

Anatomy of the Minnesota investigation

by Kermit Pattison
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

ST. PAUL — Some witnesses lied. Others refused to talk. A few vanished. And some changed their story at the last minute. In the end, it took eight months of sleuthing and more than 250 interviews to nail down the truth: there had been widespread cheating in the Gophers basketball program.

"This was not a criminal investigation into one act or set of acts at one point in time," said Mark Rotenberg, the general counsel at the University of Minnesota, who oversaw the investigation. "This is something that allegedly went on for years. This makes the investigation very complicated and costly."

The investigation cost the university more than \$1.5 million. Investigators interviewed more than 150 witnesses and sifted through more than 55,000 documents. Further complicating the matter was the time span of the alleged cheating. Investigators tried to reconstruct events that took place more than five years ago and were unable to track down three witnesses.

The university hired two outside law firms to investigate the charges. Attorney Michael Glazier led the investigation for Bond Shoenick & King, an Overland Park, Kansas firm that specializes in NCAA violations. And attorney Don Lewis led a group of local investigators from the Minneapolis firm of Halleland Lewis Nilan Sipkins & Johnson.

The civilian lawyers lacked some of the weapons available to law enforcement agencies. Investigators could not subpoena witnesses or file perjury charges against those who lied. More than 20 witnesses refused to cooperate. Bobby Jackson, a former Gophers player who is now a member of the Minnesota Timberwolves, said he refused to meet with investigators, partly because he already publicly proclaimed his innocence.

"They called my agent to ask me, did I want to talk," he said. "And I said no. Why did they need me to talk? I'm not involved with the University of Minnesota no more, and that's how

I left it. Not to say I didn't want to, but what were they going to get out of me? I was going to say the same thing I've been saying the whole time. And it's just not right to put somebody into it that has nothing to do with it. And to try to accuse Clem Haskins of all these accusations is ridiculous. I know what type of person he is.

because Gangelhoff and Donahue both retained the same attorney, James Lord. Rotenberg called the arrangement a "flagrant conflict of interest."

"How those two ladies could have managed to see it was OK to have one lawyer represent them both is one of the marvels of this situation," he said.

dramatic moments of the entire investigation. Rotenberg and Yudof drove to Haskins' home to speak to the coach. Haskins recently had undergone knee surgery and received the visitors in his bedroom along with his personal attorney, Ron Zamansky. "Clem told us directly that he had no knowledge of any academic cheating and he never had done anything in violation of NCAA rules regarding his student athletes," recalled Rotenberg. "The president and I believed him."

The next day, Haskins agreed to step down. But Rotenberg said they still had not seen clear evidence that Haskins knew of the cheating. Then came an 11th-hour *coup de grace*. In the final month, unnamed players revealed that Haskins had given them cash payments and urged them to conceal information from investigators.

"They came forward and told us that Clem had instructed them not to be fully truthful with me when I questioned them in Seattle right before the NCAA tournament," said Rotenberg.

At that point, Rotenberg said, investigators confirmed what they already suspected: Haskins had lied and interfered with the investigation. "That had an impact on the tone and conclusions that the investigators reached," said Rotenberg. "It firmed up their view that coach Haskins had done some bad things." Investigators gave their report to university administrators. Yudof, a former law school dean at the University of Texas, approached the issue as a lawyer.

"He read every page of that document," said Brown. "He probably read more exhibits than I have. He is very meticulous. He is not of the opinion this should be decided by an opinion poll."

But did the inquiry uncover everything? Brown said she was confident the investigation would satisfy the NCAA but left open the possibility that there may be more revelations. "I think there could be surprises," said Brown. "You could have someone who refused to cooperate say you got it wrong or it wasn't complete."



KRT PHOTO BY JOE ODEN

Members of the media pick up copies of the University of Minnesota's investigative report on the academic fraud, Friday, in Minneapolis, Minn. According to the report, academic fraud was rampant in the men's basketball program while former coach Clem Haskins knew of the cheating and urged at least two players to lie.

And all these guys that are saying these things must have a chip on their shoulder or something, because I've never seen any special gifts from Clem, or the University of Minnesota."

