

8—The Daily Collegian Monday, Aug. 29, 1983

FBI puts end to Milwaukee computer bandits' games

By TIMOTHY HARPER
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Neal Patrick, 17-year-old honor student and computer raider, writhed in his seat as the airplane taxied for takeoff.

Over the last few months, he had figured out how to use his small home computer to break into dozens of large, sophisticated government and business computer systems from New York to California. But now he couldn't figure out how to work his seat belt.

Finally fastened in, Neal was flown by NBC one night last week from his family's Eagle River, Wis., vacation home to Chicago for a television interview the next morning. He would also appear on CBS and ABC to talk about what he and six other young Milwaukee men did to trigger an FBI investigation and provide a big boost in business for computer security specialists.

The jet flights, the charged calls from producers, the chauffeured limousines—it's heady stuff for a 17-year-old. But then, this is a heady 17-year-old.

He and his buddies, who range in age from 15 to 22, cracked codes that allowed them to tap into computers at the Los Alamos, N.M., govern-

ment weapons research laboratory; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York; Security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles; the Milwaukee School of Engineering; Gaffney-Cline Associates, an oil industry consulting firm in Dallas, and Canada Cement LaFarge Ltd., a Montreal cement manufacturer.

Their raids apparently caused little or no damage to any of the computers they penetrated. But the fact that they did it at all—and on equipment widely available—shows how easily computer crimes can be committed.

The raids also show how the law has failed to keep up with new computer technology. For instance, there are questions about what, if any, crimes were committed. The federal government and most states have no specific laws aimed at people who invade a computer with no intention of stealing or changing any information.

What Neal Patrick and his friends did even requires a new use of language. Rather than saying they trespassed or broke into computers, both the young men and law enforcement officials say they "accessed" the systems.

Neal, the only one of the seven with immunity from prosecution,

has been the only one of the group to speak out in public. And he agreed to answer questions, he said, only because an acquaintance who was not a 414 had claimed he was one of the group and said he was not remorseful.

For Neal, the story begins a year and a half ago. That was when his father, Richard Patrick, who helps small companies set up manual bookkeeping systems, bought a modern for \$300.

A modem is a device that allows computers to "talk" to each other via telephone lines. In this case, it allowed Neal to use the family's 3-year-old TRS-80 Model 2 home computer from Radio Shack to talk to other hackers on computer "bulletin boards."

After receiving a \$300 phone bill for the first month after the modem was hooked up, Richard Patrick laid down the law to his son: no more long distance calls to billboards in other cities.

Neal did not stop making those calls, however. Instead he charged them to "borrowed" credit card numbers other hackers routinely shared via the bulletin boards as a way to avoid telephone tolls.

The seven young Milwaukeeans first met "on the boards," corre-

Another gray area

Experts call computer law unclear

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — What happens now to the 414s, the group of Milwaukee "computer hackers" whose fun was spoiled by the FBI, is not clear.

Paul Piaskoski, the Patrick family attorney, quickly negotiated immunity for 17-year-old Neal Patrick in exchange for information on what the raiders did and how they did it.

Piaskoski said what the 414s did was comparable to minor trespassing. He said some computer crime is like breaking and entering or burglary, but what the 414s did was more like standing outside a house and looking in through an open window.

"If you're just trying to obtain access, that is a gray area of the law right now," said Louis Fantl, a Coatesville, Pa., lawyer who heads the American Bar Association's Computer Crime Committee.

Piaskoski said that if the six other raiders are charged with any federal offense, it will probably be related to not paying for long-distance phone calls.

Piaskoski said the only apparent damage done was deletion of a file from the Sloan-Kettering computer. That file contained records on about \$1,500 in bills the hospital cannot now send out.

Wisconsin is one of 16 states with computer crime laws, and the penalties for unauthorized accessing range up to \$10,000 in fines and nine months in jail, Piaskoski, however, said he does not think the state will move against Neal or any of the others except at the recommendation of federal authorities.

