



Times



William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey
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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WPU: CRIME LOG MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE

By Larry Clow
Staff Writer

William Paterson University violated federal law by failing to make its crime log accessible to the public, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The university also failed to record in the crime log a complaint about illegal fundraising on campus filed more than two years ago by David Rothman, father of former WPU student Jeffrey Rothman.

In an Oct. 14 letter to university President Arnold Speert, the Department of Education determined that WPU "violated several provisions of the Jeanne Clery...Act," a law that requires all universities receiving federal student aid funding to disclose campus crime logs and security information. As a result, the university must now revise its policies and provide access to the crime log, as well as amend the crime log to include Rothman's complaint. Failure to do so could result in a fine \$27,500 for each violation. The university has 30 days to respond to the letter.

"We did receive the letter from the Department of Education and we have asked...Deputy Attorney General...Cheryl Clarke to advise us," said university spokeswoman Mary Beth Zeman. "At this time, we can't comment on the issues that are raised in the letter because we're awaiting Cheryl Clarke's

response."

The Beacon and The Pioneer Times requested the crime log last spring from the university under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). The newspapers were instead provided with the "Department of Public Safety Daily Synopsis Report," a document that gives a bare-bones summary of the daily duties of campus police. Dr. Marc Schaeffer, custodian of public records for the university, said the "daily synopsis report" was the closest thing the university had to a police blotter.

"I was amazed—and said so at the time—when the university's response was to provide a so-called daily synopsis report that does not constitute a thorough crime log," said Dr. Tina Leshner, adviser to The Pioneer Times. Leshner wrote a personal check for \$78 to cover the cost of the OPRA request.

"At this point, the university is getting some negative PR relative to the crime log issue," said Leshner. "This could be reversed so easily if the school would simply make its crime log more readily available to anyone who seeks it."

The findings of the Department of Education were the result of a complaint filed by Rothman. In 2001, Rothman reported to campus police that members of the Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) fraternity had not turned over funds they raised for a scholarship in honor of Rothman's son who died on spring break in 2001. That

report was not included in the crime log and was not acted upon by campus officials, Rothman said.

"We decided to pursue why the school wasn't doing anything about it," said Rothman.

Rothman contacted Security On Campus, an organization that monitors Clery Act violations, and the Department of Education.

"We monitor the DOE Clery Act reviews very closely and are unaware of any prior cases in which the DOE had to address specifically what form, i.e. verbal, e-mail, formal police report, etc...a report to the police or security department had to take in order for it to be required to be included in the crime log,

" said S. Daniel Carter, senior vice president of SOC.

A civil suit brought by Rothman against three of the fraternity brothers was settled in October 2001 when they pleaded guilty to failing to adhere to a state statute that required them to gain permission from the family to raise money for the scholarship fund.

When asked if the university had investigated Rothman's report, state Deputy Attorney General Cheryl Clarke responded that Rothman did not file a report. But according to the Department of Education, Rothman reported the incident to "several individuals" at WPU.

"It was a two year struggle to get to
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SGA: divided by conflicts?

By Steven Baker
News Editor

Student Government Association President Olivia Amanfor has exposed internal conflicts that may run deep within the organization.

Reportedly, the charges that lead to the failed impeachment vote against Amanfor included a violation of SGA by-laws and election guidelines, failure to organize new legislator workshops and refusal to follow the prescribed rules of debate as found in the SGA constitution.

Additionally, Corey Schor, an SGA representative from the College of Humanities, charged that Amanfor failed to report to the SGA Executive Board on the more than \$2,000 in expenditures from the Special Projects line of the budget.

Amanfor calls the charges "unnecessary and irrelevant" and the impeachment attempt "a ridiculous, childish attack."

Schor moved for the impeachment of Amanfor at the Oct. 14 legislature meeting; the group voted 21 to 15 against impeachment. A vote for impeachment meant that the allegations against Amanfor would have been investigated by the Court of Judicial Review.

"The impeachment (attempt) is a result of personal issues some people have against me," said Amanfor, who is

serving her fourth term in the SGA.

"The point is that I have an open-door policy where anyone can come to

something wrong. I would encourage those that have any grievances with what we are doing to come forth."

These personal issues could be related to her ticket's winning the SGA executive election in the spring, said Amanfor.

