



January 10, 2008

Man faces theft charge after being found in Purdue building

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Purdue University police on Wednesday (Jan. 10) arrested a man on a preliminary charge of theft after he was found in a campus building with a set of master keys.

Brandon James Grindatti, 22, of 2243 U.S. Highway 52 West, Apartment 2232B, was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail, where he was later released after posting bond. Grindatti, who is not a Purdue employee but was a former student, is originally from Greenville, Ind.

Police were called to the Lawson Science Building around 9 p.m. after a building services worker reported seeing a suspicious person in an office. Officers arrived and questioned Grindatti, who was found to have a ring holding master keys for the building, said Lt. Fred Davis. Grindatti told police he had found the keys in a hallway.

Davis said Grindatti allegedly used the keys to enter several locked offices and room. From one of the rooms, Grindatti allegedly took additional keys for other offices in the building. Davis said investigators searching the man's apartment on Thursday (Jan. 10) also recovered a set of lock picks and that the investigation was continuing.

"This was an instance in which a university employee who was familiar with their work area and did the right thing quickly when something seemed amiss," Davis said. "This kind of vigilance and quick action not only assists us in investigating crimes, but also helps to stop crimes from ever taking place."

Theft is a Class D felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000.

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