The Daily Collegian
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UM officer injured at football game returns to work

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A University of Massachusetts police officer who was severely injured when he was allegedly kneed in the groin by a UMass ROTC cadet, returned to work Monday after two weeks of recovery.

During routine patrols before the Oct. 4 football game, four UMPD officers noticed a group of tailgaters disrobing and swimming in a portable pool in the back of a pickup truck in Lot 22 outside McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Officers said that most of the men obeyed when asked to stop, get out of the pool and put on their clothes.

However, officers said Marshal D.P. Keating, 21, of Edgewater, N.J., resisted.

"It continued to escalate and Keating refused to cooperate with officers," said UMPD Deputy Chief Patrick Archbald. "He continued to dive into the pool from the top of the truck. He was completely naked and began to flash everyone."

Once Keating emerged from the pool, police said he continued to provoke the gathering crowd and then advanced toward the officers.

"The four officers tried to arrest him, but he was wet and slippery and he then kneed an officer two times in the groin, requiring the officer to go to the hospital in an ambulance," Archbald said.

The injured officer was admitted at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, reportedly experiencing intense pain, nearly passing out, and was given morphine.

Officials declined to release the name of the injured officer, who was fully cleared by a physician before returning to his duties yesterday.

"He did his duty and wants to focus on being a police officer," said UMPD Chief of Police Barbara O'Connor. "I think he just wants to put all of this behind him."

Police arrested Keating at 3:15 p.m., about 15 minutes prior to the start of the football game between UMass and Delaware. Keating faces charges of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct on an outstanding warrant, as well as assault and battery on a police officer, which is a felony offense, Archbald said.

Tailgating prior to football games is allowed at the University, but officials said they took action in this instance because they worried that the conduct of people in the pool could cause problems.

"This is the sort of incident that gets quickly out of hand," said Archbald.

The attendance at the day's game was the largest crowd for a regular season UMass game since 1974, with an estimate exceeding 16,000 fans.

In a separate incident during the tailgate, Alexander S. Costas, 19, of Newburyport, Christopher R. Lufkin, 18, of Gloucester, and Andrea Spector, 19, of Peabody, were all arrested on charges of being minors in possession of alcohol, police said.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mrochele@student.umass.edu.

POLL

This month, UMass Chaplain Kent Higgins was reprimanded by the University for offering credits to students for their participation in the Obama campaign. Should a state university offer credits to students for partisan campaigning?

- Yes -- it encourages educated citizenship.
- No -- it compromises the University's ethic.
- It's all the same to me.

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Witness
posted 10/22/08 @ 12:13 AM EST

"He continued to dive into the pool from the top of the truck. He was completely naked and began to flash everyone."

This is a lie because I was there and he was not completely naked. (Continued…)

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Ed
posted 10/22/08 @ 8:17 PM EST

And if the cops hadn't stopped him, and the damn fool broke his neck, which isn't hard to do when diving into shallow metal truck beds, then UMass would get sued. (Continued…)

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matt
posted 10/22/08 @ 10:07 PM EST

This kid gives a bad name to the United State Army. They should kick him out.

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