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INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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January 17, 1996

WEDNESDAY

Assault spurs safety concern

BY COURTNEY CHALLOS
AND DEBORAH MORA
DAILY ILLINI REPORTERS

Following the most recent in a series of sexual assaults that took place within the campus community, University officials and police are advising female students, in particular, to take extra precautions to ensure their safety.

According to a news release from Bill Murphy, associate chancellor for public affairs, a University student was sexually assaulted last

Thursday at about 10 a.m. while in her apartment located in southeast Urbana.

"The woman was in her apartment when she noticed a man standing in her doorway. He threatened her with a fire extinguisher, demanded money, then sexually assaulted her," the release said.

This assault is considered to be the fourth in a series of recent stranger assaults in Urbana, Murphy said.

"The police feel there may be a connection" between the four Urbana assaults and one that recently

took place in southwest Champaign, said Champaign Police Chief Don Carter. The victim was not a University student in the Champaign assault, Carter said.

According to statistics in a report from the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, between Sept. 1 and Dec. 22 of last year, four sexual assaults against University females occurred in addition to the other five assaults.

In two of those cases, the students were said to be attacked by acquaintances, while the other two involved

attacks by strangers, according to the report.

Although University officials have no current plans to increase security as a result of these assaults, efforts to increase safety on campus have been ongoing since the murder of University employee Maria Pia Gratton in October, Murphy said.

Safety measures include the installation of more emergency phones and the increase in lighting around campus.

more Assault on 6

Bad checks land students on Internet

BY DEBORAH MORA
ADMINISTRATION REPORTER

Several University students have recently found their names listed on the World Wide Web—for writing bad checks.

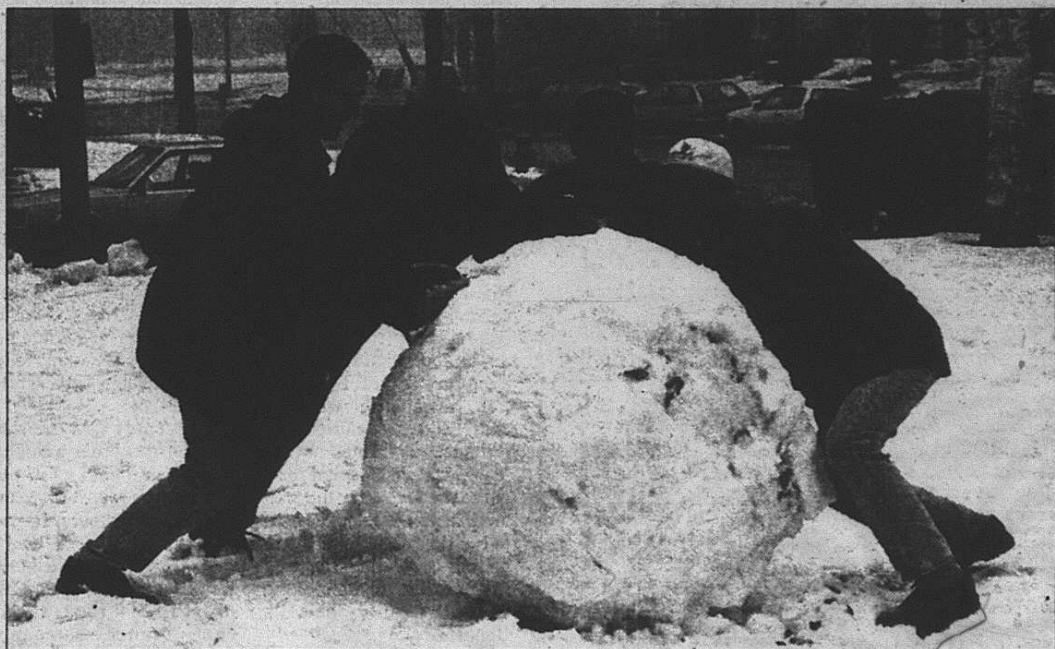
Listed on the World Wide Web homepage of Suburban Express, 502 E. John St., Champaign, are the names of customers who have paid for their bus tickets with bad checks, as well as people the company plans to sue.

After clicking on a name, a scanned-in version of the actual bounced check appears on the screen, complete with an address, phone number and social security number.

