

## National Seagulls get bling

According to the Quebec Media Inc. Agency and Sun Media, seagulls have been noticed and even photographed with what appears to be a collar around their neck made from beer cans in their area. What look like neck rings, similar to those worn by Kayan women in Burma, except with empty beer cans instead of gold, have been spotted on seagulls in the bays of San Francisco.

Wildrescue, an animal rescue organization in the area has been receiving information from birders and the surprised public eye via their blog. Along with the International Bird Rescue Research Center, a \$1,000 reward has been issued for the "arrest and conviction" of the person responsible; neither group believed it was the bird's own doing, stating that whoever was catching these animals was causing them serious harm and breaking the law.

## Around the World

### Naked students clean for cash

CZECH REP CrazyCleaning is a new business, dreamt up by a 21-year-old student in the Czech Republic, Katka Kopecka, who was looking for some extra cash in the bleak economy. The innovation was bred out of the simple idea, which almost always rings true: people hate to clean, but love getting a gorgeous naked body.

Made into a simple reality, CrazyCleaning now employs 15 students from whom the customer can pick and the rate of pay is \$240 an hour (completely naked). The customer can also decide what amount of clothing his cleaning service will wear, ranging from pants with no shirt, just underwear, panties only, or nothing at all. Kopecka maintains that the service her company provides is not prostitution, but instead a reliable, eye-appealing option for in-home cleaning.

# Car catches fire near Senat Hall

TOBY KELLER  
assistant news editor

On Oct. 22, at around midnight, Chad McDonough, a junior Plastic Engineering Technology major, and his friends were walking through campus when they saw what they described as "a huge cloud of dark smoke coming from under the hood" of a car parked in the driveway to Senate.

"We looked to see if anyone was in the car, but there wasn't," McDonough said. "We all could smell gas and immediately backed away. Within seconds of mentioning that the car looked ready to explode, it was engulfed in

flames."

The owner of the car, according to Jim Amann, Manager of Safety and Security at Behrend, had parked and went up to his room. McDonough and his friends reacted quickly, sending Christopher Cavi (sophomore - math) down to the police station on foot because he "is in the navy and is incredibly fast."

McDonough searched for an Emergency Beacon but was unable to locate one.

His two other friends, Mark McDonovich (sophomore - mechanical engineering technology) and Eiso Gressian (freshman - accounting), documented the

incident by taking pictures and videos, which can be found at YouTube.com, and calmed the public by singing "Burning Up" by the Jonas Brothers. McDonough called upon his volunteer fire fighting knowledge when the heat was on.

"I was screaming to warn people about the fire and get them away from the vehicle in case of an explosion," McDonough said. "With flames 15 feet high, I knew the importance of getting people out of the potential danger zone, but it was extremely difficult to persuade students, some of whom were completely intoxicated, and a confrontation almost escalated into a brawl."

