

LOCAL NEWS

ERIE

A man was shot while driving in his car on Tuesday night.

30 year-old Joshua Thompson was found unconscious and slumped over in the front seat on the 1000 block of East 23rd Street with a gunshot wound to the back of the head.

Erie Bureau of Police Chief Steve Franklin stated that the Erie police were unable to interview the man due to his condition on Tuesday.

Witnesses say that the man was shot in the head by a passenger and proceeded to drift onto a curb in McKinley Park, where three men exited the vehicle and ran.

Franklin said that they questioned people of interest on Wednesday to "determine some of the facts."

Thompson later died at the Hamot Hospital on Wednesday night due to his injuries.

ERIE

Erie Together's action teams met to discuss possible solutions to Erie's poverty on Thursday.

Erie Together's action teams, made up of over 160 volunteer divided into four groups, focused on early-childhood development, connecting education to careers, individual and family stability, and a balance in economic and workforce development.

"It's time to move this process forward from aspiration to action," said Joseph "Jay" Conner, a consultant to the group. The project is to be funded by several area nonprofit organizations for a period of five years.

Police Reports

- A theft from a vehicle was reported at the S Lot on April 8 at 9:50 p.m.

- Underage drinking in Niagara Hall was discovered on April 17 at 2:30 a.m.

- A student reported damage to their vehicle in the K Lot on April 20 at 3:30 p.m.

- A student reported damage to a vehicle in the B Lot on April 21 at 2:00 p.m.

World News



1. Two Al-Qaeda leaders killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Two top Al-Qaeda leaders were killed during a joint United States-Iraqi operation on Monday.

Al-Qaeda military leaders Al-Masri and Al-Baghdadi were killed when U.S. and Iraqi military assaulted a safe-house in al-Tharthar, a region about 10 kilometers south of Tikrit.

Two other known terrorists, including al-Baghdadi's son and al-Masri's assistant, were

also killed during the operation.

One U.S. soldier was killed when a helicopter involved in the operation crashed.

2. Belgium considers banning Islamic face covers

BRUSSELS, Belgium -- Belgian lawmakers are preparing a bill to ban burqas on Thursday.

Government officials state that their reason for creating such a ban is to protect Bel-

gium's national security.

The ban would include a penalty of \$20-33 and jail time for up to seven days.

France is also considering a ban on burqas.

3. Grenades during Thai protests injure thirty people

BANGKOK, Thailand -- 30 people were injured on Thursday after five grenades were thrown into crowds of anti-government protestors during a

protest on Thursday.

The Red Shirts, an anti-government group, were protesting at a train station when the explosions occurred.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva called an emergency meeting with emergency officials and top military leaders to discuss the explosion.

Vejjajiva took power in a bloodless coup in 2006, which led to anti-government protestors to demand that new elections be held and the current prime minister be removed from the country.

POLITICS

U.S. set to have talks with Israel

ERIC PEIRCE
asst. news editor

The United States and Israel are at odds after Israel's new construction in East Jerusalem.

A special U.S. envoy returned to Israel on Thursday to discuss the new construction with the Israeli government, even with the refusal by the Israeli government to halt construction plans.

