

The Briefing Board



Volume 1, Issue 6 MAY 2004

MAY 2004

COLUMBINE INCIDENT AVERTED

A Columbine type incident was thwarted by the quick work of Kern County Sheriff's Department working closely with Kern High School District Police and Bakersfield Police Dept. Steve Alvidrez, Chief of Police, Kern High School District indicated several Centennial High School students were allegedly sending e-mails to each other planning to kill other students at the school.

The students allegedly planned to steal a car, drive it through the school cafeteria and then use the diversion to kill the School District police officer. The Freshman students would then shoot seven other students at the school.

The plan was discovered when one of the students receiving the e-mails notified the Kern County Sheriff's Department. "The investigation went very smooth," according to Alvidrez. "It was total cooperation between the county, the city and school police with no egos interfering with the investigation.

The District is taking action against five students and one student was arrested and several weapons removed from his residence. One Bakersfield high school student has been arrested and four others suspended after authorities uncovered an alleged plot to kill other students and a campus police officer.

"We were able to handle the incident before the media became involved," according to Chief Alvidrez. "The campus police and other campus officials were able to manage the crisis before it became the focus of the media", stated Alvidrez.

For more info contact Chief Steve Alvidrez, 661-827-3219

CAPITOL WATCH

The week of May 3, 2004 was a busy budget week at the state capitol. With the Governor's May Revision less than a week away, budget sub-committees in both houses began to engage in serious budget deliberations.

Sub-Committees in both the Senate and the Assembly wrestled with the issue of TANF funding for juvenile probation camps and related juvenile services. Although the shape of the actions differed slightly between the two houses, the committees were unanimous in their conclusion that juvenile probation camps and the related juvenile services needed to be funded - whether out of TANF dollars or out of general fund dol-

Senate Budget Sub-Committee Sub Four also dealt with some law enforcement budget issues. That Sub-Committee rejected a proposal by the Legislative Analyst which would have terminated the booking fee reimbursement funding to city police departments while at the same time preserving the counties' power to impose booking fees on city police. The Sub-Committee also brushed off a Legislative Analyst proposal that would have terminated funding for COPS/Juvenile Justice programs.

The Senate Judiciary Committee again rejected vehicle pursuit legislation that would have made local agencies civilly liable for the harm caused by a fleeing suspect in a vehicle pursuit. Law enforcement representatives, including representatives from the California Peace Officers' Association, are developing a law enforcement alternative to the vehicle pursuit legislation that is currently pending in the Legislature.

Capitol Watch is produced by the California Peace Officers' Association and written by John Lovell, Government Relations Manager. For further information, please call CPOA at 916/263-0541 or fax 916/263-6090. To contact Mr. Lovell directly, please call 916/447-3820 or fax 916/441-1974.

**California College and University Police Chiefs Association
Training Bulletin
The Student Press
By Rob O'Neal, Journalism Professor**



Yours is a job of public safety, but like your counterparts on the federal, state and local levels, the nature of your work brings you in regular contact with the press.

The outline below, by no means complete, is meant to serve as a guideline for those attempting to understand and better work with journalists.

'Student Press' defined: The term no longer refers to campus newspapers alone, but more and more to college broadcast outlets and websites as well.

Journalist View: Most journalism professors and faculty newspaper advisers do not check or preview the content of their college newspaper before it is published.

There are several reasons for this:

- A. **It is illegal.** College media outlets generally enjoy the same First Amendment privileges as their professional counterparts.
- B. **It is impractical. Much** news is gathered and produced under deadline pressure; there is no time for the usually solo adviser to see, much less grade, material in advance of publication.
- C. **It is educationally unsound.** Journalism teachers frequently do not give mid-terms or final exams to their students; each time the paper is published, the students are taking the equivalent of a final exam.

Not surprisingly, some students do better than others on these 'tests.' The only difference is, like the football team or concert choir, the performance of the newspaper staff is seen by the public.

1. Public Safety Viewpoint: You as an individual also have First Amendment rights.

No law or rule obligates you to speak personally to a reporter. But much of the work of your agency-reports, budgets, crime stats-is public information.

1. Journalist View: It is common news media policy to not allow sources to review stories **before they are printed.**

2. Public Safety Viewpoint You have a right to expect accuracy and fairness.

Are you sometimes asked a vague, or perhaps a 'loaded question' (e.g., "Why do your officers harass students all the time?~)? Request that the reporter repeat, or clarify, the question. Ask for specific incidents.

If you are concerned about being misquoted, ask the reporter to read your words back to you.

Your job invariably finds you providing sensitive, legal and sometimes technical information. Emphasize any concerns you might have to reporters and feel free to request (please don't demand) an opportunity to see or hear those specific parts of a story.

3. Journalist View: Most campus newspapers are produced by students earning college credit for their work. Like the general student population, our writers, editors and photographers run the gamut in their professional and personal skills.

