Youth homelessness on the rise locally

BY JOE DUHOWNIK

Blake Downs sat still on his bed, staring at a bright red light across the room. The light shone from a large metal lock on the door, meaning he hadn’t yet paid for his room and hadn’t answered the phone. When she refused to let staff members enter the room, Purdue police was called.

Police also wrote that Fredericks, who is homeless, made reference to being in a witness protection program and “was not making much sense.” She was arrested and banned from campus.

Police found her sitting on the couch across the room, with a red dictionary in her hands. “It was apparent that Pamela had placed most, if not all, of her worldly possessions inside the room and taken permanent residency inside,” one officer wrote in the probable cause affidavit, including a small portable oven, kitchen spices, passport and other identification, a photo album and horse halters.

About this series

‘Nowhere to go’ is a three-part series on homelessness in the Greater Lafayette Area.

The first story explores the nationwide issue through a local lens. The second chronicles the life of a man cursed with homelessness, mental health and addiction.

The final story, which will run in print Thursday, tells more stories of homelessness, and analyzes the efforts to end the crisis.

Desperate for a chance

Young man plagued by drugs and mental illness

BY JOE DUHOWNIK

Almost immediately after entering the foster care system, Downs said he was put on Adderall, Adderall XR and other prescription drugs for half a dozen conditions.

‘Psychiatric trauma disorder, night terrors, depression, ADD and ADHD,’ he listed off quickly. “The system thinks it’s a good idea to hook you on medication. You don’t really need medication.”

Some mental health problems, you just need to talk to someone.”

His early introduction to drugs may have been one of the many needs psychiatric help. Instead she goes to jail, students students allegedly they were wrongly suspended as victims of the university’s Title IX process.

Purdue attorneys sought summary judgment in the case, a process in which a judge determines a case should be dismissed because a jury could not find “substantial fact.” But U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge John Martin issued orders on Thursday denying the motions for summary judgment. Stating that a jury might find Purdue’s investigatory process “biased” in the two cases.

Neither of the plaintiffs are identified in the lawsuit; they are referred to as Mary Doe and Nancy Roe. Each case is distinctly different, but both al­­­­­leged they were assaulted by a male student and were wrongly expelled: each discipline was later changed to suspension. The lawsuit alleges, “Purdue investigated and found that Plaintiff Mary Doe had ‘fabricated’ her allegation and Plaintiff Nancy Roe had reported (her) assault maliciously.”

The lawsuit alleges neither woman realized she was assaulted by a male student and they are referred to as Mary Doe and Nancy Roe. Each case is distinctly different, but both alleged they were assaulted by a male student and were wrongly expelled: each discipline was later changed to suspension. The lawsuit alleges, “Purdue investigated and found that Plaintiff Mary Doe had ‘fabricated’ her allegation and Plaintiff Nancy Roe had reported (her) assault maliciously.”

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