



Hacker breaks into Web site, steals credit card numbers

CHRISTIAN MCPHATE
OPINION EDITOR

Computer hackers broke into MSU's Web site and stole at least eight credit card numbers of people who planned to register for a November health conference on campus, it has been learned.

Vinson Health Center is sponsoring the "College Health in the Southwest" conference Nov. 16-17 as part of the annual meeting of the

Southwest College Health Association.

According to Police Chief Michael Hagy, the site was set up to accept credit card numbers from across the country. The MSU business office would verify and charge the accounts for the event. However, the Web site was not a secure page so the vulnerable credit accounts became an easy target for hackers.

"Someone had spotted some unknown charges on their credit card

account and alerted us," Hagy said.

Hagy said most of the credit cards belonged to individuals from other colleges.

Investigating Officer Douglas Lynn said he contacted the eight individuals and discovered that attempts were made to commit fraudulent charges on each of their accounts.

None of the attempts were successful, he said.

Each person's account was

closed, Lynn reported.

Janus Buss, director of public information and marketing, said campus Webmaster Robert Steflik had used an online shopping cart program, PD Shop Pro, manufactured by Page Down Tech, to secure credit card numbers.

"Because it is a commercial product, a hacker can purchase the product and tear it down," Buss said.

She explained that the thief learns the ins and outs of the program by

taking it apart and studying the internal components of the software.

Law enforcement officials believe whoever broke into the site was from outside the United States.

"Somewhere in Indonesia," Hagy said.

Hagy said investigators were able to get the Internet Protocol address, but foreign countries do not require companies that route transactions using the WWW to maintain log files like in the United States. This

makes it almost impossible for law enforcement agencies to track hackers from other countries, he said.

However, most hackers in this country are able to change their IP address as well, the police chief said.

"So they could be right next door or down the street," Hagy said.

Buss said the school is not going to take online credit card payments

See **Theft** page 4

MUSTANGS PRIDE



Calvin Pressley, Soozie Amador, Eddie Douglas IV and Jerrica Brown (from left to right) pose with a horse at the Turtle Creek Stables Monday night.

ADRIAN McCANDLESS | THE WICHITAN

Filling mascot's hooves

ADRIAN McCANDLESS
PHOTO EDITOR

His brown hair spikes out of his noble head. He stares at you with his piercing hazel eyes. His mouth forms a snarl, even though he cannot speak. Kids run up to this intimidating creature as if he were Santa Clause himself, yet sometimes he is actually a she.

It is MSU's new mascot. For 22-year-old freshman psychology and art major, Soozie Amador, being one of the four mascots is nothing new. Amador was the mascot at Wichita Falls High School in 2002.

"I had been waiting to be the coyote since I was a child," Amador said. "I would have been nervous if I didn't have the costume on, but it is a whole new world when I put it on."

Amador proudly suited up as Clarence the Coyote, named after a janitor from the 60s, and suggested that our mustang's name should be thoughtful as

See **Mascot** page 4

Program targets student drinking habits

MATT LEDESMA
FOR THE WICHITAN

Online alcohol education courses, usually used as a way of punishment for violations, are now required courses for incoming freshmen, Greeks and transfer students.

MSU has joined a number of colleges nationwide that are having students take the course in an effort to educate them about alcohol-related issues they may be experiencing for the first time.

Sofia Rodriguez, director of student affairs, is heading the program and thinks it will have a positive effect on the campus as a whole. She was quick to note that it isn't only freshmen and transfer students who are required to complete the program.

"It is also required of all MSU athletes and all sections of College Connections," she said.

All students who fit the above criteria are separated into two groups. Those with under 30 total credit hours were required to have the first section of the course completed by

Oct. 9. Those with more than 30 hours must have the entire course finished by Dec. 1. The course is divided into two parts, with the first section taking a student on average about three hours to complete; however, it may be done in multiple sittings.

The program is the flagship product of the Boston-based company Outside The Classroom. The company's Web site states that it was founded to address epidemic level public health issues affecting education, corporate and government institutions. Since its inception in 2000, the AlcoholEdu program has been used on more than 450 college and high school campuses. The program is also endorsed by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Students are required to log in using their student ID numbers, which is the system's way of remembering who actually took the course and how much they completed. This fact has made some students uneasy about being completely truthful on the survey.

"Even though I'm of age to drink, I still would rather not have my drinking habits listed in some database," said Kenny Gill, 21, a junior accounting major. "If I was underage, I especially wouldn't be inclined to admit that I drank since you have to use your student ID."

At a recent meeting of all Greek fraternities and sororities, students got a chance to voice their concerns to Rodriguez personally. When asked about the ID issue, she assured everyone that no individual's information could be used against a student in any type of legal proceeding.

"This is a science-based, non-judgmental curriculum designed to reduce the 'college effect' of drinking," Rodriguez said. "We receive no individual statistics, only aggregate data."

In that same meeting, Rodriguez also stressed the importance of completing the program by the assigned dates. She pointed out that anyone required to take the program that fails to do so could face a code of conduct violation, Article 15: Response to Official Notice. All

matters of non-compliance would be handled through the dean of student's office and the student conduct committee, with the penalty ranging from suspension to expulsion.

But the director feels more students than not will comply with the program, and many will gain positively from the experience, even those who rarely drink.

"The program assesses your drinking behavior so even if you don't drink, you go through a much different program than if you do," Rodriguez said. "Whether you drink or not isn't the question. If you live or are involved on campus, alcohol affects you in some way."

The program will be an annual requirement from now on, and comes on the heels of a recent brawl between members of two different MSU fraternities where alcohol was reported to be a contributing factor.

Although such an incident only places further emphasis on the need for alcohol education, the university had already scheduled the program to be instituted.



SUNKYU YOO-NORRIS | THE WICHITAN

INSIDE

'Saw 3'

The 'Saw' trilogy will not disappoint viewers with lack of guts and gore.

pages 5



Homecoming Week

MSU Homecoming events bring out more school spirit.

page 6



Winning game closes season

The MSU volleyball team finishes season with win against Southwestern Oklahoma State.

page 7

