

World News



1. French workers on strike on pension reform

Tens of thousands of workers in France are on strike in a second large event mirroring another large demonstration earlier this month. The trade unions are upset about an unpopular pension reform currently circulating in the upper house of France's parliament. Protestors are hoping this second strike will pressure President Nicolas Sarkozy to overturn the pension reform, which will raise the retirement age from 60 to 62.

2. Colombian troops kill senior rebel leader

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) lost their senior leader, Jorge Briceño Suarez, said the Colombian military, in a decisive airstrike. "The symbol of terrorism in Colombia has fallen," said Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos from a United Nations General Assembly in New York. Suarez, also known as Mono Jojoy, was allegedly the second-in-command in a group of ten top commanders of the Farc.

3. Pakistani scientists sentenced to 86 years of prison

Pakistani scientist Aafia Siddiqui, known as "Lady Qaeda" in the media, has been sentenced to 86 years in prison for trying to murder US officers in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, where her conviction has been very publicly criticized, hundreds of Pakistanis protested the arrest, claiming that Siddiqui is not only innocent but was mistreated in US detention.

"When that news broke it was carried widely by the private networks ... everyone condemned the sentence," said Kamal Hyder, who reports for Al Jazeera in Islamabad.

"She made it explicit, through her own words and her conduct, her intention to kill Americans, to cause 'death to Americans,'" wrote her Siddiqui's prosecutors.

Officials believe that she is directly related to al-Qaida, having married an operative who is reportedly connected to the attacks on 9/11.

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CONTACT US

Our offices are located in the bottom floor of the Reed building, in Reed 3, right next to the Personal Counseling Office and just down the hallway from the RUB desk and student lounge.

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LOCAL NEWS

Erie man jailed over rape, burglary charges

Police have charged a man in relation to crimes committed on the East Side of Erie.

24-year-old DeAngelo J. Troop of Erie allegedly raped a woman in her home early Wednesday morning, according to Erie police.

Troop is in Erie County prison on a \$100,000 bond. He is charged with felony charges of rape and burglary.

FACT OF THE WEEK

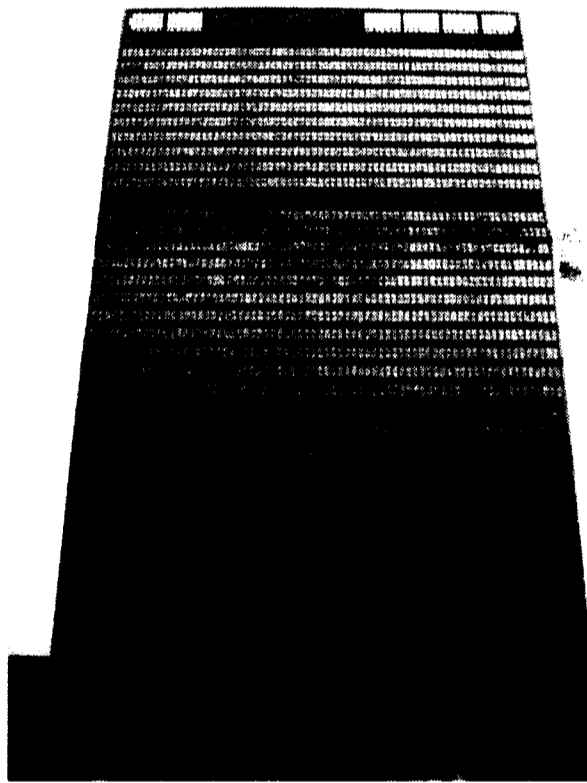
Did You Know?

Barbie's full name is Barbie Millicent Roberts.

www.blog.livebyfivedigital.com

Ahmedinejad U.N. speech causes uproar

EVAN KOSER
senior layout editor



Flickr Creative Commons / simononly
Ahmedinejad's speech at the UN caused 32 nations, including the U.S., to walk out in protest.

Delegates from the United States and all EU countries, among others, walked out in protest of a speech made at the UN by Iran President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad.

Speaking during the first day of a week-long UN diplomatic convention in New York, Ahmedinejad offended many delegates with comments on September 11. Largely, he blamed the United States government for orchestrating the attacks.

He offered three possibilities for how and why the U.S. Government was responsible.

First, he said that a "powerful and complex terrorist group" had penetrated the government and masterminded the attack.

Secondly, he said that U.S. officials used the attack to improve the country's economy and to save Zionist groups in the Middle East. He said the majority of American people and administrators supported this view.