In an Oct. 20 article published in The Beacon, SGA Treasurer Dwayne Frey suggested that some of the accusations against Amanfor were a form of double jeopardy since she had already been notified of the alleged infraction against the constitution.

But Schor rejected this interpretation.

"This could not have been double jeopardy. This [the legislature] is not a courtroom. We wanted to send it to the Court of Judicial Review [the first time], but it never got there," said Schor.

In the same edition of The Beacon, Schor made reference to leadership trips to Chicago and San Francisco that the current executive board took with SGA funds.

Refuting the claim that only a select few executive board members were invited to come, Frey said that attending these specific conferences is tradition in the board.

"These conferences were not chosen
SEE SGA, PAGE 3

WPU Hosts Fall Open House



Photo courtesy of staff

WELCOME TO WPU...Students Kym Vandernoort and Mike Bucca discuss the opportunities for would-be communication majors as part of the university's Open House on Sunday. The pair welcomed Open House visitors who toured Studio B, home to "The Cutting Edge" and "Live at Five," news shows that are produced out of the Communication Department.

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Crime Log, ask for
the Daily Synopsis
Report

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COMING ATTRACTION

WPU POLICE BLOTTER

Give us the crime statistics!

That has been the informal mantra of The Pioneer Times for the past year, as staffers began to realize that the university was not being upfront about the crime log.

The subject proved fodder for some spirited discussions in the Advanced Reporting class in the spring, and instructor Tina Leshner, a journalism professor and adviser to the Pioneer Times, suggested that a student file a request to get the university's crime log.

After all, the Clery Act mandates that colleges and universities make public their crime record. So, through the relatively new state Open Public Records Act (OPRA), senior Lori Michael made the request for the university's police blotter from January 2003 until the March date when she filed the request. She took the action not only as an Advanced Reporting student, but as a representative of the university's two newspapers, The Beacon and The Pioneer Times.

The response from the university?

WPU provided copies of what it termed the Daily Synopsis report.

And that is just what it was—a synopsis, not of crimes per se, but of the activities of the campus police who, it seems, get a lot of calls to open locked doors. Some minor infractions were included, but the daily synopsis clearly was not a police blotter.

So the university rested on its crime-free laurels. Make the synopsis available for anyone who wants it—and who would want it—and the police blotter could remain a mystery.

Now, with the federal government citing the university, that era is over.

At least we hope so.

As student journalists, we revel in the opportunity to engage in real-world reporting. Sometimes that requires going a step further—just to get the story.

We are proud that The Pioneer Times and The Beacon made a request that did not fall on deaf ears in the nation's capital.

Now let us see those crime records.

Commentary

Class assignment leads to deadend and new awareness: WPU broke the law

By Lori Michael

I was surprised to read in a recent issue of The Record that William Paterson University campus police broke federal law by not providing public access to its police blotter.

But when I reread the article, my shock dissipated and I felt relieved to know that someone other than me knew the school was breaking the law.

According to the Clery Act, universities and colleges that receive federal aid are required to make their police blotter available for public inspection. However, when I requested a copy of the blotter for an assignment in my Advanced Reporting class, I hit a brick wall.

Class assignment

Last spring for my advanced reporting class with Dr. Leshner, one of our assignments was to write a series, a sequence of three articles all related to a particular topic. I intended to write about crime on campus and compare previous incidences to current ones. I did not think there was going to be any huge problems.

I filed a request for the records through Dr. Marc Schaffer, the custodian of records at WPU, using the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). After paying \$78 (which Dr. Leshner provided) my request went through and I received not the police blotter but something the University called the "Daily Synopsis Report."

No police blotter

Dr. Schaffer, in a e-mail to me, wrote that the University didn't have a police blotter.
"There is no government record made by William

Paterson University entitled "Police Blotter," wrote Schaffer. "However, in the spirit of fostering public access to non-exempted records consistent with the legislative intent of the Act, in my role as Custodian I interpret your request to mean some ongoing log of crimes or incidents reported to or recorded by the Department of Public Safety. The name for such a record at William Paterson University is the "Department of Public Safety Daily Synopsis Report."

The Daily Synopsis, a 200 plus page document covering January 2002 to March 2002, was written in code and mainly revealed the activities of the public safety department which included locking and unlocking doors, and, minimally, mentioning things like car break-ins.