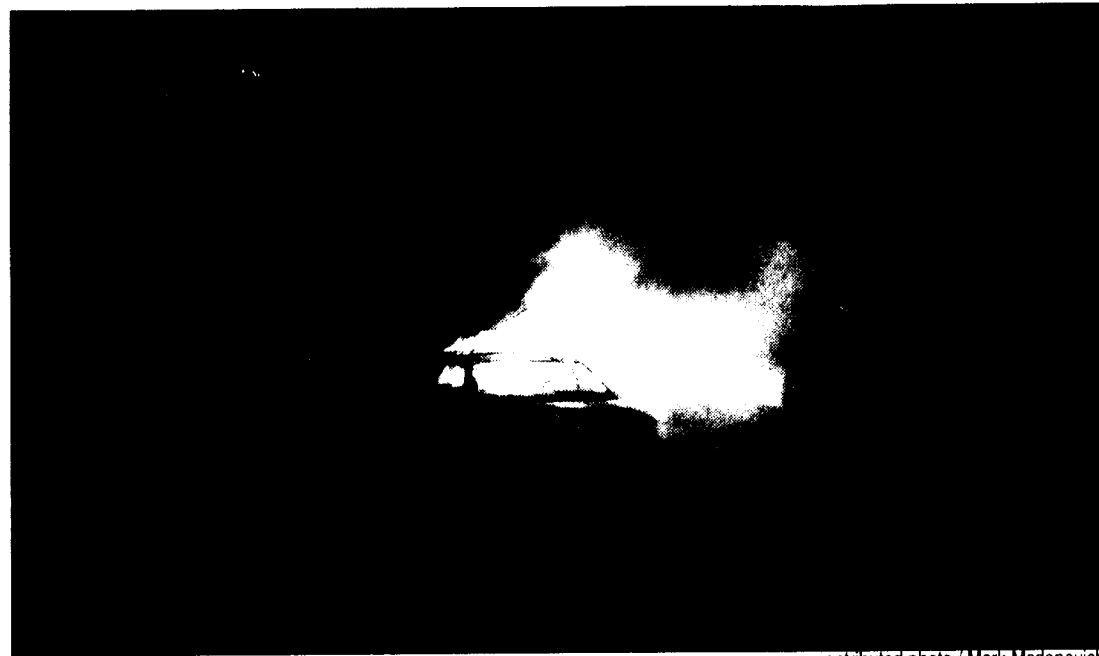
McDonovich was able to calm the more unruly students down before a potential fight erupted and before anyone had a chance to be pushed into the fire or to be subdued by the police.

Cavi was able to retrieve the police in an relatively short amount of time, before the tires exploded on the car or the drunken witnesses started a riot.

The officers attempted to reduce the flames with a fire extinguisher, but the fire overwhelmed them. The fire department arrived shortly after and handled the situation with no further complications.

It was a strange night for McDonough and friends, but thanks to their quick thinking, immediate action and situational intelligence Penn State Behrend was saved from the possibility of a Hollywood-like car explosion with a real chance of injury. However, with the number of cars on campus, it is likely that this occurrence will not be the last of its kind.

"We have so many cars on campus, thousands, so it's not unusual for us to deal with one or two car fires a year," Amann said. "It's not a completely unknown occurrence. Usually the owner reports noticing an unfamiliar smell, probably gas or hydraulic fluid that drips onto a hot manifold, which can ignite."



contributed photo / Mark McDonovich

Though this blaze is brilliant, the incident was handled effectively with no reported injuries.

# USC offers Gaga sociology course

AMBER MILLER  
contributing writer

Lady Gaga has made quite the impression in the pop culture scene since her debut in 2008 with her award-winning music, surprising performances, and unmatched costume designs. However, no one could have guessed that Gaga would soon make her debut in the academic world.

Dr. Mathieu Deflem, a professor for the University of South Carolina's sociology department, has garnered some attention of his own with his upcoming course "Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame," to be taught for the first time during the

spring semester of 2011.

How, one might ask, can a respectable academic course at the college level be based on a pop star? It is simple.

"We're going to look at Lady Gaga as a social event," Deflem said. "So it's not the person, and it's not the music. It's more this thing out there in society that has 10 million followers on Facebook and six million on Twitter. I mean, that's a social phenomenon."

The course description, found on Deflem's student pages, says that special attention will be designated to the many dimensions of fame, with respect to Lady Gaga as a case study. Dimensions in-

clude, but are not limited to, business and marketing strategies, the role of old and new media, gay culture, religious and political themes, and sexuality.

One will also find that this course is a 300-level class with an abundance of required reading, including three books, nine scholarly articles, and a collection of media sources, as well as a rigorous course schedule.

Both positive and negative feedback has presented itself with the introduction of this course. However, Deflem is reassured by the support of his colleagues and students from around the world. Some of Deflem's favorite com-

ments can be found in The Harvard Crimson's article about his Lady Gaga course.

At one point in their article "Gaga for Gaga: USC's upcoming course promises to engage students," the writer states, "Ultimately, 'Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame' has the potential to be a unique course-the kind of class that students will be excited about out of a genuine interest in the subject matter."

