

Ex-Rutgers Student Sentenced In Incident

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — A former Rutgers University student who used a webcam to spy on his gay roommate was sentenced Monday to just 30 days in jail — a punishment that disappointed some activists but came as a relief to others who feared he would be made a scapegoat for his fellow freshman’s suicide.

Dharun Ravi, 20, could have gotten 10 years behind bars for his part in a case that burst onto front pages when Tyler Clementi threw himself to his death off the George Washington Bridge.

Instead, Superior Court Judge Glenn Berman gave Ravi a month in jail, placed him on three years’ probation and ordered him to get counseling and pay \$10,000 toward a program to help victims of hate crimes.

“Our society has every right to expect zero tolerance for intolerance,” the judge said.

Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said he will appeal the sentence, calling it insufficient.

Suicide Bomber Kills 96 Yemeni Soldiers

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A Yemeni soldier detonated a bomb hidden in his military uniform during a rehearsal for a military parade, killing 96 fellow soldiers and wounding at least 200 on Monday in one of the deadliest attacks in the capital in years.

Al-Qaida’s branch in Yemen claimed responsibility, saying in an emailed statement that the suicide attack was intended to avenge a U.S.-backed offensive against al-Qaida in a swath of southern Yemen seized by the militant movement last year.

The bombing left a scene of carnage, with scores of bleeding soldiers lying on the ground as ambulances rushed to the scene. Several severed heads were on the pavement amid large pools of blood and human remains.

“This is a real massacre,” said Ahmed Sobhi, one of the soldiers who witnessed the blast. “This is unbelievable. I am still shaking. The place turned into hell. I thought this only happens in movies.”

Al-Qaida said the bomber was targeting Yemen’s defense minister, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, who had arrived at the heavily secured city square to greet the assembled troops just minutes before the blast ripped through the area. He was unhurt.

Syria’s Violence Spreading into Lebanon

BIREH, Lebanon (AP) — Syria’s war barreled over the border with an angry, raucous funeral Monday for an anti-Syrian cleric whose killing set off a night of deadly street battles in Beirut and raised fears that Lebanon is getting drawn into the chaos afflicting its neighbor.

The violence is a reflection of Lebanon’s political dysfunction, a legacy of years of civil war when the country became a proxy battleground for other nations. Lebanon walks a fragile fault line over Syria, which had troops on the ground there for nearly 30 years until 2005 and still has strong ties to Lebanon’s security services.

To many observers, it was only a matter of time before the violence in Syria infected Lebanon. The U.N. estimates the Syrian conflict has killed more than 9,000 people since March 2011, when President Bashar Assad started cracking down on a popular uprising.

“The Syrian regime is seeking to sow chaos in Lebanon!” Khaled Daher, a Sunni member of parliament, said during a fiery speech Monday at the funeral for Sheik Ahmed Abdul-Wahid, the slain anti-Syrian cleric. “But we will not be scared.”

Daher stood surrounded by Sunni clerics and armed gunmen in the northern village of Bireh, Abdul-Wahid’s hometown. Syria is visible across the border, on the other side of a green valley dotted with homes and farms.

UN Nuke Chief Eyes ‘Progress’ On Iran Probes

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The head of the U.N. nuclear agency pushed Monday for a breakthrough pact with Iran to resume inspections into suspected secret atomic weapons work and possibly set in motion further dealmaking when envoys from Tehran and world powers gather later this week in Baghdad.

The mission by International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano — his first to Iran since taking the post in 2009 — raised speculation about greater flexibility by Iranian officials as they struggle to balance the blows from Western sanctions and their insistence never to abandon the country’s nuclear program.

But any Iranian cooperation — including possibly opening up a military site to U.N. inspectors — will carry reciprocal demands that the West may consider reaching too far, too soon.

Tehran has already signaled its goal before Wednesday’s talks: Pressing the U.S. and Europe to roll back sanctions that have hit critical oil exports and blacklisted the country from international banking networks. The West’s opening gambit, meanwhile, may aim at one of Iran’s most prized advances — its ability to make nuclear fuel.

A main concern is Iran’s production of uranium enriched to 20 percent, which is far higher than needed for regular energy-producing reactors but used in medical research. The U.S. and allies fear the higher-enriched uranium could be quickly boosted to warhead-grade material.

Man Who Coined ‘Pink Slime’ Explains Origin

NEW YORK (AP) — “Pink slime” was almost “pink paste” or “pink goo.” The microbiologist who coined the term for lean finely textured beef ran through a few iterations in his head before he decided to send an email about the filler to a co-worker at the U.S. Department of Agriculture a decade ago. Then, the name hit him like heartburn after a juicy burger.

