

LOCAL NEWS

ERIE

The death penalty case against Willie R. Baker will end in a plea immediately followed by sentencing, according to GoErie.com. Baker is scheduled to appear in Judge John J. Trucilla's courtroom on Friday, Feb. 5.

Records do not outline the details of Baker's plea agreement.

Baker is facing charges for fatally stabbing Anne Ropelowski 22 times on Sept. 13, 2008 in her Erie home.

WEST SPRINGFIELD

A tractor-trailer truck rolled over and is leaking fuel into a ditch off I-90.

The truck rolled off an eastbound lane around 2:37 p.m. Thursday, dispatchers said. The highway is open and no injuries have been reported.

ERIE

Erie police are still searching for Jarron Jackson, a 26-year-old Erie man wanted for sexual assault and a high speed chase.

Jackson sped off from a traffic stop at 3 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 20. He reportedly rolled down his window, handed the officer his driver's license, and drove off.

Police say that they chased Jackson to East 20th and Buffalo Road, where he struck a police car, nearly injuring two officers.

Jackson was wanted for statutory sex assault and corruption of minors previous to the traffic incident. Police say that he had sex with a 15-year-old girl and that he fathered three children with her.

World News



1. Iran maps Guyana's uranium deposits

GUYANA -- Opposition leaders said Wednesday that Iran and Guyana have struck a deal to have the former map the South American country's mineral deposits and resources.

Guyanese President Bharrat Jagdeo announced the upcoming visit of a team of scientists from Iran.

Iran has faced heavy criticism from the United States and other countries for its nuclear enrichment program.

Iran offered last year to help Venezuela map their uranium deposits as well.

2. Ten Americans charged with child kidnapping in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI -- Ten American Baptists were arrested and detained after trying to enter the Dominican Republic with a bus full of 33 children who didn't have their proper documentation.

The ten arrived for their hearing in high hopes with their luggage already packed to leave. Exiting the trial, one journalist threw a rock before being stopped by police.

The group's attorney in Port-au-Prince, Edwin Coq, says that nine of his 10 clients had little idea of what they were doing.

3. Pakistani authorities round up explosion suspects

PAKISTAN -- Pakistani authorities have interviewed several suspects in connection with an explosion that killed seven, including three U.S. soldiers and three schoolgirls. Most of the 130 injured were students at an all-girls school that was destroyed by the Taliban but recently rebuilt by U.S. humanitarian efforts.

US POLITICS

Mass. Sen. Scott Brown vocalizes thoughts on Obama's stimulus bill

Republican Massachusetts representative Scott Brown is not afraid of speaking his thoughts on the United States economy

SHAWN ANNARELLI
managing editor

On the same day that Scott Brown was sworn into late Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy's seat, he claimed that the stimulus bill did not "create one job."

If taking Kennedy's seat from the Democratic Party was not enough, he has taken Ted Kennedy's office suite, too.

Brown is also clear in his position that the United States' economy is not any better off than it was a year ago.

"We lost another 85,000 jobs, again," Brown said. "It may have retained some, but it hasn't created any new jobs."

President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion stimulus bill on Feb. 17, 2009. White House officials would disagree with Brown's claim. The White House released reports in late October of

2009 that nearly 650,000 jobs were created as a result of the stimulus bill.

"Every dollar being spent is helping put someone back to work," said Vice President Joe Biden in late October. "My message today is we are on our way."

Brown's made his top priority to be to "look at the economy first." The country's unemployment rate has increased to 9.8 percent. It seems almost implausible that the stimulus bill can be working despite the unemployment rate rising.

There are issues surrounding stimulus reports that do not help either side. The first stimulus report released in September 2009 was quickly found to be flawed. State numbers would indicate that the stimulus bill is working. As of December 2009 California experienced the largest job increase with 110,000 created. No state reported an actual loss of jobs.

Despite reprimanding the stimulus plan, Brown claims to be an independent voice for the Senate.

"The bottom line is there needs to be more communication between both parties... The main thing that I heard...is that they are tired of the bickering."

Senator Scott Brown

ties," Brown said. "The main thing that I heard during my election is that they are tired of the bickering [between parties]."

Brown went on to discuss more current hot issues in his press conference following his induction.

"We have terrorists that are trying to kill us not only in our airports but in our shopping malls," Brown said.

He made it clear that he is looking out for his state of Massachusetts first.

"I don't care where it [a bill] comes from," Brown said.

"If it's good for Massachusetts first I'm going to look at it and consider it."

Brown's new position has taken away the Democratic Party's supermajority in the Senate, and he is making himself at home and ruffling feathers from day one.



Republican Senator Scott Brown was recently elected to the classically Democratic seat in Massachusetts

Taken from vaishrajan.wordpress.com

BEACON ONLINE

The Beacon website, thebehrendbeacon.com, is your online source for campus news.

