



1. "Red Sludge" toxic spill reaches Danube River

A chemical spill from a Hungarian factory poisoned eastern European rivers and killed entire populations of fish early this week. On Thursday, officials announced that the red slick of chemicals had reached the Danube River, igniting concerns in nearby Croatia, Serbia, and Romania.

Tibor Dobson, a disaster official, said that all life in the Marcal river, which leads into the Danube, had been "extinguished," the BBC reports.

2. Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa wins Nobel Prize

Mario Vargas Llosa, one of the Spanish-speaking world's most acclaimed writers, has won the 2010 Nobel Prize for Literature.

The Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Prize, said that Llosa won the award for "his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt, and defeat."

Llosa will travel to Stockholm, Sweden to receive the prize on Dec. 10 - Nobel Day - from the hands of the country's King.

3. Pakistan urges U.S. to stop drone strikes

A U.S. drone attack in Pakistan on Thursday has Pakistani officials calling for the end to the program.

The attack is the latest in a month of high activity in drone strikes.

More than 150 militants and civilians have been killed in the last month by the program, BBC reports.

BBC also quotes Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Basit as saying the drone strikes are "counterproductive and a violation of our sovereignty." He also said he hopes the U.S. will "revisit its policy."

4. Philippines to "ban improper singing" of anthem

A bill in the Philippines aims to make improper singing of the national anthem a federal crime.

The bill, which has passed through the House of Representatives but has yet to go through the Senate, puts strict restrictions on the performance of the country's anthem.

Among the restrictions are designations on the anthem's tempo (100 to 120 beats per minute). It also states citizens must "stand to attention and sing with fervour."

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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.

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: ked5211@psu.edu

opinion: bmb5290@psu.edu

sports: aji5027@psu.edu

culture: sbe5017@psu.edu

website/photography: stf5026@psu.edu

advertising and business: behrendbeaconads@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

Erie casino fined \$15k for underage gambling

State regulators fined Presque Isle Downs & Casino \$15,000 for two counts of underage gambling.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board issued the fine, saying that a 19-year-old played on slot machines on two separate occasions between April and May.

This is the first time in the casino's three-year history that it has been cited, reports the Erie Times-News.

FACT OF THE WEEK

The largest number of children born to one woman is recorded at 69. From 1725-1765, a Russian peasant woman gave birth to 16 sets of twins, seven sets of triplets, and four sets of quadruplets.

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~bing/bin/>

Haiti "still in state of emergency"

CONNOR SATTELY
editor-in-chief

Nearing the ten-month anniversary of the earthquake which devastated Haiti, non-governmental organization Refugees International (RI) says that the country of Haiti is "still trapped in the emergency phase."

Much of that is due to the emergency camps set up in January, RI reports.

"Living in squalid, overcrowded and spontaneous camps for a prolonged period has led to aggravated levels of violence and appalling standards of living," says a report by the organization released Wednesday.

The report also details problems faced by refugees in the country who are still displaced after the disaster. Landowners and gang leaders are intimidating the displaced; sexual, domestic, and gang violence in and around the camps is rising; and many citizens forced to leave a camp simply form new camps with



International Federation of the Red Cross / Flickr Creative Commons

Millions of Haitians have taken shelter in emergency camps; over 3,000 lived in this temporary camp.

little or no humanitarian support.

The situation requires a more coordinated and efficient response, the report says, from the UN system in the country.

These inefficiencies are partially due to the overworked Humanitarian Coordinator, who is responsible for "increasing effectiveness of hu-

manitarian response and delivery," according to the report. This person also "plays the role of the Resident Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General of MINUSTAH - the UN peacekeeping force."

"Given the competing demands of these various roles, the coordination of humanitarian activities has suffered,"

the report said. "There is still no effective protection and assistance delivery system in place."

Sexual violence and crime is also prevalent in the camps. The report cites service providers which have seen an increase in "street abortions" in girls as young as ten, and extremely high teenage pregnancy rates within the camp.

Campus Connection

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



Discipline system revisited

JACOB TARR
*assistant news editor
Gannon Knight*

Gannon University now disciplines misbehaved students on a point system. Upperclassmen are exempt from the system, but subsequent freshman classes will abide by it.

However, Student Living has allowed upperclassmen to use this new system if they choose.

In past years, students were disciplined on a three-strike basis. If he or she committed three infractions, they were put on probation.

