

CAMPUS NEWS

C-Compass aims to prevent underage drinking among local college students

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consuming alcohol if under the legal age.

Mercyhurst and Gannon's techniques include the latter along with alcohol and drug screening programs, which sometimes include fines to violators.

The recent things Behrend has been doing to fulfill the C-Compass goal is the acceptance of a grant. Behrend accepted an \$11,500 grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) in 2006 which was used toward furthering the efforts of C-Compass. The grant was used toward a CORE

Institute's alcohol and drug survey to determine students' perceptions about and behaviors related to alcohol use, a renewed social norms campaign based on the survey results, an extra police officer during late hours, and an Alco-Sensor FST for the police at Behrend, according to the C-Compass website.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), revised on Dec 8 of 2008, protects the privacy of parents and students by requiring prior consent from the individual before any personal information about that individual is released. So why is C-Compass able to

legally exchange student information between each other without consent?

"We only disclose information in extreme cases," says Meeghan Hollis, a Behrend representative of C-Compass. She explains that the information is shared only to keep students safe, such as "if a student's health is at risk or if the student is putting others at risk."

The 2008 revision of FERPA lists exceptions that allow information to be shared in programs like C-Compass. As stated in section 99.36 of the revision, "An educational agency or institution may disclose personally identifiable information from an

education record to appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals." The article elaborates, "If the educational agency or institution determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary."

Housing ordinance limits three students to each house

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zoning laws. In order to support a livable and sustainable community, housing diversity is ideal when passing new ordinances. The Plan refers to a past tendency to separate single-family homes from higher-density homes, like apartment complexes and townhouses. "While exclusive zoning is appropriate in some situations, it is now recognized that it has some drawbacks, and it not always the best approach to use."

In the section about homeownership versus renting, Edinboro is compared to Clarion in terms of its residence demographic.

Clarion is another borough with a university and a high per-

centage of student rentals. However, the similarities do not carry into the legislation of the two boroughs. Instead of just one out of three districts that support student housing, the borough allows students to live in two out of three districts. Clarion also allows as many as four students to live together in a house as opposed to three or fewer.

Harborcreek Township, another area with a high concentration of student rentals, takes a different approach. Instead of the three standard zoning districts for three different kinds of homes, Harborcreek includes a fourth district for college students. This district "is to provide an area within the Township where the

residents and commercial development can be mixed to accommodate the needs of Penn State-Erie Behrend College students. This area is to encourage the housing of students around the immediate area of the campus and not in the established residential district."

The City of Erie is looking into a similar student housing zone. In a council meeting last December, Council member James Thompson requested a committee to look into student overlay housing zones. Katie Diebel, Erie Zoning authority, says that the new zoning has been put on the back burner. Although the council is looking into other communities with the overlay zones, no specific committee has

been formed. "It's kind of in limbo right now," says Diebel.

However, steps are being taken to make some changes to the city's zoning ordinance. Early in December, Mercyhurst moved to start building a new dormitory on E 38 Street. Due to the student housing restrictions, the dorm could not be built under the current legislation. The ordinance forbids more than three unrelated people living together in one dwelling with a common cooking area. The dorm is going to have suite-style rooms with common bathrooms and kitchens. The council is now in the process of redefining "dormitory," and construction should commence as expected.

Monday

High: 31°F
Low: 18°F
Clouds with sun.

Tuesday

High: 29°F
Low: 20°F
Mostly cloudy.

Wednesday

High: 32°F
Low: 24°F
Cloudy with a chance of snow.

Thursday

High: 31°F
Low: 24°F
Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow.



Interesting weather fact:

The U.S. leads the world with an average of over 1,000 tornado reports a year. Canada is a distant second with about 100 tornadoes reported.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.

World and National News In Brief

By: Matthew Schwabenbauer, mjs5387@psu.edu

All photos contributed.

Obama Commerce Secretary nominee withdraws



WASHINGTON - New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg has withdrawn his nomination as Commerce Secretary for the Obama administration.

The Senator cited differences of opinion as reason for his departure. "It has become apparent during this process that this will not work for me as I have found that on issues such as the stimulus package and the Census, there are irresolvable conflicts for me," he said.

The withdrawal marks the second time the Obama Cabinet's commerce secretary position has been empty this month. Had Gregg accepted the position, he would have been the third Republican in the Obama Cabinet.

The White House's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, attempted to prevent back-

lash from the announcement by downplaying its predictability. Gibbs claimed that Gregg initially approached the administration about the position. "He was very clear throughout the interviewing process that despite past disagreements about policies, he would support, embrace, and move forward with the President's agenda," said Gibbs.

Source: *The New York Times*

George W. Bush to give first speech since leaving office



CANADA - On March 17, former President George W. Bush is scheduled to speak in Alberta, Canada at an event described as "a conversation with George W. Bush," according to invitations.