3. Public Safety Viewpoint: Uphold your right to be treated professionally and courteously.

Student reporters should:

- ✓ dress appropriately and carry a press pass identifying them as a member of your campus media
- ✓ when possible, schedule appointments in advance to see you.
- ✓ not expect you to give a full-blown interview while you are in the midst of investigating an incident, your supervising your personnel in a public safety situation.

4. Journalist View: Many college newspaper staff members-and most community college journalists-have off-campus jobs, many of them full-time. They also have other obligations (academic, familial) just as you and the rest of their sources do.

4. Public Safety Viewpoint: You are a busy person, too.

You have the right to not have your time wasted by reporters who:

- ✓ Neglect to prepare for, or background themselves on, a situation when it would have been easy for them to do so.
- ✓ Offer their unsolicited opinions on the issue at hand
- ✓ .Share their "life stories" with you.

Feel free to ask a reporter for his deadline and ... when the story was assigned.

Training Bulletin

California College and University Police Chiefs Association
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The Student Press
By Rob O'Neal, Journalism Professor
Pierce College



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5. Journalist View: Reporters and photographers always have deadlines to meet. Weekly newspapers try to allow up to 7 days for assignments. But understandably, many stories involving public safety are "late-break," leaving reporters a day or perhaps only hours, to complete an assignment before press time.

5. Public Safety Viewpoint: You have no obligation to accommodate a journalist who has waited needlessly until just before deadline to contact you.

Similarly, in non-emergency situations, reporters should not expect detailed reports or explanations from you as you are about to go off shift or begin your days off.

6. Journalist View: A picture is truly worth a thousand words.

- ✓ Do not demand to select or preview pictures being used
- ✓ Be aware that just because a photo is being taken does not mean it will be used.
- ✓ Do not restrict photographers to areas further away from incident scenes than those in which you permit ordinary citizens

6. Public Safety Viewpoint: Familiarize yourself with laws regarding journalistic access to accident and crime scenes.

AFTER PUBLICATION

A story or editorial, perhaps with photos, has been published. You feel the situation has been misrepresented, that a story or caption contains erroneous information.

- What are your options?
- Contact the writer or photographer, the page editor, or the editor in chief of the paper. The students are the ones responsible for the content, not the advisor.
- If a story contains a serious error in fact, such as the misspelling of a name, wrong time, date, location or charges filed, request that the newspaper print a formal correction in at least as prominent a place as the one where the error occurred. Sometimes these are called "For the Record."
- A common response to a your disagreeing with content in the paper will be a request for you to write a "Letter to the Editor." This is not an attempt to 'shine you on.' Reputable papers welcome letters from readers and the opportunity to set the record straight, if a mistake has been made.

IF you have tried all of the above, and receive no satisfaction regarding what you see as a **serious error or** issue of fairness, contact the faculty advisor.

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Return phone calls at your earliest convenience, even if it is only to say that you
- are not the proper source for a particular story, or that you cannot be of assistance.
- In the event of your absence in an emergency:
 - designate a media spokesperson (possibly the campus PIO)
 - leave your home or cell number with a member of your own public safety staff who can reach you with callback numbers from the press.
 - leave a prepared statement for the press.
- Write a "Letter to the Editor." Naturally, praise means a lot to student journalists, but constructive letters of criticism are welcome.
 - Be proactive. Don't wait until an emergency occurs to meet members of your student press.
 - Arrange periodic meetings with editors and their staffs to explain your role as part of the campus community.
 - If time permits, offer to speak to basic reporting classes
 - Host key journalists on 'ride-along.'
 - Solicit the help of the student press, e.g. provide car theft prevention tips, sketches of wanted suspects. etc
 - Suggest story ideas. Features stories on such topics as bicycle patrols, self-defense clinics and K-9 teams are naturals.

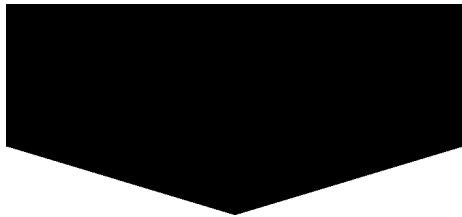
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From the Watch Commander-CCUPCA AWARDS

CSULB GETS NEW DIGS

The CSU Long Beach Police Department just completed its move into a new building. Although it is only 6,000 square feet, this almost doubles the space the department had in its old facilities. Police is the only occupant of the new station where they had to share the old building with Facilities Management. In addition to the new station, a sub-station is still maintained in the Student Union Building that houses the Department's Crime Prevention and Community Services Officer Programs and a dedicated EOC that doubles as the office of the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

DIRECTORY

The CCUPCA campus safety directory will soon be available on. Line through the CCUPCA web site.

CAMPUS SAFETY JOURNAL

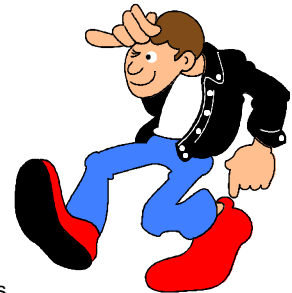
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SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

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CCUPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday June 18, 2004
Cuesta College
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Briefing
Board" is

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Or mail to

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