Not only does the new point system cover alcohol and drug infractions, but it also covers conduct and behavior infractions, fire safety infractions and household related problems as well.

Some of the major offenses include: public drunkenness, which constitutes four to six points; selling and distributing drugs, which constitutes ten points; drinking and driving, which would constitute ten points; and sexual assault, which constitutes ten points as well.

Additionally, there are also

minor offenses, such as having pets in rooms, smoking in dorms or apartments and possession of alcohol if underage.

There are different sanctions that will be enforced for these infractions. If a student reaches ten points in the system, for example, the student could be suspended or expelled depending on a review by the Student Conduct Office and Dean of Students.

Sue Majocka, the Student Conduct Officer and Harborview Resident Director, who is in charge of the new system, said the point system has been a success so far.

"So far it seems to be working," she said. "Most students that I've dealt with haven't had a negative reaction."

Majocka said that students now have more understanding as to what they need to do in order to avoid adding points to their name. "The point system helps to make things a little more concrete for students," she said. "Before we just had our disciplinary statuses with a warning, official warning, probation and suspensions."

The point system has ten

concrete points and students clearly will understand what level they are on, she said.

Although resident assistants have the ability to report infractions to Student Living, Majocka said she will be the only one to add points to a student's name.

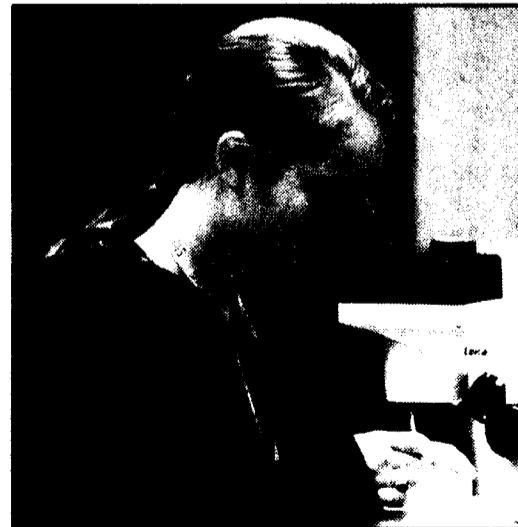
Majocka also said that other universities use this point system. She said that Bucknell University was one of the first schools to implement this system in the early 2000s.

Students have varying opinions on this topic. Alyssa Perkowski, a freshman nursing major disagrees with it.

"I think it's nice to keep people in check but I also think it's a little harsh," she said. "I think there should be more ways to lower your points once you have accumulated them."

"Personally, I'm not real big on going out anyways just because there are lots of risks, but I think people are willing to break the rules," she said. "But it kind of sucks that we're in college and were getting treated like little kids again. People come to college to have freedom and grow up."

New lab one of two in world



Ethan Magoc / The Merciad

Freshman forensic anthropology major Tess Allen uses a microscope to sort pieces of lithic, shell, and limestone rock in Zurn Hall's newly renovated Processing Laboratory.

JENNIFER MCCURDY
*staff writer,
Mercyhurst Merciad*

This week, Mercyhurst College will complete construction of the R. L. Andrews Center for Perishables Analysis and the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute Processing Laboratory.

While the renovations will affect only a small percentage of the student population, the construction represents Mercyhurst's dedication to providing quality education and re-

search opportunities.

Contractors started construction in Zurn Hall in June. The projects cost approximately \$870,000.

The R. L. Andrews Center for Perishables Analysis, commonly referred to as the basket lab, is one of only two laboratories in the world that analyze perishable artifacts. The other laboratory is located in Holland.

Dr. James Adovasio, Director of the Anthropology and Archaeology Department at Mercyhurst College, is one of the world's leading authorities in the analysis of basketry, textiles, cordage and other plant fiber-derived artifacts.

In a recent press release, he said, "Perishables analysis is a small and relatively arcane specialization. Typically what we have learned about prehistoric civilizations comes from the study of durable materials, like stone and ceramics, when, in fact, 95 percent of what people manufactured prehistorically was made out of perishable materials."

The newly renovated lab was equipped with modern technology.

This includes microscopes connected to high definition video screens for viewing and measuring artifacts, and printers for image capture and the capability of immediately forwarding specimens to the conservation lab. The forwarding allows for a better interface between labs.

Many anthropology and archaeology students receive their first hands-on experience in this lab.

Lab Supervisor Jeffrey Illingworth says the project is "archeology's turn" after a project began eight years ago to renovate labs.