Alonzo Newby, former basketball academic counselor, refused to answer investigators' questions. And some key witnesses maintained an antagonistic relationship with investigators and the university. In their report, investigators faulted Jan Gangelhoff, a former office manager, and Elayne Donahue, former academic counseling director, for revealing information to the media with a chilling effect on other potential witnesses.

And university officials complained that their inquiry was hampered

"You can quote me on that."

"University administrators received regular updates on the inquiry. They heard alarming reports: Newby had pressured the registrar staff to change a player's grade; a professor had given a student a "B" even though he suspected a paper had been plagiarized; another instructor gave a student an incomplete in order to protect his eligibility in the NCAA tournament.

"There was this kind of piling-on effect as more and more information came out," said Tonya Moten Brown, chief of staff to university President Mark Yudof. By June, university officials were convinced there had been widespread cheating in the basketball program.

Then came one of the most

The blotter: a weekly look at campus crime

by William Lee
Campus Correspondent Western Illinois University

EAST LANSING, Mich. (TMS) — The fallout continues from last March's riot that erupted in downtown East Lansing after Duke bounced Michigan State University's men's basketball team out of the championship playoffs.

Of the 132 people charged with participating in the melee, 71 are MSU students. Though nearly all of the charges are misdemeanors — such as disorderly conduct and public possession of open alcohol containers — 61 are felonies. Those charges include accusations of people setting cars on fire and destroying property belonging to downtown businesses.

Public outcry moved many East Lansing residents and MSU students into action. They provided hundreds of tips that led police to many of the suspects. The department's "Hall of Shame" — a Web site (www.ci-eastlansing.mi.us) featuring images of many of the suspects — allowed residents to identify rioters. The site alone generated more than 100 tips, said Judith Taran, administrator for the city's office of communication. "Because students at [MSU] have access to the Internet, many of them were able to just hop on and send us tips," she said said.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (TMS) — Police at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill made an arrest in connection with a rash of suspicious fires that plagued students living in one campus dormitory.

Daniel Sarrell, 19, a junior political science major from Arden, N.C., was charged Nov. 22 with one count of first-degree arson and was jailed on a \$10,000 bond, which was raised to \$250,000.

Police reported four fires in five days. The latest blaze took place the day Sarrell was arrested, when furniture in a student lounge was set on fire. The hall was evacuated and the fire quickly extinguished. No one was injured during any of the fires, which investigators said were similar in nature.

Sarrell is expected in court this week.

CARBONDALE, Ill. (TMS) — A former Southern Illinois University-Carbondale student convicted of selling LSD to a 19-year-old, who jumped to his death after ingesting the drug, was sentenced to six years in prison.

Nicholas Gootee, 20, was given the minimum sentence Nov. 19 for his involvement in Ben Ward's death on May 1. Gootee also was fined \$3,000 after pleading guilty to a charge of possession of LSD with intent to sell.

"I take full responsibility for possessing drugs and selling them," Gootee said in court. "I know what I did was wrong. Nothing I can say can take back what's happened in this tragedy."

"I'm sincerely sorry, and I'm ready to take responsibility for my actions." His sincerity was called into question when he hurled obscenities at Ward's mother and uncle as officers handcuffed him, according to the *Daily Egyptian*.

Another former SIUC student, Neal Rosenthal, who also was involved in the sale of LSD to Ward, has been sentenced to six years in prison.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (TMS) — Police questioned a University of Memphis student to determine whether she was ever harmed by the school's former men's basketball coach.

The coach, Tic Price, resigned Nov. 14 after allegations surfaced that he had had an affair with the student. Price, 43, apologized Tuesday to the university for his relationship with the 23-year-old woman, to whom he also admitted giving as much as \$17,000.

"I not only violated my marriage vows, but also my role as a coach and a moral leader of my players," he said during a press conference. University officials looked into the matter after someone faxed an anonymous note to the school about Price's relationship with the student. The note contained an accusation that the young woman was seen running bleeding and crying from Price's home and then later returning to it.

Police said the student refused to talk to them or file a complaint. No criminal charges have been filed. Price reportedly has signed a confidentiality agreement with the university, guaranteeing him a full annual salary, plus expected earnings from radio and television deals — in all, about \$456,400.