I felt the university was not taking me seriously. Something had to be done.

Other schools

My class and I did additional research and learned that WPU is the only New Jersey school that does not print a police blotter in its campus papers. What does the school have to hide if every other New Jersey school prints something?

In the end, I did not do the crime article since I could not get the information.

A university official told me that revealing the "true" police blotter could effect the school's reputation. But nothing can ruin a school's reputation faster than breaking the law.

Lori Michael is a May 2003 graduate of William Paterson University. She is a writer for The Shopper News.

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S P L C
STUDENT PRESS LAW CENTER

Internship Pay Off for WPU Alumna

By Lori McCurley
Staff Writer

"I was one of the lucky ones," said Diane Zisa.

Zisa, a graduate of William Paterson University with a bachelor's degree in communication, knew how challenging the country's job market would be and started preparing for her future several years ago. She now works as a videotape playback operator for the Fox News Channel and MSNBC.

"I interned at Fox News Channel spring semester of my junior year and they hired me on as a freelancer that May," said Zisa. "Basically, what I do is play the video that goes to air."

When Zisa began working at the Fox News Channel, she had long, irregular hours but her determination and sacrifice finally paid off. She showed her bosses that she was committed to her job. This enabled her to develop valuable contacts and even led to a freelancing position at MSNBC.

"I now have more steady, 'normal' hours, but I have worked all weekend long and done nights for the past year and a half," said Zisa. "I've worked all of those hours to let my bosses know that I am serious and show that I am a hard worker."

While Zisa is uncertain of where she wants her career to lead, her ever-willingness to succeed has given her the confidence to obtain her goals.

As a recent college graduate, Zisa hopes that students take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. They should keep in mind how important it is to complete an internship.



Photo provided by Diane Zisa
Diane Zisa shows how she puts video onto the air at her job with MSNBC.

"If you want a good chance of getting a job when you graduate they (internships) are invaluable," said Zisa. "Freelancing is a big thing in television. You'll meet a lot of people who work at many different places and they may be able to get you work at other places too."

Students should also be aware that they might not find their dream job right out of college.

"It's not easy to find a job, and when you find one, you have to work very hard to keep that job," said Zisa. "Success doesn't come right away once you graduate, nor does freedom."

Kathy Garbowski: Secretary on the Move

By James Mc Intyre
Staff writer

After nearly 16 years and two positions at William Paterson University you would think you'd have more to say about it, right?

Not so for Kathy Garbowski, the current Math Department secretary. Garbowski joined the William Paterson staff as the principal clerk/typist in the Continuing Education & Distance Learning Department.

At 19, Garbowski got a job at William Paterson for two simple reasons: benefits and fun. A West Milford resident, she also liked the job due to its close proximity to her home.

"Things were different 15 years ago. Back then if we worked for 25 years we were promised paid benefits for life, even after retirement," Garbowski said. "But that has changed, I did it because it seemed fun; after all this is a college."

Since the beginning of her career here at William Paterson she has outlasted four administrators and five buildings. When she first started out, Continuing Education was in the current dormitory, Matelson Hall. Shortly thereafter it moved to White Hall, then College Hall, and more recently Valley Road. As of Aug. 18, she has held the position of secretary in the Math Department at the ground floor of the Science building.

"The farther we moved off campus, the more business like it was. You lose that campus feeling, interacting with students," Garbowski said. "It's more about being on campus; you feel like you're a part of something, like when I started 15 years ago."

JUMPS

CRIME LOG

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get to this point," Rothman said. "Who are they to not give students the right to access their own records?"

Howard Robboy, an associate professor of sociology at The College of New Jersey and a board member of Security on Campus tried to access the WPU crime log in August 2003. University administrators were cooperative, he said.

"It has nothing to do with the police, it goes all the way from the top," Robboy said. Robboy is trying to show some colleges and university officials how to minimize crime.

Ramapo College and The College of New Jersey have also been found in violation of the Cleary Act in previous years, according to Carter, but have since come into compliance.

"(The Cleary Act) removes the incentive not taking a report or not acting on it. If anyone reports it (a crime) to (the university), it has to go into the crime log," Carter said.

SGA

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the board.

"These conferences were not chosen for their location," he said. "If they had been held in New York City or anywhere else close to the school, then we would have attended the conferences there."

However, Schor believes going "back and forth is childish at this point."