While there is a small class size limit, future students of USC can rest easy as the professor hopes to teach this sociology course for many future semesters.

## POLICE REPORTS

On Nov. 3, there was a report of theft from a motor vehicle in the F lot on College Drive at 4:00 p.m.

A few minutes after midnight on Oct. 30, officers were notified of a possibly intoxicated student who was arguing with RAs in Lawrence Hall.

The burglar alarm for the Glennhill Farmhouse went off at 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 28.

On Oct. 21, officers responded to the Burke Center on Jordan Road where a victim reported stolen property.

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## Fact of the Week

The Popsicle was invented by an 11 year-old, Frank Epperson in 1905. He left his drink outside with a stir stick in it and he noticed that it had frozen. He applied for a patent in 1923 and named it "Epsicle." The name was later changed to Popsicle.

ideafinder.com



Marshall College

# Campus Connection

A look at what's up at campuses at Erie's other colleges

## College to University

Students have been encouraged to send their feedback regarding the application to Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Phil Bellone or Director of Assessment Amy Danzer, although for the most part only employees have shared their

opinions. The fall about the issue, and student input is still being gathered at Council Meetings.

When the application is approved, it is highly probable that we will have several names to address first. We believe the work and time invested by all the people involved will result in general approval. Before approval is expected after the PDE visits campus in February or March. The university name should be established and changed shortly thereafter. The discussion in acquiring university status began in Spring 2009.

The college's board of trustees then voted in support of the administration looking into university status requirements in January 2010, which led to a meeting with the PDE in March.

The PDE representatives responded positively and gave approval to create the application.

Soon after this consent, the trustees voted in June to prepare the application, and work toward completing the forms has continued since then.

The application was compiled by many people across campus, including President Dr. Thomas Gamble, Dr. Heidi Hosey and several other trustees.

"It could never have come about, however, without many, many people across all of our campuses and locations, in positions from maintenance to vice president, answering questions and providing information," Danzer said.

## Safe network unveiled

ABBY BADACH  
Editor-in-chief

Gannon University is taking steps to improve the climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and transsexual individuals on campus with the introduction of the university's Safe Network, unveiled at last week's Vigil to End Hatred.

"It's a way of saying we will not accept abuse, discrimination or harassment of any kind on Gannon's campus," said the Rev. George Strohmeyer, university chaplain and vice president of mission and ministry. "It's more painful, sometimes, when it's aimed at gays and lesbians who are having a difficult time, anyway, finding their place. It's pitifully painful."

The network connects trained individuals, called "allies," with members of the Gannon community who identify themselves in the sexual identities listed above - or who are questioning their sexual identity - to enter into

a non-judgmental, confidential and supportive relationship through dialogue, conversation or other activities.

Currently, 20 faculty and staff members have completed the training and have chosen to identify themselves as official program allies. Ward McCracken, dean of student development and a facilitator of the Safe Network, said there has been a lot of interest from the Gannon community to hold another training session so more people can become certified.

Official allies display the Safe Network logo - an upside-down rainbow triangle in a grey oval - in their offices so interested persons know they are safe and supportive people to talk to about sexual identity issues. But McCracken clarified that the term applies to more than just the officially trained faculty and staff members, and also includes anyone who supports and stands up for the rights of LGBT people.

"What we hope is that ev-

eryone is an ally in the end," he said.

McCracken added that the Safe Network will serve as an outlet for students to participate in the sexuality arm of Gannon's LIFECORE program. McCracken and Strohmeyer both encouraged students, faculty and staff to pick up pledge cards to sign to affirm their commitment to support the healthy discussion of sexual identity issues on campus and eliminate discriminatory language that promotes hate and violence.

"Just to recognize they're here is a form of saying, 'Welcome,'" Strohmeyer said. "We recognize the beauty of your life, your goals in life. You're a human being. Your soul is beautiful in God's eyes. Welcome - welcome home. That's very important."

Editor's note: Ward McCracken serves as business adviser to The Gannon Knight, but does not assign, edit, approve or otherwise oversee any of The Knight's editorial content.