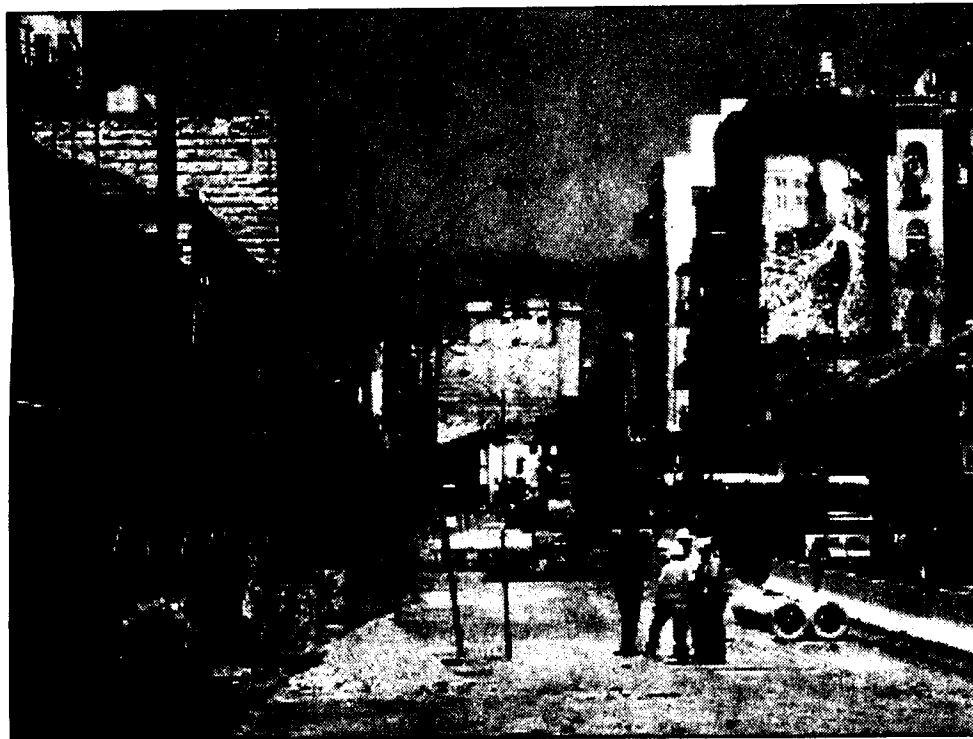
The announced construction of 1,600 housing units in East Jerusalem outraged the Obama administration.

Israeli's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, discussed Israel's position with U.S. officials on the matter, stating, "They are saying we have to stop building, and I say as prime minister of all the Israelis, there are red lines. This is a red line. I won't cross it. This is not a dispute with America."

The special envoy, George Mitchell, responded to Netanyahu's statement, stating "We understand that the Israelis have a long-standing position, but as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said repeatedly, the status quo is not sustainable."

Even as discussions take place, senior state department officials don't expect major strides from the talks.

To add more difficulty to the situation, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is more wary of dealing with the Israeli government without any known commitments



Construction in East Jerusalem has been met with opposition.

concerning the settlement construction.

Even after efforts by the U.S. to have both sides meet to discuss the issue, neither side was able to meet each other's demands.

Tensions on this issue started to rise between the United States and Israel after a

set of concessions laid out by the U.S. to the Israeli government concerning the halt of construction in East Jerusalem was ignored by Israel.

Mark Regev, a spokesman for the Israeli government, would only say that "talks with the U.S. were ongoing."

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

"You know, somebody complimented me on my driving today- they left a little note on my windshield saying 'Parking Fine' "

- Tommy Cooper

FACT OF THE WEEK

A person with average height and weight burns 60 to 70 calories each hour watching television.

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

NATIONAL EVENT

Oil rig catches fire

ERIC PEIRCE
asst. news editor

U.S. officials are scrambling to find survivors and contain an oil spill after an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico exploded and sank on Thursday.

The mobile platform, which was about 50 miles southeast of Venice, La., caught fire when an explosion by an unknown source occurred on the rig.

At the time of the explosion, 126 people were on board. Of the 115 accounted-for workers, 17 were evacuated from the rig by helicopter because of their injuries, while the other 98 workers were evacuated by boat.

It is unknown if the 11 workers missing managed to make it to one of the oil rigs fire-resistant lifeboats.

The Coast Guard expressed hopes that the missing crew members might be still alive due to the calm weather conditions and the warm waters of the Gulf.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael O'Berry added to the Coast Guard's statement:

"We're still searching and there's still a probability that those crew members are alive."

Besides the safety of the workers, the preservation of the ocean environment is also of concern. A 1-by-5-mile sheen of crude oil mix spread across the Gulf of Mexico's surface. A remotely-operated vehicle responded by surveying the area and beginning cleanup.

Officials, though, are uncertain if the oil spilled from the rig during the explosion. Officials are also uncertain if it continued to leak after being sunk.

BP spokesperson Tom Mueller described the actions taken to minimize the impact of the spill.

"Dozens of vessels and aircraft were on the way to the scene Thursday afternoon, including equipment to minimize the environmental impact of any spilled oil," he said.

Up to 336,000 gallons of crude oil could spill into the Gulf.

Pride of the Lion

Class of 2009



Front Row: Brittany Barbato, Dana Turley

Back Row: Jordan Telin, Steelton Flynn, Lauren Weaver, Andrew Voris, Olivia Hoermann