

## LOCAL NEWS

### ERIE

The Erie County District Attorney is offering a \$500 reward for any information that will lead them to the arrest of two drivers who fled the scene of a fatal crash on Interstate 90 last Friday.

The accident occurred when a truck driver attempted to pass a Volkswagen Passat station wagon and clipped the rear of the car.

The passenger Xiaoxia Zhang, 30, of Chicago was thrown onto the road as the car was sent into a spin. The driver of a second truck then proceeded to run Zhang's body over.

Erie County DA, Jack Daneri, hopes the reward money as well as the random nature of the crash will work in investigators favor.

"You would hope that there aren't any interests that would want this to be a secret," he said.

Tips can be left in his office by phone (800) 4-PATIPS or via his office's website, [www.eriealert.com](http://www.eriealert.com).

### ERIE

"For Sale" signs might be staying on house lawns longer nationally. Bleak national reports about sales of doesn't mean the Erie region is feeling the same squeeze.

The number of sales in Erie County decreased by 95 percent from July 2009. The values of the new and existing properties sold in July were only down slightly, according to Greater Erie Board of Realtors figures.

In June, local Realtors closed 568 deals worth \$78 million, compared with the 356 closings worth \$43.5 million in July. Nationally, new home sales fell 12.4 percent in July from a month earlier to a seasonally adjusted annual sales pace of 276,000. That was the slowest pace on records dating to 1963.

Tim Presta, owner of Presta Contractor Supply Inc., 2669 W. 16th St., said business is brisk among the remodelers and commercial developers.

Presta said he is also noticed an upswing in the number of out-of-town developers taking their business to Erie, a sign that their hometown markets might be depressed.



## World News

### 1. The worst is yet to come'

PAKISTAN - Two Islamabad women put their personal lives on hold as they head to the remote village of Utror to aid flood victims.

One of the women, Huma Beg, documentary film maker says the worst is yet to come.

Essential crops have been destroyed, clean drinking water is a rarity, and disease is rapidly spreading.

Some people have even become so terrified of the water, they have moved to the moun-

tains and are living in tents.

Problems will continue to arise if they villagers cannot salvage enough crops to sell and use the income to make it through the long winter.

### 2. UN calls for action

D.R. CONGO, AFRICA - An emergency session of the Security Council was called to order in response to the rapes that have occurred after rebels occupied Luvungi town and surrounding villages.

The Security Council said the

meeting was "of the utmost importance" as they try to renew their efforts to bring peace and stability to the conflict-ridden Congo.

### 3. Suspected terror plot

CANADA - Three Canadians were arrested in an alleged terrorist plot and bomb threat earlier this week.

Lead investigator and Royal Mounted Police Chief Superintendent Serge Therriault believed an attack was imminent from these suspects. "This

group posed a real and serious threat to the citizens of the national capital region and Canada's national security," added Therriault.

### 4. Toyota recalls

USA - Toyota has announced yet another recall of one million Corolla and Matrix cars made between 2005 and 2008.

The Japanese-owned carmaker recalled 700,000 cars worldwide and has now recalled about ten million in the past year. The latest recalls are due to engine failure.

## TECHNOLOGY

# MIT creates robots to cleanup oil spills

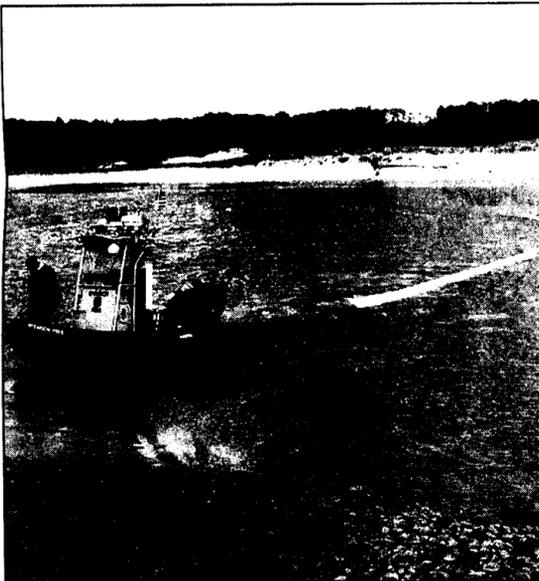
ERIC PEIRCE  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Up until now, the only way to clean up oil spills involved large equipment, workers, and money.

On Aug. 28, an MIT team will reveal a robot that can change the way we deal with these environmental disasters. The robot, named the Seaswarm, uses the idea of a treadmill to 'lift' oil off the water with the help of a type of nonmaterial and collect the oil into a container.

"You can imagine it like a carpet rolling on the surface of the water," stated Assaf Biderman, who was the overseer of the research team of the project.

The conveyor belt itself is made out of material that can absorb up to 20 times its weight in oil. The robot can then either burn-off the oil using a heater connected to the robot, or bag the oil and leave it for pick-up later, where the oil can be even



Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection  
New robots could make oil spills both easier and cheaper to clean up.

be reused or recycled.

The design of these robots make it beneficial for them to be deployed in a swarm, meaning thousands of the robots can be deployed at once on the same spill. They could then organize each other by using a GPS system to clean up the spill in the most effective and quickest way possible.

For example, if the robots were deployed during the Deep Horizon oil spill, the clean-up costs would have been \$100 million to \$200 million, a small fraction of what the actual cost was.

One of the reasons that the robots are so efficient is that they operate using solar energy and only needs about 100 watts of power to operate, the same amount of power used for a light bulb to work. MIT will continue to conduct research on the robots for at least a year, after which the robot technology would be ready for production and possibly a buyer.

## BEACON ONLINE

The Beacon website, [thebehrendbeacon.com](http://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](http://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.

## FACT OF THE WEEK

Did You Know?

Americans, as a nation, on average eat 18 acres of pizza a day!

[www.funmylists.net](http://www.funmylists.net)

## CONTACT US

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

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# Student organizations:

## Want to promote an upcoming event?

### A 10% discount is given to all Behrend student organizations. And your first ad this academic year is FREE.

To schedule an advertisement, contact our advertising department at [behrendbeaconads@gmail.com](mailto:behrendbeaconads@gmail.com).

Free advertisement applies to 1/3 black and white or smaller, and other terms apply. For more information, contact our advertising staff.

## Respect Comes Full Circle

The Office of Educational Equity and Diversity Programs welcomes all students, faculty, and staff to a new and exciting academic year!

Together we can continue to create an environment that promotes respect for differences while fostering caring relationships and cross-cultural understanding throughout the campus.

Best wishes this semester!

Office of Educational Equity



Diversity Programs

Division of Student Affairs  
1 Reed Union Building  
(814) 898-7101

[Behrend.psu.edu/equity](http://Behrend.psu.edu/equity)  
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