

The Last Chapter in the Seemingly Never Ending Drama of Computer Thefts at the University of Washington

As previously reported, in April 1993 a thief twisted open some 76 locked doors with a pipe wrench and stole 24 computers from the University of Washington. Then six weeks later, just as the stolen computers had been replaced, a thief stole another 10 computers - so few as he was surprised by police and escaped after leaving his tools. And in a third theft in 1993, a thief stole some 250 SIMMs from the University - but, in this case, he was caught as he attempted escape through a drainage ditch. The thief, a Avram Morar, three hearings later jumped bail and disappeared.

It seems that Mr. Morar was also wanted for stealing SIMMs from California State University - Fullerton. In response to his profile on television (NBC's Prime Suspect) on 26 February and an anonymous tip, he has just been arrested.

Mr. Morar had once demonstrated to California police, on videotape, his agility in passing through ceiling tiles - the removable type. In making the arrest, California State University Police found his white Mercedes parked at a produce market. After being advised that Morar was not on the premise, police noted removable type ceiling tiles and, after calling for backup, flushed him down from the ceiling tiles. Ironically, he was finally apprehended in a drainage canal in California - just as he was in Washington.

Then after searching his parents home and finding many computers and parts, the identification number on a hard drive tied him back to the computer thefts at the University of Washington.

End of Story - ?

Help from Our U.S. Readers?

As we attempt to greatly improve the quality of this newsletter, move to full color printing and commence sending issues to interested microscopists overseas, we would truly appreciate the assistance of our U.S. readers as follows:

- 1) If there is a "?" following your name on the address of this issue, we do not know if you wish to continue to receive a no cost subscription - or if you are receiving this issue. Should you be in this category, and wish to continue to receive the newsletter, please complete the questionnaire on the following postage paid reader response card.
- 2) We wish, however, to increase not decrease our U.S. readership. We would appreciate if you would route this newsletter issue to others in your organization with an interest in any and all facets of microscopy. We are delighted to receive requests for additional subscriptions.
- 3) Check your mailing address. Our USPO automated mailing system accepts only a) number and street name, b) PO Box number or c) Rural Route (RR) and box number. Any other, while it may reach you, does cost us extra postage.
- 4) Help in making newsletter content interesting and of value to working microscopists worldwide. We are attempting more in the areas of "advances in" and "approaches to" the technology. Even short articles and material are appreciated.

--- Ed

1994 MICROSCOPY COURSES

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McCrone Research Institute will offer the following microscopy courses in Chicago during 1994. For further information contact Nancy Daerr.

Advanced Asbestos Identification - April 25-29, June 20-24, August 29-September 3, October 17-21
Advanced Microchemical Methods - August 22-25
Applied Polarized Light Microscopy - May 9-13, June 20-24, August 15-19, September 26-30, November 14-18
Asbestos Fiber Counting (NIOSH 582) - April 11-15, June 6-10, August 15-19, October 3-7, December 12-16
Crystal Morphology & Optics - September 26-30
Drug Identification - July 25-29
Fiber Identification - July 11-15
Forensic Examination of Building Materials - April 18-22
Forensic Microscopy - April 4-8, November 28- December 2

Fusion Methods - December 5-9
Hair Microscopy - May 23-27
Hair Microscopy - May 23-28
Identification of Small Particles - March 21-25
Microchemical Methods - April 25-29
Microscopical Identification of Asbestos - April 18-22, June 13-17, August 1-5, August 22-25, October 10-14, December 5-9
Microscopy and Microchemistry of Polymers - September 19-23
Microscopy for Art Conservators - May 16-20
Microscopy of Explosives - May 2-6
Mineral Identification - October 24-28
Paint Microscopy - July 11-15
Particle Identification and Manipulation - November 7-11
Pharmaceutical Microscopy - June 13-17
Photomicrography - October 3-7
Polymer, Fiber & Film Microscopy - September 12-16
Quantitative Asbestos Analysis - May 2-4, November 14-16
Sample Preparation Methods - December 12-16
Scanning Electron Microscopy - July 11-15
Soils Analysis for Criminalists - July 25-29
Special Methods in Light Microscopy-A - October 10-14
TEM Asbestos Analysis - May 16-20, November 7-11
TEM Introduction - September 12-16
TEM SAED EDS - March 21-25