

## LOCAL NEWS

### ERIE

Herbert Jones Jr. was arrested on Wednesday after a warrant was issued for his arrest for open lewdness. Police say Jones committed the act at the Blasco Library around 12:25 p.m. on Jan. 20.

Library employees spotted Jones committing the act and escorted him out of the library.

Police found Jones by using information that Jones had given the library to apply for a library card.

When Jones failed to report to court for his court hearing earlier this month, an arrest warrant was issued.

### ERIE

An agreement between Erie mayor Joe Sinnott and the firefighter's union was made on Wednesday, which resulted in six firefighting companies staying open.

This ends the long-debated issue between Sinnott and the union, which agreed to convert dual fire companies into single companies, a request that firefighters made.

### CRAWFORD

31-year old Paul McCarl was killed Wednesday morning while traveling east of Meadville.

McCarl was driving a 1999 Honda Civic coupe traveling south on Maplewood Road at around 4:45 a.m. when his car went off the east side of the road and hit a culvert, forcing the car to roll.

McCarl had one passenger, Jessica Fosburg, who was taken to Meadville Medical Center to be treated for moderate injuries.

McCarl was also taken to Meadville Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

## Penn State Behrend Police Reports

- Behrend Police recieved a report that a vehicle was vandalized in the Lawrence Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, Mar. 21.

- A theft in Junker was reported on Sunday at 5:20 p.m.

## 1. Pirate killed in Somalia by private security team

MOGADISHU, Somalia -- One pirate was killed and several others were detained on Wednesday during a failed attack on a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship.

Pirates in at least three ships tried to attack the vessel. A private security team on-board the vessel opened fire onto the pirate ships.

When the European Union Naval Force was called in to assist, they found that one of the pirates had died as a result from a gunshot wound.

## 2. British airline takes away travel perks for workers

LONDON, England -- The internationally known British Airways decided on Wednesday to strip cabin crew

members of their travel perks. This would apply to those who are participating in a strike against the airline. These perks include both free and heavily discounted airline travel.

BA Chief Executive Willie Walsh had threatened to take this action last week during strikes, since discounted air travel is a perk that the company can take away at anyone's discretion.

## 3. Over 100 alleged terrorists are captured

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia -- Over 100 people were arrested on Wednesday after being accused of planning attacks against both police forces and oil installations.

Over a five month period, 113 were arrested in connection with preparing to attack police officers and carry out suicide bomb missions.

About 47 were Saudis, 51 were Yemenis, one Somali, one Bangladeshi, and one Eritean made up those who were arrested. Security officials have concern of terrorist groups merging.

## ECONOMY

# Blockbuster video nears bankruptcy

ERIC PEIRCE  
asst. news editor

The well-known movie rental company Blockbuster is fighting to keep its business alive with today's mail-in and order-over-the-Internet movie companies such as Netflix. And, according to reports, it will be a long road, with the company over \$1 billion in debt.

Blockbuster, which is on the brink of filing for bankruptcy, has tried to outdo its competitors recently by coming out first with a new way to deliver movies: Mobile movies.

