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JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

NOVEMBER 2010

WWW.JUSTICECOALITION.ORG

Volume 16 • Number 7 • FREE

Increase in Reports of Stolen A/C Units

By Sheriff Rutherford



The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is experiencing an increase in reports of stolen air conditioning units from the exteriors of residences, commercial properties, and industrial locations city wide, in all patrol zones.

In this pattern we are seeing vacant apartments and closed businesses targeted for these thefts. Additionally, other targeted properties include locations where the thief (thieves) are not in plain view and can be concealed while removing the unit.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office needs your help. Please report any suspicious activity, suspicious persons, or trucks you see during non-traditional business hours carrying air conditioning units. You can call JSO at 630-0500 or Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS (to remain anonymous and become eligible for a reward).

"Obviously this is a crime that represents a significant economic impact to the people whose homes or businesses are hit," said Michael Bruno, JSO's Assistant Chief of Crimes Against Property. "We want the public to continue to work with the police and let us know when something just doesn't "seem" right in your neighborhood or near your business," he said.

"We'd also like to ask the community to assist us in helping our houses of worship, because many of those properties can go for several days with very little or no activity. So when you're driving around out there, keep an eye out around the houses of worship in your area." Bruno said.

Some theft prevention techniques gaining popularity include:

- Digital cameras mounted outside the home, business or church,
- GPS devices inside the unit,
- Metal caging around the exterior of the air conditioning unit.

If you would like to find out if your neighborhood (or business area) has a Watch group already in service to the community, or you are interested in starting one, please contact JSO's Community Affairs division at 630-2160.

The mission of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of this community, to preserve the peace and to prevent crime and disorder while constantly guarding personal liberties as prescribed by law. For more information visit: www.jaxsheriff.org

Prosecutions, sentences and arrests

Area victims welcome recent outcomes in their cases

By Shirley Shaw

Many of us who couldn't be in court during the sentencing hearing of Charles Southern and Connor Pridgen watched with fascination and horror on Channel 4's live streaming video as previously unknown facts about their shocking crime were revealed. Ever since **Makia Coney** was ruthlessly murdered on February 10, our entire community has tried to make sense of her death.

There were so many unbelievable aspects to the murder: the three teens were students at University Christian School, a place parents send their kids with complete confidence they will be safe; the boys were friends Makia trusted and admired; they had no previous police record but made a conscious decision to kill their classmate. And as we listened to further details about the cold-blooded killing, our horror increased.

During questioning by Prosecutor Mark Caliel and testimony of JSO Detective Bobby Bowers, the chilling story unfolded:

Sometime prior to Makia's murder the boys had

stolen a couple of guns from a friend's home because, as Southern, age 17, explained, they planned to begin robbing people to get money for maintenance on his car. They thought their new career might involve shooting someone, so they wanted to be sure they had the guts to do it - and their little 4' 11", 87-pound, 17-year old friend seemed to be an easy practice target.

The two boys plotted to take her from the school to kill her, even telling other friends they would never see her again. Driving in Southern's truck to a nearby deserted area not far from a police substation, they got out, laughing and joking with Makia, then Southern shot her in the left cheek. Det. Bowers, who had extensive military service as a medic, said if she had received medical attention at that point, she possibly could have survived, but Pridgen, then 16, shot her point blank in the face. Her features were so obliterated the medical examiner couldn't identify her with dental records, and her parents would never see her beautiful face again.

Despite testimony from friends, family and school

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Stalkers: Three Variations of a Problem Personality

By James E. Casey
Jacksonville FBI Special Agent in Charge



Stalking is a recent phenomenon that seems to have proliferated into a significant problem (almost exclusively by men against women) for completely explained reasons. It is important to note there are three distinct types of stalking, and we shall address each separately. The first involves a new or casual relationship that blossoms into a full-blown obsession; the second is a case where the stalker has never formally met the victim; and the third involves a stalker and a victim who have shared an intimate relationship. The differences are significant because the analysis for the propensity of violence by the stalker toward the victim is dramatically different for each of these three scenarios.

The Casual Stalker

In the instance where the stalker

has either recently met or casually dated the victim, great care should be given as to how the victim chooses to end the relationship with the stalker. An example is a victim who casually meets a male while with friends at a bar, and the male becomes interested in a relationship with her; and in the days and weeks to come he starts to aggressively pursue that relationship, but she is obviously not interested. In fact, maybe she refuses to date him even once. The male won't take no for an answer and begins to bother her by phone, email and eventually in person.

The wrong way to deal with this individual is to attempt to talk him out of a relationship, or try to "let him down easy." It would be just as wrong (but for different reasons) at this juncture to obtain a restraining order, attempt to have the police warn him off, or to have a male friend talk tough to him.

Statistically, this type of stalker is highly unlikely to resort to violence against the victim unless the scenario becomes escalated or his manhood is challenged; exactly the type of behavior a restraining order or

visit from the police might represent. What is called for as soon as the victim perceives a problem is a firm, non-negotiable "No." The victim should tell the casual stalker that under no terms does she intend to have any type of relationship with him, for reasons she is not compelled to explain to him, and that she does not want him to contact her again - period. She cannot agree to "just be friends" or meet him occasionally to talk, or allow any other form of communication with him.

Intuitively, a victim often feels that trying to be nice to him will be appeasing and that through an amiable discussion he will eventually see it her way. This is false. In fact, he will never see it her way and his personality is incompatible with being talked out of something he wants - in this case control of the victim. Think of an impetuous child who strongly desires a new toy. No amount of rationalization or logic will talk the child out of his desire for the new toy; however, if he stops receiving any feedback about the toy, he will gradually realize he is

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