Constantly updated with new and breaking news stories, the website will feature immediate coverage of events as well as an archive of past articles in the Beacon.

We also offer a Twitter account, @behrendbeacon, which will be used to let students know of breaking news happening at the college: notification of important events about to begin, police reports at the campus, or developments not yet released to students by the college.

The site also offers an RSS feed, links to Erie resources, and Behrend students' blogs.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A black cat crossing your path signifies that an animal is going somewhere."

-Groucho Marx

FACT OF THE WEEK

Elephants are the only animals unable to jump.

www.mentalfloss.com

CONTACT US

Our offices are located in the bottom floor of the Reed building, office 10H, down the hall from the mailroom.

TEL: (814) 899-6488
FAX: (814) 899-6019

The Behrend Beacon
4701 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
Room 10H

If you have a news story for the Beacon or want to submit feedback, e-mail us:

editor: editor@psu.edu

news: rlt5065@psu.edu

opinion: opinion@psu.edu

sports: sports@psu.edu

culture: culture@psu.edu

website: editor@psu.edu

photos: photoeditor@psu.edu

advertising and business: behrendbeaconads@gmail.com

INTERNET

Online ARG perplexes

Vigilant users of the Internet have been following a so-called supernatural experience via YouTube and Twitter in an alternate reality game--an ARG--that's to say, the equivalent of an immersive Internet mystery novel. Followers track subtle clues and hints around the internet.

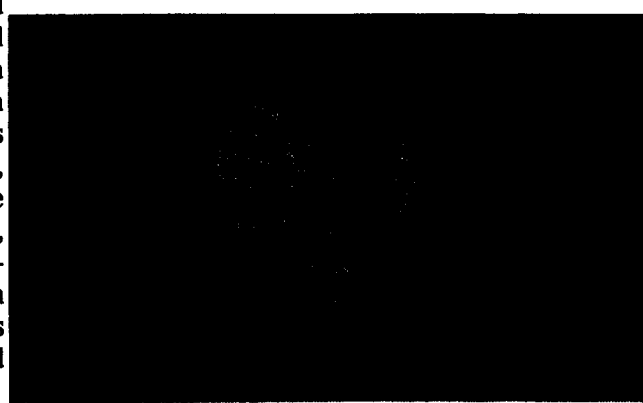
Since early this summer, a YouTube account named MarbleHornets has regularly been posting tapes and tweets that outline a paranormal story: the user, Jay, worked on a film called Marble Hornets with his friend Alex a couple years ago. Throughout the production, Alex, the director/writer, became progressively more neurotic, eventually taking to filming himself at all hours of the day, even off-set. He then gave Jay "bags and bags of tapes" and skipped town.

Jay started out posting clips of Alex's self-documentation to

YouTube as he watched through them.

At Entry #9 (the ninth video uploaded), an anonymous user named totheark (to the ark) started posting cryptic responses, and at the time of Entry #14, another related Twitter account was opened.

As the story unfolds, viewers slowly learn that something was following Alex, something literally created on an



A brief screenshot of SlenderMan in Entry #23
Taken from youtube.com

Internet forum called Something Awful. The apparition is called SlenderMan: a tall, skinny man in a suit with white fabric for a face and long, slithering arms.

Some followers of MarbleHornets' YouTube account have bought into the mystique, truly believing that Jay was assaulted by a masked man in a wrecked house, or that he found a video tape at a mysterious, abandoned climbing wall.

Many followers, however, are simply Something Awful users, nicknamed Goons, who don't believe it for truth, but have been drawn into the compelling story by its amazing immersion.

On Jan 28, Jay posted a video more over the top than any previously, followed by an admission of defeat. Following Jay's Feb. 3 tweet, "I have felt completely functionless since quitting," all accounts have gone silent, nobody has posted anything further, and the mystery remains: what happened to Alex?

US NEWS

Buzz Aldrin backs Obama's scrapping of moon program

JEFF KRAMER
Copy Editor

Buzz Aldrin wrote an editorial piece for the Huffington Post that commemorated Obama's Monday decision to cancel the previous administration's plans to land on the moon by 2020, calling it his "JFK moment."

Obama's plans outlined NASA's 2011 fiscal budget. It relies on commercial companies to ferry astronauts to and from orbit.

With the United States having stepped down from the moon race, the path is clear for China and Russia.

Aldrin cited the Bush administration's plan to have a man on the moon by 2020 as the cause of Congress' hesi-

tence to fund the space program, leading to its recent lack of capital.

"With his deeds, not only words, President Obama has revitalized our struggling space program."

Aldrin calls for no more "g it alone" space programs, citing that in order to use the moon as a stepping stone into space in the future, it's necessary that we cooperate with our international allies now.

Aldrin thinks that instead of going to the moon, we should focus on extending the life of the space station and a more commercial way to bring astronauts into space.