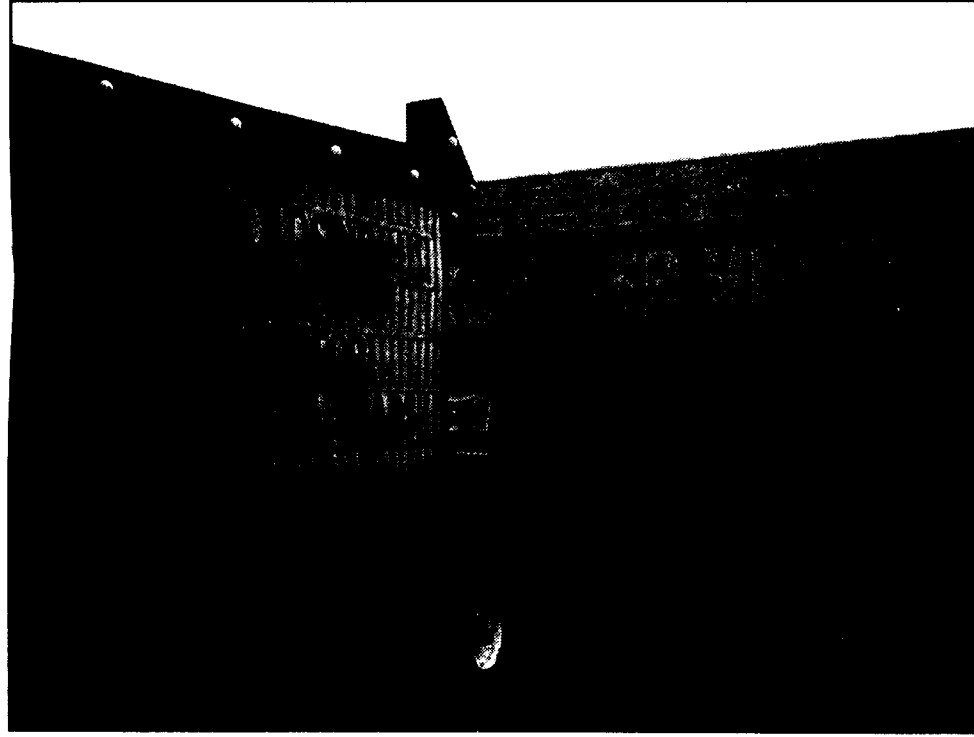
These new movies will now be offered on T-mobile's new HTC HD2 smart phone, and will soon be offered on the Android and Windows Mobile phones.

Blockbuster has also made a new agreement with the movie studio Warner Bros., which is owned by the Time Warner Company. This would give Blockbuster the chance to offer that studio's new releases one month earlier than its competitors, such as Netflix and Coinstar's \$1 movie rental Redboxes, according to CNN.Money. But this may not be enough.

According to Michael Pachter, a Blockbuster analyst, believes that the company needs a huge revamp of its system.

"Blockbuster is trying to keep itself from bleeding to death, but they're putting on a lot of Band-Aids," he said.

Besides having profitless stores, Blockbuster can blame most of its losses from



Blockbuster stores face closing if the company can't get rid of its \$1 billion debt.

the major debt it handled back in 2004 from the media conglomerate Viacom. At that time, Blockbuster's deal with Viacom included paying \$5 per-share dividends to Viacom's shareholders, which added up to a price tag of \$1 billion.

At first, Blockbuster thought it could

handle the debt since it was making profits of about \$500 million a year, but deciding to cancel late fees ate up whatever profits they had.

So now, the once profitable company must find a way to keep up in the ever-advancing movie market.

## NATIONAL HEALTH

# Democrats face violent opposition, vandalism at capital

ERIC PEIRCE  
asst. news editor

Democrats in Washington expected opposition to the passing of the health care bill on Sunday, but nothing like this.

According to reports, at least 10 Democrats have faced vandalism and threats since Sunday. In three states, windows to Democratic offices have been smashed. One lawmaker had a coffin placed on his lawn, while Congressional phone lines have been clogged with threatening and hate-filled messages. Democrats are calling on Republicans to condemn these violent acts.

"I've made statements that I understand people are angry, but violence and threats are inappropriate and irresponsible," said Republican Minority Leader John Boehner "If people are angry, they ought to register to vote and get involved in a campaign."

Violent protests allegedly started on Sunday by the Tea Party after the health care bill became law after several months filled with heated debate. African American Democrats have reported racial slurs being shouted at them, while an openly gay House member faced protestors' shouts of anti-gay slurs.

In Alabama, a blogger created a "window war" that has kept track of the recent incidents of vandalism against Democratic politicians across the nation.

On the same website, a message was left for Michigan Democrat Bart Stupak, whose vote helped Democrats pass the bill, stating "there are millions of people across the country who wish you ill, and all of those thoughts projected

on you will materialize into something that's not very good for you."

Yet this is not the only act of non-face-to-face confrontation.

James Clyburn, a South Carolina representative and strong Democratic supporter, has received both a fax to his office with a picture of a noose drawn on it and threatening telephone calls to his home. "We're giving aid and comfort to these people, and this stuff gets ratcheted up," Clyde said. "We in this Congress have got to come together in a bipartisan way and tamp this foolishness down. It doesn't make sense. That's not what a democracy is all about."

While the acts of these protestors are protected under the first Amendment, James Leach, who is associated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, stated "that does not mean they are totally justified."

