



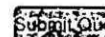
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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LESSER CHARGES IN PIG- ABUSE CASE : DECISION DISAPPOINTS ANIMAL- RIGHTS ACTIVIST.(Jefferson County Post)

Article from St Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) | September 10 2001 | Hathaway, Matthew | Copyright

A Barnhart man allegedly involved in a bizarre incident that left two 300-pound pigs intoxicated inside Windsor High School and a third bludgeoned with a crowbar is expected to plead guilty to reduced charges Wednesday in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Prosecutors dropped felony burglary and first-degree property damage charges against Randall J. Budde, 21, who now stands accused of several misdemeanors, including three counts of animal abuse, trespassing and second-degree property damage.

Budde and Ross Carmickle, 21, allegedly took three potbellied pigs to a party near Kimmswick, gave the animals alcohol, then bound two of the pigs and dragged them inside the school, which, police said, they had broken into sometime after 11 p.m. on May 10, 2000.

The next morning, one pig was found locked in an elevator and another roaming the school's halls.

The third pig's bloody carcass was found on a railroad track near Kimmswick.

Authorities believe that the former Windsor students got the pigs after answering an advertisement in a local newspaper offering the animals free to a good home.

Shortly after the incident, Robert G. Wilkins took a strong public position, pledging that he would seek jail time for Budde and Carmickle and hinting that he might prosecute other youths who were familiar with the incident but did not cooperate with the investigation.

No charges were filed against any other youths.

Jean Woolery, the director of the Jefferson County Humane Society, said that she was disappointed that Budde won't face felony charges and that a misdemeanor conviction would send the wrong message to area youths.

"I will never forget that day," said Woolery, who helped dispose of the bludgeoned pig's body and later convinced her group's national office to offer a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for killing the animal.

"I knew that, unfortunately, nothing could come from the animal-abuse charges, since that's a misdemeanor offense, but I really did think that the felony charges would stick," Woolery said. "I guess it's just the way the system works."

Carmickle still faces two felony charges, second-degree burglary and first-degree property damage, as well as two counts of animal abuse. His trial has not been scheduled.

Woolery said that the Humane Society's reward offer still stands. Anyone with information about the case may call Woolery at 636-677-1453.