

WORLD & NATION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nepal

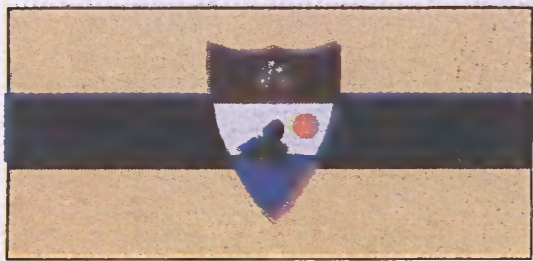
KATHMANDU



An earthquake in western Nepal shook the country on April 26, killing over five thousand people, injuring at least ten thousand and destroying historic landmarks in the capital, Kathmandu. The

earthquake set off an avalanche on Mount Everest, killing 17 hikers and 34 people in northern India. People in Tibet and Bangladesh were also killed. In Kathmandu, medical supplies are running low and more victims of the earthquake are expected to make their way to hospitals before the end of the week.

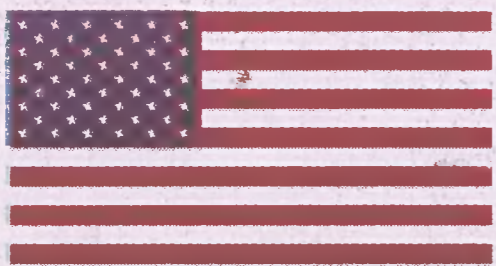
Liberland



On April 13, former Czech citizen Vit Jedlicka founded Liberland, a micronation between Croatia and Serbia. Over 200,000 people have applied for citizenship, according to the Guardian. Jedlicka, formerly a member of the Czech Party of Free Citizens, came up with the idea for Liberland as a political stunt according to Geek.com, though he quickly gained support and decided to form a nation. It is already fighting with Paradiun, a nation that supposedly claimed the land and is removing Liberland flags from the area.

U.S.A

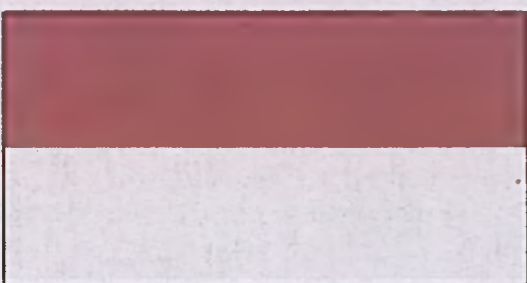
BALTIMORE, MA



A week after 25-year-old African-American Freddie Gray was arrested by police, he died on April 19 of a spinal injury he is said to have sustained in police custody. According to The Village Voice, Gray was arrested for being in possession of a concealed weapon, a pocket knife considered legal in Maryland. Since Gray's death, riots have been raging. According to CNN, looting and violence have occurred, six police officers suffered minor injuries and 35 people were arrested. In addition to the riots, thousands have participated in peaceful protest.

Indonesia

NUSAKAMBANGAN



According to the BBC, eight prisoners convicted of drug smuggling were executed in Indonesia, a country famous for their strict drug laws. The prisoners included people from Australia, Nigeria, Brazil and Indonesia. One woman from the Philippines who was supposed to be executed will have a trial in the Philippines and a man from France is appealing the sentence. Amnesty International has responded to the incident, calling the execution a disregard for human rights. Indonesia ended its four-year ban on executions in 2013.

BY NICOLE ZELNIKER
WORLD & NATION EDITOR

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIBERLAND.ORG AND COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Nine months after the death of Lennon Lacy, questions remain

BY NICOLE ZELNIKER
FEATURES EDITOR

Last summer, on Aug. 29, a woman found African-American high school senior Lennon Lacy hanged from a swing set in a predominantly white trailer park.

It has been nine months, and it is still unclear what happened to Lennon.

"Lennon's the only one who can tell the story of what happened to him," said Bonner Center for Community Service & Learning Director James Shields.

Back in August, Lacy's death was ruled a suicide. Since then, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun an investigation of Lacy's case.

"The FBI is waiting on the results," said Lacy's aunt Portia Shipman in a phone interview with The Guilfordian. "They're working closely with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

There is talk of the Bladenboro police force handing over the case to the FBI.

"If I was still on the job, I would think it would warrant a little more investigating," said Associate Professor of Justice & Policy Studies Will Pizio, a former New York police officer.

Several mistakes have been made throughout the case, such as allowing the woman who found Lacy to cut him down, not taking photographs of the crime scene and not collecting any forensic evidence.

Lacy's hands were not bagged to preserve DNA. No one questioned why he was wearing shoes two sizes too small that did not belong to him.

According to Pizio, there are a couple of ways the police could have made mistakes throughout Lacy's case.

"One option is they were incompetent," said Pizio. "The other option is that they

(It's) scary to think as a black man in America that you could still get lynched. A lot of us thought those days were over.

JAMES SHIELDS, BONNER CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEARNING DIRECTOR

purposely did it, (and the third) is maybe that's exactly what they thought it was."

Because the evidence is gone, it is hard to know whether Lacy's death was a suicide, as police reports say, or a homicide, as many in Bladenboro believe.

"It's hard to know what the next steps are if evidence was tampered with or mishandled," said Shields. "There may be a limit to what can be done just because we don't have the evidence."

For many in North Carolina, Lennon's death is a reminder that lynchings may still happen in America.

"It's very sketchy," said Shields. "(It's) scary to think as a black man in America that you could still get lynched. A lot of us thought those days were over."

It is a reminder of the racism that still exists in America as well.

"If you're still deeming lynchings a possible suicide, that's racism," said senior Noelle Lane. "If it's inconclusive, it's inconclusive. It's not suicide."

Since August, Lacy's family has been active in getting the word out.

"We do a (social media) blast about Lennon (on) the 29th of every month," said

Shipman. "His brother, Pierre, is getting everything out there. The more people see it, the more it's out there."

Last semester, five Guilford students went to Bladenboro to meet with Claudia and Pierre Lacy, Lennon's mother and brother.

"We've talked to students on campus who hadn't heard of Lennon Lacy," said senior Lacrisa Kaufman. "We're just trying to spread the word."

The next step is to reform the police force to insure that all investigations are properly conducted.

"We have to look at ways the police are investigating themselves," said Shields.

Perhaps the police are not the entire problem.

"Are there racist police officers?" said Pizio. "Of course there are. Are they the majority? Of course they are. The system is more problematic than racist police officers. If you look at the 60's to now, we've made fabulous ground. Are we halfway there? I don't know."

Shipman and the rest of the Lacy family welcome any students who want to help.

"Support the family as much as they want to be supported," said Shields.

STUDY PHOTO OF THE WEEK ABROAD



El Roble, El Salvador
Khadija Carr '15 learned a new hand game, "Corazón de Melón," or Heart of the Melon, from a new friend while visiting a rural village during J-Term 2015.

Each week we will feature a picture from students' experiences abroad. Whether you have or are currently abroad, we would love to see photos from your trip. Please email photos to Sara Minsky at minskysj@guilford.edu with information about the subject and where & when you studied.

COURTESY OF KHADIJA CARR