

Police Blotter: A Weekly Look At Campus Crime Briefs

By Peter Levine
Campus Correspondent -
University of Wisconsin
College Press Exchange

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CPX) - Police at Ohio State University arrested a man on charges of public indecency after he was caught masturbating on the first-floor stairway of a campus building.

The woman who reported the Oct. 16 incident said she'd seen the man masturbating on campus on other occasions.

Police reports indicate the man admitted to officers that he has masturbated on campus six or seven times since September. Police also reported that the man admitted to an average of 60-70 similar occurrences a quarter for the last 10 quarters.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CPX) - Some students at the University of Michigan had a hard time finding a bathroom and wound up with citations for urinating in public.

In several unrelated incidents throughout the weekend of Nov. 6, police ticketed people for peeing in parking lots, on a golf course and in Michigan Stadium.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (CPX) - It must have been that time of the month for someone who robbed a

Tampon machine in the student recreation center at the University of Missouri.

According to the Maneater, someone pried open the machine on Nov. 7 and made off with an undetermined number of the feminine hygiene products.

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (CPX) - An anonymous tipster led police to a dormitory at SUNY-Binghamton, where they found a large but undisclosed amount of marijuana.

According to the Pipe Dream, the Nov. 2 bust served as a reminder to students that their classmates and hallmates won't tolerate illegal behavior.

According to campus police reports, Mohammed Y. Kashaf, 21, of Vestal, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and with using drug paraphernalia. Robert J. Dittus Jr., 19, of Kingston, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of controlled substances, possession of marijuana, possession of a forged instrument and with using drug paraphernalia. Lance I. Hudes, 20, of Monticello, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and with using drug paraphernalia.

LAWRENCE, Kan. (CPX) - A

student at the University of Kansas told police she was assaulted on Nov. 10 when she asked another student to remove a Jeep from a handicapped parking space.

The victim, who has a permit that allows her to use handicapped spaces, determined that the Jeep should not have been parked there. She called parking officials to have the car removed.

The victim said a man hopped out of the Jeep before officials arrived and threatened her. According to police reports cited by the Daily Kansan, police issued a citation to the woman in whose name the Jeep is registered.

BOSTON (CPX) - Boston College's secretary's office reported a suspicious call that has campus police listening for a man with a thick Irish brogue.

According to the Heights, a man identifying himself as a representative of the Celtic Press called the office on Nov. 2 looking for the location of a building on campus. The caller also voiced an array of complaints about the Irish Institute, the treatment of American Indians, slaves and the Pope.

The recipient of the call didn't say much to the man - much less provide him with the building's location, police reports state.

Female football player's lawsuit against Duke ruled out of bounds

College Press Exchange

DURHAM, N.C. (CPX) - A federal judge has kicked out of court a suit filed against Duke University by a student wanting to become the first woman in the nation to play Division I football.

Heather Sue Mercer, a walk-on place kicker who graduated in May, sued the university and head football coach Fred Goldsmith in 1997, alleging that she was kept off the team because of her gender. She claimed her dismissal was in violation of Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination at institutions receiving public funds.

Mercer sought compensatory and punitive damages but collected

neither after U.S. District Court Judge Carlton Tilley, Jr. dismissed her case, ruling that the university and Goldsmith had "no obligation to allow Mercer, or any female, onto its football team." Title IX, the judge said, requires athletics programs to allow members of both genders on a single-sex team only when there is a comparable counterpart for members of the minority sex. Tilley added that Title IX does not apply to football because it is a contact sport of a kind that is explicitly excluded from the federal law.

"We are gratified but not surprised by the United States District Court's decision," said John F. Burness, Duke's senior vice president for public

affairs.

Mercer - a third-team, all-state selection in football in her senior year in high school - said Goldsmith told her she would have a spot on the team after she kicked a game-winning goal during a preseason scrimmage in 1995. Goldsmith told reporters the same, but later said he had spoken too hastily.

A local newspaper reported that Mercer has indicated she would appeal the ruling.

Still undetermined is a state claim of breach of contract that Mercer may continue fighting in a North Carolina court. In that case, Mercer argues that Goldsmith gave her a contractual guarantee when he told her she would get a spot on the team.

School drops 'Chiefs' nickname

College Press Exchange

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (CPX) - Efforts are underway at Oklahoma City University to drop the athletic team names of "Chiefs" and "Lady Chiefs" and to come up with a new mascot.

President Stephen Jennings, backed by the university's alumni association, said he would appoint a committee to choose a new logo and mascot that would debut in January. Administrators, alumni, faculty, students and athletic department staff will make up the committee, Jennings

said.