By this point, 32 countries had walked out of the room in protest. The United States delegates were joined by all 27 European Union countries as well as delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Costa Rica.

Despite the walk-out, Ahmedinejad continued with a third reason: that the attack was the handiwork of a true terrorist organization, but that the United States Government had "supported and took advantage of the situation."

Ahmedinejad also said that an independent fact-finding U.N. team should be formed to probe the attacks. He warned against the attacks becoming an issue similar to the Holocaust, in that "expressing opinion about it won't be banned."

Mark Kornblau, spokesman of the U.S. Mission to the U.N., said that Ahmedinejad had "yet again chosen to spout vile conspiracy theories and anti-Semitic slurs that are as abhorrent and delusional as they are predictable," according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Campus Connection

A brief look at what's up on the campuses of Erie's other colleges

Gannon University

New programs made in science, math

CHRISTINE PEFFER
staff writer,
Gannon Knight

Gannon University is continuing to provide its students with new opportunities by developing three new programs in the math and science departments that will be offered in the coming months.

Dean of the College of Engineering and Business Melanie Hatch, Ph.D., has pioneered the way for the addition of the new biomedical engineering program. Dr. Hatch said that biomedical is among the fastest growing areas of engineering, and Gannon is the only school in the area that offers it.

The main focus of biomedical engineering is biomechanics. This focus will require the addition of a new laboratory in Zurn Science Center, which has already received some funding. The lab will include new 3-D technology such as prosthetic limbs and surgical implants as well as programs that will allow students to measure muscle functionality and loss.

Approval for the program by the state is still pending. Once approved, the major



Dr. Charles Cornfield acts as the patient of a sleep study. Pictured also: students Lauren Bafik and Ana Barajas.

will require some of the core engineering courses in addition to 12 credit hours of biology.

The second new addition is a certification in polysomnography being offered by the respiratory care program.

Polysomnography is the graphic portrayal of sleep that is used to study sleep disorders. Charles Cornfield, Ph.D., and Robert Tarkowski, Ph.D., were two of the main

contributors responsible for getting the program approved this fall in order for it to be offered in the spring.

"We are working toward advances in the health science department that would be a good fit for Gannon University," Tarkowski said.

Additions are also taking place in the mathematics department, where the actuarial science track has been added to the math major.

Mercyhurst University

Students describe Police altercations

DEVIN RUIC
staff writer,
Mercyhurst Merciad

While it goes against the policy of Mercyhurst College's administration and the Office of Police & Safety to release information regarding confrontations between students and the police, stories of these altercations are easy to come by, as the apartments on campus are filled with ready witnesses. In the past, there have been multiple occasions where Police & Safety officers have dealt with students hiding firearms in their apartments, and one occasion where officers restrained a violent student only to find a firearm in the same room.

Despite your opinion regarding the officers that walked into your apartment to close down the underage party you were hosting, you have likely felt comfortable knowing your hometown police officers were armed. If you are from Erie or Cleveland, the necessity of an armed police force is all too clear. Police & Safety officers are more than simply the enforcers of Residence Life's rules, and to say such is to discount the vast majority of their jobs here on campus. The Erie Police Department's response time to Mercyhurst Campus has been reported in *The Merciad* as five minutes. Less than two weeks ago, when emergency services were called to a fight on Lewis Avenue, a second call needed to be made, and another ambulance sent out, as confusion between dispatch and the ambulance caused the first to turn around when it arrived at Briggs Avenue, and leave an in-

jured individual without medical attention for a longer period of time.

There were two identifiable assailants who recently attacked a student. The two attackers are described as large, strong males. At the time of the attack, only one Police & Safety officer responded, armed with a grand total of two items - pepper spray and a nightstick. Had the attackers turned their attention to the officer responding to the fight, the situation could have become even more dangerous for the officer and the victim.

However, if the officer had been able to respond with a Taser, the officer would have been entering the situation with the upper hand. Taser International's website notes that the newest generation Taser shoots three sets of prongs and is entirely safe for use on belligerent suspects. While there have been several deaths circumstantially related to the use of Tasers, multiple studies have been conducted that dispel such worries. In a study published by Academic Emergency Medicine, sheep injected with methamphetamines, which negatively affect the cardiovascular system, showed no life-threatening cardiovascular symptoms after being Tased.

The assailants vastly outnumbered their prey, and the Police & Safety officer who responded could have fallen victim to the same cowards who decided to gang up and attack the victim. The blood of any student or officer harmed while the officers remain unarmed will be on the hands of the administration of Mercyhurst College.

The administration is simply lucky that on this occasion, there was not more.