Suburban Express also details how one can "get onto this page."

- "Write a bad check and fail to make good on the check and the \$25 service charge."
- "(optional) Be sued by

more Checks on 6



JOHN J. KIM THE DAILY ILLINI

Ball of fun

Members of Sigma Chi fraternity attempt to roll a yard full of snow into a ball Tuesday afternoon in front of their house on Armory Avenue. "We're just having some good old pledge class unity," one member said.

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As soon as University officials review the details of the sexual assaults, such as the time of day the assaults occurred, the location of the attacks, as well as other information, the University will develop further strategies to increase safe-

Checks

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us."

● "(optional) Fail to satisfy any judgment against you."

Several bad check writers who were listed on the homepage were not aware their names were included on it.

Andrew Bird, freshman in FAA, said, "It kind of angers me especially since the bad check wasn't my fault."

"I don't know what purpose it serves except to ridicule other people," said another person on the list, Rogelio Aranda, senior in communications.

Several Internet newsgroups on

ty on campus.

In the meantime, police are urging students to:

● Keep doors and windows locked when at home, even during daylight hours.

● Be aware of surroundings and watch for suspicious persons and vehicles.

● Travel in groups and in well-lit areas when out at night.

● Report any unusual activities

campus have challenged Suburban Express's practice of posting people's names along with their bounced checks on the Web.

Joe Gross, senior in engineering and subscriber to the newsgroup, said he thinks such practices will hurt Suburban Express's business. "It shows they're a bunch of slimeballs," Gross said.

Steve Helle, professor of communication law, said the publicizing of the bounced checks on the Web does provide possible grounds for invasion of privacy because the private checks are not a matter of public record.

However, Helle said the matter depends on whether a jury would think the action was "highly offensive to a reasonable person."

However, business practices of

or problems to the police.

University Police Officer Joan Fiesta said students living in apartments should also refrain from propping open their security doors.

But the most important safety tip students should keep in mind is communication, Fiesta said.

"Let people know where you are and if you're in danger," she said.

prominently posting bad checks are not uncommon, said Stuart Laird, president of the Champaign County chapter of the Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Laird said when a customer pays a merchant, both parties enter into a contract together. Therefore, when the customer offers payment with a bad check, the contract is violated and the merchant has the right to publicize the customer's name and check.

In short, Laird said, "If you don't want to be on the Web, don't write a bad check."

Suburban Express officials refused to comment on its practice. However, its homepage states, "Send complaints about this page to: Your Mother."

SAVOY 14

355-9475

\$4.00 • DAILY SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM
• ALL DAY TUESDAY

Two 8 By One (R) 11:30 1:20 3:20
5:20 7:35 9:45 (11:45)
Toy Story (G) 11:00 12:45 3:00 5:00
7:00 9:00 (11:00)
Sabrina (PG) 11:45 4:35 7:05
The American President (PG-13)
2:15 9:25 (11:50)
Waiting to Exhale (R) 11:45 2:05
4:25 6:50 9:15 (11:45)
Eye For An Eye (R) 11:30 1:30
3:30 5:30 7:45 9:50 (11:50)
The Pornographer (R) 12:20 2:45
4:50 7:20 9:30 (11:40)

Heat (R) 12:15 3:45 7:30 (10:45)
Gunslinger Kid Iken (PG-13) 12:30
2:40 4:45 7:25 9:30 (11:40)
Jumanji (PG) 12:00 2:45 5:00 7:15
9:20 (11:30)
12 Monkeys (R) 11:45 2:10 4:35
7:10 9:40 (12:00)
Bio-Dome (PG-13) 11:15 1:15 3:15
5:15 7:15 9:15 (11:15)
Father of the Bride 2 (PG) 12:10
2:30 4:40 7:20 9:40 (11:45)
Tom & Huck (PG) 11:00 12:55
3:10 5:10 7:10

Nixon (R) 9:00
 Lawnmower Man 2 (PG-13) 11:05*
 1:05 3:05 5:05 7:40 9:35 (11:35)
 Mr. Holland's Opus (PG)
 Brook Previews Sat. 7:00

* Sat/Sun Only

() Fri/Sat Only

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is looking for honest, hard-working
people to fill student patrol positions.
Duties include: serving as the eyes and