The Methodist-affiliated school is responding to the United Methodist Church's recommendation that all institutions somehow connected to the denomination - there are more than 100 across the nation - take another look at their existing use of mascots and logos.

The change is understandable, Athletic Director Bud Sahmaunt said.

"As an American Indian, I have not been offended by the use of the name Chiefs and always have been proud of the way OCU has respected the name," he said. "But I am sensitive

to the fact that other American Indians, particularly the younger generation, prefer that nicknames of this sort not be used."

The decision makes OCU the second Oklahoma school to change its logo and mascot from names associated with Native American culture. Earlier this year, Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., changed its mascot to the Crimson Storm. The university's teams had been called the Redskins since 1948.

World and Nation

New program aims to clean up after Paris' dogs

By Anne Swardson
The Washington Post

PARIS -- This city is finally getting serious about dog do.

For decades, Paris was known as the most beautiful city in the world -- as long as you didn't look down. Generations of poodles and spaniels did their business on the sidewalks under the indulgent gaze of their owners while tourists and non-dog-owning residents fumed.

Taxpayer-paid street cleaners and, more recently, vacuum-toting motorcycles did their best to rid the public ways of the 5.6 tons laid down by 200,000 dogs each day, but without any help from owners it was an Augean task. And the idea of owners picking up the messes was not welcomed.

Now, an experimental program has built fenced dog toilet enclosures all over one section of Paris, and employed sanitation specialists to urge owners to urge their dogs to go inside them. They do. The city's best-known park has added enclosures this year and set up plastic-bag dispensers. The police are ordering owners to pick up, and is fining those who don't.

"Globally it's positive," said Didier Beoutis, a deputy mayor of the 13th district of Paris, where the experimental enclosures have been deployed. "We are seeing a 20 percent reduction in dog turds on the sidewalk."

The most unusual aspect of the canine cleanup of Paris: It involves citizens. This centralized country has no tradition of voluntary responsibility of the kind that induces

dog owners in American cities to shovel their pets' leavings. To the extent most anything gets done here, the government does it.

"The civic level in France is not terribly high," said Patrick Marceau, operations director for the 60 "moto-turds," as the vacuuming motorcycles that suck up dog do are called. "Your average owner, he has his dog, he lets him go anywhere, he thinks, 'I pay my taxes, that's what they're for.' Cleaning up after dogs costs Paris \$12 million a year.

But France is discovering citizen activism, and nowhere more than in the domain of dogs.

For instance, on the Champ de Mars, the long park that extends south from the Eiffel Tower, an association of 2,000 dog owners was created in just a few weeks after park police tried

to ban non-leashed dogs last year. A former foreign minister, Herve de Charette, agreed to be honorary chairman. A delegation went to see officials at City Hall. They didn't whine -- they proposed ways of getting owners to pick up after their pets, in exchange for continued dog freedom.

"Instead of repression, we have communication," said Lucie Bulteau, secretary of the association, as her yellow Labrador, Jason, romped across the park. The city agreed to build the dog enclosures and provide bag dispensers and special trash cans. The park police hand out plastic bags and in theory can begin a process leading to fines, though they rarely do.

"We admitted the dogs could be a nuisance and accepted the idea of proposing solutions. In return, the

dogs can run free in certain parts of the park," Bulteau said.

In the 13th district in southeastern Paris, Marthe Philbert, 76, said her black-and-white mutt, Gus, has happily adapted to the new regime.

"We take a little walk and as soon as we get here, woop, he does his business," said Philbert, who has lived in the district since 1926 and is on her fifth dog. "And it's normal to pick up. I always do." She pulled a wad of paper towels from her pocket.

Some parts of Paris remain unpatrolled by moto-turds or owners. In the 20th district, for one, the sidewalks are smeared.

"My two young children go to school nearby, and our way there is very dirty," said resident Andre Midol. "I always tell them to look out, look out. A child spends all his

time looking down and can never look up at the world."

Midol is leading a petition drive for better police enforcement of owner pickup in the district -- he is a sociologist who specializes in issues of public security. If the government, in the form of vacuuming motorcycles, does the cleaning up, owners never will, he said.

"The moto-turds are a technical solution to a political problem," he said. "France places individual liberty ahead of collective needs. Our political leaders are petrified to interfere with that. In addition, they don't want to lower themselves to talk about such small things."

Via e-mail, surgeon assists lone sailor operating on himself

By Pamela Ferdinand
Special to The Washington Post

BOSTON -- The e-mail arrived from halfway around the world: A Russian sailor, alone aboard his competition yacht bobbing in the stormy South Atlantic, two scalpels and used gauze scattered about the cabin, wondered if he would die.

"Have been sitting on the bloody cabin floor almost completely naked ... watching as my life drop by drop leave me," Victor Yazykov typed on his keyboard last Thursday.

