for the carpets to be cleaned.

Another item for consideration are parking permits, and whether or not students dish out the extra money just to drive a short distance to classes.

With a parking deficit on campus already, many are wondering how another 209 students will affect parking on campus. Behrend students are welcome to attend an open house on April 28. Doors will open at 3 p.m. giving students the chance to visit the closest off campus apartment complex to Penn State Erie.

The University Gate Apartments will offer students the opportunity to stay near campus while living in the luxury of their own off campus apartments. The private project developed by Westminster Development is near completion and will be finished by August 2006, in time for the upcoming semester. Three apartment complexes will house 209 students, giving students the opportunity to remain relatively close to the Behrend campus.

The Bayfront Connector intersection that separates the apartments from the university is very large. "The campus is concerned about students crossing the Bayfront Connector," said Randy Geering the director of Housing and Food Services. The highway has several wide lanes and three independent lanes that allow traffic to merely yield. Jack Gordan of Westminster Development explained that the sidewalks from the apartments will line up with PennDOT's walkways. Students making the walk to class won't have to worry about crossing the intersection because it is loaded with lit signals that direct pedestrians.

Geering explained that the new apartments will expand housing on campus. "It adds a bed base and brings two-hundred and nine off-campus students onto the campus. More students will use the Junker Center, Reed and library. Students will be able to utilize what the campus has to offer."



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON
 University Gate Apartments are slated to open August 2006.

SAY GOODBYE TO BOOKS & HELLO TO \$\$\$



Equals



BOOK BUYBACK-----

- > WHERE:
BEHREND BOOKSTORE
- > WHEN:
STARTS NOW, BUT WILL HAVE THESE EXTENDED HOURS FOR FINALS WEEK:
MON - THURS 8AM - 6PM
FRIDAY 8AM - 4:30PM
- > BRING US YOUR TEXT BOOKS:
IN CURRENT EDITIONS
IN GOOD RESALEBLE CONDITION

Classifieds

"A nation, as a society, forms a moral person, and every member of it is personally responsible for his society."

~Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and third U.S. president (1743-1826)

Janet Neff Sample Center
 for Manners & Civility



LIBRARY HOURS DURING FINALS WEEK

Monday, April 17 through Thursday, May 4	
Monday - Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
May 5, 6 & 7	
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	CLOSED