New York Representative Anthony Weiner confirmed that a letter that contained an unknown powder and threatening letter was delivered to his district office located in Queens. He was told later that initial tests of the substance found that it was not a biological agent, but further tests are still being carried out to confirm what the substance really was.

While Democrats seem to be the main target of protestors, Republicans are not being left out of the violence.

A Representative in the House of Congress, Republican Eric Cantor, confirmed that a bullet was fired through a window at his campaign office in Richmond, VA., on Thursday.

Florida Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, also a Republican, was also drawn into the vio-

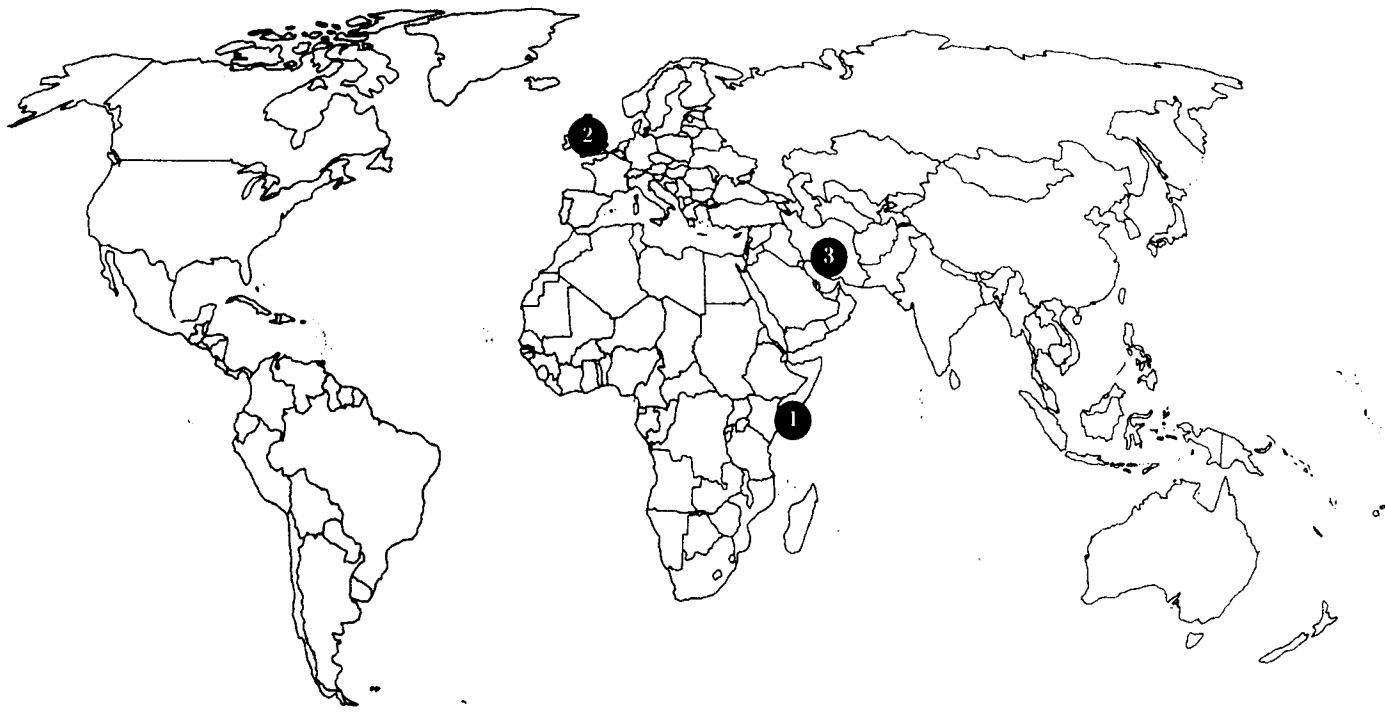


Protestors have taken violent steps in response to the health care bill passing.

lent protests, when a death threat was recieved on her district's office voicemail. Capitol police and the local sheriff's office are currently investigating.

James Leach said "Are we one people working together with rival thoughts, or are we enemies from within?"

## World News



## BEACON ONLINE

The Beacon website, the-behrendbeacon.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

"I found there was only one way to look thin: hang out with fat people."

-Rodney Dangerfield

## FACT OF THE WEEK

A cricket's ears are located just above the knee on their front legs.

www.mentalfloss.com

## CONTACT US

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