STANFORD, Calif. (TMS) — Excited revelers who attend future Stanford football games may find it much more difficult to rush the field for a post-game celebration.

Stanford, wanting to ensure student

"I take full responsibility for possessing drugs and selling them."

-Nicholas Gootee, convicted of LSD possession with intent to sell

Religion thriving on campuses across U.S.

TMS Campus

CHICAGO (TMS) — Religion is thriving on college campuses, but it doesn't look much like the high-church services students' parents may have attended years ago.

Students these days are more into spiritual exploration than formal worship, report researchers behind a new study funded by the Lilly Endowment. They presented their findings last week at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion.

The study focused on four campuses that were not identified but chosen for their distinct character. They included a state university enrolling more than 30,000 students; a Lutheran liberal-arts college with about 3,000 students; a private,

historically black university with fewer than 1,500 students; and a Roman Catholic university with more than 8,000 students. Researchers studied each campus for two years. They talked with hundreds of students and professors and observed religion classes and worship services.

Despite each campus' distinct religious character, researchers said students shared some common traits: they were more likely to consider themselves "spiritual" than "religious." Students viewed spirituality as a continuing journey and religion as a fixed set of rules handed down from their ancestors, said Conrad Cherry, director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University

Indianapolis, who led the project.

They were not likely to participate in religious organizations or attend worship service, but they didn't think that was an accurate indicator of their interest in religion.

They were very interested in courses on religion and deemed them a useful means by which they could sort out their own beliefs.

They felt spirituality and social service were closely linked. And while they may have their own unique approach to religion, they still considered public service an expression of their religious beliefs.

With the exception of the state university — where no one religion appeared to dominate — each of the campuses studied had its own religious identity, researchers said. They also noted that the campuses

appeared to enjoy a significant amount of religious tolerance — an indication, researchers said, that students aren't as loyal as their parents to any one denomination.

The study did reveal some tensions. Evangelical Christian groups were perceived by many to be anti-intellectual and superficial. Some professors also reported that they had a hard time persuading evangelical Christians of the importance of better understanding non-Western religions. Researchers said they also found discord among religion professors, some of whom viewed themselves as teachers of religious history, and others of who felt they should contribute to a student's spiritual growth.

N. Y. man accused of threatening female students

TMS Campus
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WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (TMS) — A man is accused of terrifying dozens of women on college campuses in the Midwest and West by calling them from his upstate New York home and threatening to rape and kill them.

Sean Robert Francis, 21, of Middletown, N.Y., was arrested Nov. 22 as he arrived for a meeting with his probation officer. He was charged with making more than 75 calls to young women he threatened to rape or murder.

Francis was held without bail in

the Westchester County Jail and could face five years in prison if convicted. His attorney refused to comment about the case. Francis' arrest relieved students at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Montana State University in Bozeman, North Dakota State in Fargo, the University of Oregon in Eugene and Oregon State University in Corvallis.

The calls, dorm officials said, didn't include the typical heavy breathing. "It was, 'Here's what I'm going to do to you,'" Tiffany Arrington, a dorm director at the

"There was definitely the threat of violence and sexual violence."

- Tiffany Arrington, a dorm director at the University of Kansas

University of Kansas, where Francis is believed to have made 14 calls in three hours, told the Associated Press. "There was definitely the threat of violence and sexual violence."

Police in Bozeman said the caller threatened to rape or murder women who didn't answer his sexually explicit questions. He also told many of his victims that he was watching them and would attack if

they didn't follow his orders. One student living in an apartment near Oregon State was convinced the caller was in her apartment and was so frightened she jumped from a second-story window, injuring both of her ankles during the escape, police reported.

After receiving numerous reports about the threatening calls, university officials and police worked together to trace phone records. Investigators found that the calls came from a house Francis shared with his father, stepmother and stepbrother.

University of Oregon police said some of the calls may have been

spurred on by a Playboy magazine featuring "Women of the Pac-10." They suspect the caller may have gotten the students' names and numbers from campus listings posted on the Internet. As a result, Montana State University already has changed its Web site.

This isn't the first time Francis has been accused of making threatening phone calls. He pleaded guilty in February to aggravated harassment in connection with two calls made to women in Goshen, N.Y. He was sentenced to three years probation.