Eric Klumb, the assistant U.S. attorney here in charge of the case, refused comment on when a decision would be made about charging any of the 414s.

police log

- The State College Police Department reported a burglary Saturday at 218 S. Sparks St. The individual(s) entered the building through a bedroom window and took cash, a pair of jeans and a wallet. The value of the missing items is estimated at \$82, police said.
- A resident of Wolf Hall told University Police on Saturday that an attempt was made to steal her vehicle parked in Parking Lot 44. A screwdriver-type instrument was used to enter the vehicle. The same type of instrument was used to attempt to start the car damaging the ignition beyond repair. No estimate of damage is available, police said. —by K.L. Kane
- Clinfelter's Carpet Shop, 1199 E. College Ave., told State College police Saturday that a rack was thrown through a window. Damage is estimated at \$700, police said.
- University Police Services reported Saturday that an individual struck a police vehicle on Shortridge Road. The driver was taken to Centre Community Hospital where a blood test determined that the individual was driving while under the influence of alcohol.
- Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, 406 S. Pugh St., told State College police yesterday that two speakers were missing from the building. The cost of the equipment is \$370, police said.
- Rishel's Sales and Service, 1352 E. College Ave., told State College police Saturday that four tires were slashed on three tractors parked on the property. A damage estimate is not available, police said.
- Rishel's Sales and Service, 1352

collegian notes

- The first meeting of the Juggling Club will be held at 8:30 tonight in 106 White Building. New members are welcome.
- The Aikido Club will practice at 7 tonight in the wrestling room of the Intramural Building.
- The Human Development student council will sponsor a free Monday Sandae Social at 7 tonight in the Living Center of the Human Development Building. All students in the College of Human Development are welcome.
- Dan Dupee will speak on "Knowing God" at 7 tonight in the Frizzell Room of Eisenhower Chapel.
- Consider joining a Personal Growth Group. Phone 217 Ritenour, 863-0395 for information.
- The HUB Craft Centre is conducting registration today for membership and craft classes from noon to 3 today, and Thursday in room 312 HUB.

Rain on Horizons dampens fun

By GRACE LOMONACO
Collegian Staff Writer

Despite the weather and calendar changes that hampered attendance at this year's Horizons festival, coordinators of the event said they were pleased with the results. However, they said, certain changes will be needed in the future.

Steering committee chairman Chris Kelly (senior-computer science) said because the festival was changed from spring to fall the steering committee lacked student interest.

Also, the festival should be scheduled at least two weeks later in the semester and only on a weekend because during the week, Kelly said, students are too busy with classes to participate.

"The idea was good, but people were just getting settled," Kelly said. "There's nothing you can do about it."

On Friday, the tables set up on the HUB lawn received a minimal turnout.

"People were stopping by and going to classes which had a lot to do with it," said Horizons master of ceremonies Ron Gallop. "It was a shame because they had a lot of different things to offer."

The Penn State Glee Club's performance was cancelled because a number of tenors had to attend classes at their scheduled performance time, Gallop said.

The Dance Band attracted a large audience on Friday night. When the band began playing, four people were on the HUB lawn. However, at the end of its show 150 people had gathered to listen, he said.

Gallop said he blamed the poor turnout on the fact that the festival could not be effectively advertised to returning students.

Saturday promised to have a better student population on the HUB lawn, but the rain dampened the festive atmosphere.

The bands Image and High Strung performed on the HUB lawn at their scheduled times before the rain, and the remainder of the bands had to be relocated in the HUB Ballroom.

Kelly said the performance by Cartoon had to be cancelled because it began raining immediately before its performance and the Horizons committee had to set up the sound system in the HUB Ballroom.

"Rather than being an hour behind schedule, we cancelled their performance," Kelly said.

Also, the group scheduled to perform after Cartoon, Ohio band Ronald Koal and the Trillionaires, was cancelled because it arrived at the University an hour late for the performance.

Do'a, a duo from New Hampshire that plays 25 instruments, attracted a crowd of about 150, Kelly said.

"It was a great show for those who attended," he said.

After the performance by Do'a, an older crowd filled the HUB Ballroom to watch the Neil Simon play "The Good Doctor," which closed this year's Horizons, Kelly said.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Monday, August 29

Tours of Pattee Library, graduate students only, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 1. Also Aug. 31, 7 p.m.

Kern Commons Print Sale, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Kern Lobby. Continues through Sept. 2.

P.S. Pre-Vet Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 111 (A.I.) Henning.

O.T.I.S. meeting, 7 p.m., Room 307 HUB.

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