“It’s pink. It’s pasty. And it’s slimy looking. So I called it ‘pink slime,’” said Gerald Zirnstein, the former meat inspector at the USDA. “It resonates, doesn’t it?”

The pithy description fueled an uproar that resulted in the main company behind the filler, Beef Products Inc., deciding to close three meat plants this month. The controversy over the filler, which is made of fatty bits of beef that are heated and treated with ammonium to kill bacteria, shows how a simple nickname can forever change an entire industry.

In fact, the beef filler had been used for decades before the nickname came about. But most Americans didn’t know — or care — about it before Zirnstein’s vivid moniker was quoted in a 2009 article by *The New York Times* on the safety of meat processing methods.

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NATO Summit

Questions About Protest Mindset Arise

BY TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — For activists, the NATO summit in Chicago served as one big stage from which to air a broad range of grievances — not just the war in Afghanistan or other actions of the 63-year-old military alliance.

In their effort to maximize turnout, organizers were quick to welcome a wide variety of interests, including Occupy protesters, immigration groups, the nation’s largest nurses union and others.

But after a week of protests and rallies, the all-inclusive mindset raised questions about the focus of some of the nation’s major protest movements. Were their messages becoming too diffuse to make a difference?

“The issue with the protests here is that everybody is kind of protesting their own thing. There’s not really a solid voice and united message against NATO,” protester Trent Carl said Monday during a demonstration at Boeing Co. headquarters organized by Occupy Chicago to oppose the company’s tax breaks.

Carl, who said he was not part of the Occupy crowd, was disappointed that the week’s protests weren’t more focused on NATO.

“Everybody has their own message, (and) it isn’t super-effective when you want to get a singular message across,” said Carl, who said he came out specifically to protest U.S. and NATO actions in Yemen and Pakistan, where he has friends and family.

In the days leading up to the two-day summit, nurses rallied in a downtown plaza to call for a “Robin Hood” tax on banks’ financial transactions. The next day, groups marched to Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s house to protest the closure of six community mental health clinics.

At other times, noisy protesters snaked aimlessly through downtown streets, evading and taunting police. One activist even abandoned a march that began as an environmental protest because it had been “hi-



SCOTT STRAZZANTE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT
Protester Susann Doveikis-West hugs a Chicago Police Officer during a protest in front of President Barack Obama’s campaign headquarters during NATO Summit in Chicago on Monday.

jack’d” by a raucous group with no focus.

Then on Sunday, they all came together for the largest effort — a march against the NATO summit that was peaceful until the end, when some protesters clashed with police for a couple of hours, throwing boards and bottles. Some officers struck back with batons.

Many of the activities were originally planned to coincide with the G-8 economic summit that was to be held in Chicago for two days before the NATO meetings. So when President Barack Obama in March moved the G-8 to secluded Camp David, Md., some groups decided to hold their protests in Chicago anyway.

“Our main goal was to elevate our local neighborhood struggles in Chicago to the international stage, and we feel we did that,” said Rachael Perrotta, a spokeswoman with Occupy Chicago, who estimated about 500 Occupy supporters from around the country showed up for the protests.

And now that they’ve met face-to-face, “it is really going to strengthen the movement and lead to more cohesive national days of

action and better organizing in general at the national level,” she said.

Jesus Palafox, a Chicago activist with the American Friends Service Committee, said the fact that so many groups came together energized many movements, including the quest to preserve union rights.

Many city and school contracts are expiring soon, raising the possibility of strikes, he said, and the Chicago meetings will “be a jumping-off point” for union protests.

And anti-war activists, who worked hard to drum up support for the NATO march by linking U.S. war

spending to economic cuts at home, said they were successful, too.

“You saw the new generation of the anti-war movement,” said Joe Iosbaker of the United National Anti-war Coalition in Chicago.

But others weren’t so sure what the weeklong protests accomplished.

Marching along with protesters to Boeing, Kevin Murphy said he had been disappointed with what he called a small and “very disorganized” movement. He doubted it would change the minds of any of the world leaders at the summit.

The farmer from Beaver Dam, Wis., said he came to Sunday’s march to protest the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and decided to stay for the march to Boeing.

Some protesters, particularly those who threw objects at police, were too young to know “what they are talking about,” he said. “Instead of doing this, they should just vote.”

Estimates for Sunday’s march varied widely — police said about 2,200 participated. Organizers said 15,000. But either way, the number was far less than the 500,000 who marched through the streets of Chicago in 2006 to call for immigration reform or the tens of thousands organizers predicted would march when both the G-8 and NATO summits were to be held here.


Joe Lombardo, a New Yorker who belongs to the United National Anti-War Coalition, said the turnout and diverse views in Chicago do not signal that any one movement is floundering.

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