Yazykov, a former Russian commando and now a solo sailor, had sailed two months earlier out of Charleston, S.C., in one of the world's most difficult sailing tests, and was still 400 miles from Cape Town, his next port of call. His elbow had become infected and he had been forced to perform makeshift surgery on himself, winding a tight tourniquet around his arm. But the bleeding wouldn't stop.

At his office here at the New England Medical Center, physician Daniel Carlin knew something was going terribly wrong. Since the previous Tuesday, Carlin had been

communicating with Yazykov by satellite e-mail about his injury and how to treat it. He had sent Yazykov step-by-step instructions on how to slice into his elbow and drain a life-threatening abscess. But clearly the sailor had forgotten to tell him some key piece of information.

"The stakes were very high," Carlin recalled in a telephone interview Tuesday. "He was in an ocean with a lot of wind and waves. Losing his arm would have been a disaster."

In the end, Carlin was able to instruct his distant patient on how to stop his bleeding, and Yazykov - still competing in the ambitious solo race -- arrived safely in Cape Town on the tip of South Africa on Monday, ahead of four of his competitors and happy to be alive. Yazykov and Carlin spoke for the first time Tuesday morning by telephone, patched together by South African radio reporting on the remarkable long-distance surgery.

It was an experience unlike any other for Carlin, a 39-year-old emergency specialist who founded World Clinic Inc. to provide at-a-distance health care through modern

telecommunications. Usually his firm's clients call for something like a pharmacy in Portugal that carries yeast infection medication, he said.

This was different.

Electronic correspondence flew back and forth for days between Carlin, typing from the shelter of his medical office, and Yazykov, responding through an emergency solar-powered satellite communication system in a turbulent vessel northwest of Cape Town with no land in sight. The Russian could type only by day, and then just a paragraph at a time once an hour on an English keyboard, said Carlin, who spent sleepless nights worrying about his client.

The series of e-mail messages, reported here without Yazykov's spelling errors, tells the story of a dramatic rescue at sea.

The messages began Nov. 10 as Yazykov approached the end of the first leg of the Around Alone Race. Carlin was the sailors' "on call" physician.

"My right elbow does not look good. Some yellow spot in the middle of red, and it feels like dead," Yazykov typed. Ominously,

he added, "Waiting for your help."

Carlin messaged back that it could be an infection, but that he needed more information.

"All skin is glossy and shiny white," Yazykov wrote the next morning when his communications system could again transmit. "It is like a pillow with some liquid inside."

He said he was not in pain. But the description gave Carlin cause for alarm.

Yazykov had injured his elbow at the beginning of the race but, despite the worsening symptoms, he remained calm and rational. Perhaps because he did not realize that an abscess could kill him if it burst under the skin. Or perhaps, Carlin surmised, because he had once been a member of the Russian Special Forces in Afghanistan.

Carlin served as a volunteer doctor in Pakistan in 1988. Now, he said, two men who had been on opposite sides of a war came together by computer at sea.

"I needed him to do surgery on himself, and I didn't want him to be afraid," Carlin recalled. "I really just stuck to the facts. I told him what we had to do to fix the arm, and he

had already drawn the same conclusion. This guy is no stranger to pain."

With four hours to go until sunset in the South Atlantic and the onset of Yazykov's communications blackout, Carlin sent him 13 steps of instructions on how to operate on his arm.

The World Clinic had supplied all the sailing competitors with medical instruments, including two sterile scalpels, latex gloves, iodine, surgical scrub and some cotton gauze. Some competitors also had satellite telephones. But Yazykov could not afford that. So instead, he took the solar-powered device for beaming e-mail messages ashore.

Carlin's step-by-step instructions on self-surgery got through--shortly before the transmission went dead for the night.

On Thursday, Yazykov said he had successfully punctured the abscess, but could not stop the bleeding. Nor could he move the fingers of his right hand.

They had reached the lowest point of their ordeal. Yazykov, who never asked to be evacuated from his boat, was counting drops of blood and measuring the time he had left to

live. Carlin sent him some questions and stayed up all night not knowing what had gone wrong.

The next morning, Yazykov wrote that he had previously taken some aspirin to ease the pain of his injured elbow. Not realizing that aspirin thins blood and inhibits clotting, he had wrapped a tight cord around his arm to stop the bleeding, and his fingers went numb.

Carlin immediately sent back an e-mail telling him to remove the tourniquet and apply direct pressure to the wound. The bleeding stopped, and Yazykov has since reported only minor weakness in his thumb and forefinger. He is expected to make a full recovery.

"The arm getting better," he wrote Carlin on Sunday. "Very grateful to doctor."

Read the
Beacon every
Thursday