"I respect the decision of the legislature. I would like to move forward from this," he said. "I don't want to dwell on the past. If you keep looking to the past, the future won't seem any brighter."

Amanfor looks forward to the future of the SGA as well.

"The SGA is doing wonderfully," she said. "I look forward to working with everyone, even those who have their differences with me. I see the SGA being a productive body. We are student advocates and here to represent the students."

WPU Junior Determination Earns Her a Summer Post

By Erin Kolb
Staff Writer

When it comes to persistence, junior Bernadette Scott has what it takes.

After being rejected for an internship/scholarship offered by the New Jersey Press Foundation, she called the program director, Tom Engleman, to find out why she didn't get the post. She asked him what she needed to do to better her chances next time.

He was so impressed with her interest that he told her to resubmit her resume to the Press Foundation and he would look it over.

As a result Scott became a reporter this past summer for The Islander Newspaper. She covered events at bars, clubs, and festivals. Besides working 40 hours a week at The Islander she spent time as a general assignment reporter for the Red Bank Reporter.

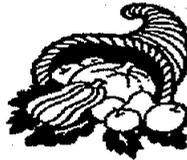
Scott claimed her favorite part of the internship was "getting the privilege to work in a room full of professional journalists and having the opportunity to see what I would be doing when I graduate."

Scott is planning on graduating in 2005. She says that having had this internship "helped open my eyes and get my feet wet" to the world of reporting.

The Asbury Park Press, the owner of The Islander, has offered Scott a full-time position as a reporter after she completes her undergraduate studies.



LND A HAND



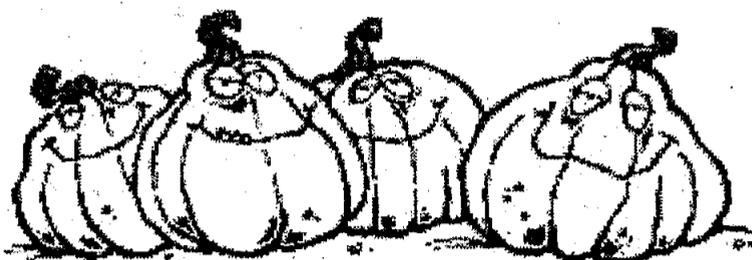
The Office of Special Adult Programs is in need of complete gift baskets (wrapped) for giveaways for the 6th Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner scheduled for Nov. 15.

Each basket to include items not to exceed \$25. Needed is any type of basket that includes canned goods, toiletries, paper goods, accessories, or any type of merchandise appropriate for a male or female.

All baskets are due in the College Hall Board Room by Nov. 12

For further information please call Valerie C. Marino at ext. 3804.

PIONEER ACTIVITIES



AT THE RECREATION CENTER

Thursday, October 30, 2003

11:00PM-2:00AM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Doubles Volleyball, Free Throw Contest, Lifecycle Challenge, Ping-Pong, Relays, Putt Putt Golf, Racquetball, Open Rec, Residence Life Banner Contest Award Presentation and more!!!

Prizes: T-shirts, Water Bottles, Free "Sample" Gifts and Free T-shirt Giveaways!!!

For more information contact the Rec Center at 973.720.2777.

Around the Campus

GLOBALIZATION CONFERENCE...

Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland and director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative, New York City, will give the keynote speech on Thursday at 6 p.m. at 1600 Valley Road. The talk is part of the two-day Conference on Globalization at the university.

TALENTED STUDENTS...

Music students who are recipients of the E-Trade Music Scholarships will perform Thursday at a special Middy Artists Series concert at Shea Auditorium on Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY SPORTS...

Upcoming on the schedule this Saturday, Nov. 1, is an away men's soccer game at New Jersey City University at 1 p.m. The cross-country team, led by senior Doug Wallis, will compete in the NJAC championship in Titusville at 10 a.m. The football Pioneers are away at Mt. Ida College at 1 p.m., and the field hockey team will play on campus against the visiting Richard Stockton College at 3 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS...

And it will be Thursday at midnight as the university's Pioneer basketball team kicks off another year with hopes of returning to Final Four glory.

THINKING OF GRAD SCHOOL?

A graduate studies Open House is slated on campus on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m.

REGISTRATION...

Students who want their RAN numbers to register for spring classes better hightail it to their advisers this week!