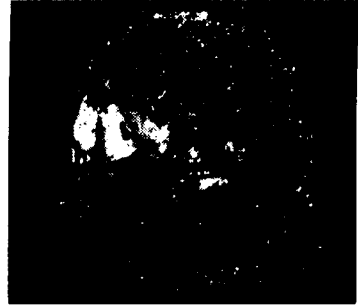
The firm that is organizing the event has hosted similar speeches with Rudy Giuliani, Bill Clinton and others, all of

which were paid sizable fees.

The newly formed George W. Bush presidential office in Dallas offered no comment.

Source: *Dallas Morning News*

Russian and American satellites collide in orbit



OUTER SPACE - After a collision between satellites owned by the United States and Russia, scientists have begun looking for ways to monitor the 17,000 devices in orbit around the Earth. Support for such a system is gaining more and more attention due to the number of devices in orbit increasing almost regularly.

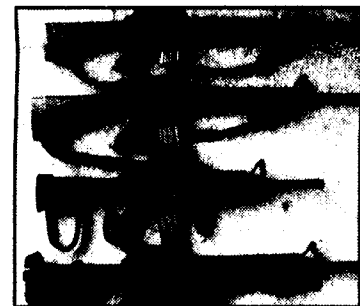
The satellites that collided during the impact were part of a network of almost 66 satellites and were travelling at thousands of miles per hour.

Experts claim the event was unusual, but likely to occur again as more devices

enter orbit.

Source: *BBC News*

Auditors discover thousands of U.S. weapons have gone missing in Afghanistan



WASHINGTON - After an audit revealed thousands of U.S. army weapons have gone missing, officials fear they may have ended up in the hands of Taliban fighters.

The missing weapons were part of a shipment of 242,000 weapons, which contained rifles, machine guns, pistols, rockets, grenade launchers and mortars. Despite Defense Department policies, no inventory was maintained on the weapons and as much as 1/3 of the shipment could be missing.

The information about the lost weapons was uncovered when the Associated Press obtained a report that was issued after Kabul was attacked on Wednesday by

"heavily armed militants." According to Afghanistan officials, the attackers were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, and vests strapped with explosives. A total of 28 people were killed during the attack, including the militants.

Source: *BBC News*

HIV patient free of the disease after stem cell transplant

GERMANY - A 42-year-old HIV patient living in Germany appears to be completely free of the disease after receiving a transplant of Stem Cells, says a report published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The patient received the transplant from a donor which carried a gene mutation that gives the carrier natural resistance to HIV.

The actual operation took place over two years ago, but no reports were published in medical journals until this week, due to the patient still being free of the virus so long after the transplant.

The operation was originally intended to treat the patient's leukemia, but picking an HIV resistant donor was an intentional decision

on the part of the doctors.

Source: *CNN*

FBI to investigate Super Bowl porn debacle

WASHINGTON - The FBI is investigating how attackers were able to hack a cable television provider during the Super Bowl and broadcast 30 seconds of a pornographic movie.

Comcast, the provider which broadcasted the pornographic images, has been unable to locate the origins of the attack, prompting the need for federal investigators to gain interest in the matter.

Source: *Deadspin*

Study claims friendliness linked to gene

WISCONSIN, OREGON - A new study claims that understanding the feelings of others is a natural part of humans. Upbringing and environmental influence can alter the behavior, but the gene has typically been found in people more prone to friendly and helpful behavior, says researchers from the University of Wisconsin and Oregon Health and Science University.

Source: *Telegraph.co.uk*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**
Gender and Pedagogy in Smith Chapel
9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.
- International and Lifespan Issues** in Smith Chapel
10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.
- Gender Conference Keynote Talk** in Smith Chapel
11:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.
- Community Focus - Serving Women and Girls in Erie** in Smith Chapel
1:30 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

- Student Roundtable: Gender and Sexuality on the Behrend Campus** in Smith Chapel
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- Topics of Controversy in Gender Studies** in Smith Chapel
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- Clearing Up Mysteries: Faculty and Students Discuss Gender in Philosophy and Literature** in Smith Chapel
4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

- Zili Misik, Band** in Bruno's
9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- LEB Weekly Movie - Quantum of Solace** in Reed 117
10:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**
Spirit Against Cancer Dance and Cheer Competition in Junker Center
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- LEB Weekly Movie - Quantum of Solace** in Reed 117
10:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**
Baseball Clinics in Junker Center
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday Night Recreation** in Junker Center
9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**
MIS Basket Raffle in Reed
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**
MIS Basket Raffle in Reed
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- IM Texas Holdem** in Reed
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**
LEB Weekly Movie - Twilight in Reed 117
9:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**
LEB Weekly Movie - Twilight in Reed 117
9:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.