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News beat

Staff reports

4 RIT students get ill at party

HENRIETTA — Four Rochester Institute of Technology students were in intensive care at Strong Memorial Hospital Saturday after an off-campus party Friday night.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was called to the party about 10:45 p.m. Six students were taken to Strong for excessive alcohol consumption, said RIT spokesman Robert Finnerty. Two have since been released.

The party involved members of RIT's men's and women's rugby teams, Finnerty said.

All four of the hospitalized students are underage, he said.

The university will conduct its own investigation and the students could face sanctions, he said.

Alcohol consumption is one of the most serious student conduct and health issues on college campuses nationwide. According to campus crime statistics compiled by the U.S. Education Department, colleges including RIT typically see more alcohol violations and arrests than other crimes such as burglary or sexual assault.

RIT has had periodic serious problems with parties in May. In 2004, 10 students were arrested after police in riot gear broke up a large party at Colony Manor Apartments, an RIT-owned complex on John Street.

A similar RIT party ended in numerous arrests in 1998.

Arrest made in Batavia arson

BATAVIA — A 45-year-old woman was arrested Saturday and charged with third-degree arson after she allegedly started a fire at Classic Home Improvement, 653 Ellicott St. Deanna Biscaro, 45, of 107 Swan St., allegedly admitted starting the fire as retaliation for a dispute with her ex-husband, who owned the business, Batavia Police said. The fire was extinguished by the Batavia Fire Department. Biscaro was being held without bail.

Dog left in car; owner ticketed

VICTOR — A Rochester man was ticketed Friday evening for allegedly leaving a small dog in a car parked for more than an hour at Eastview Mall. The temperature in the car was reported at more than 100 degrees.

Miguel Angel Semidey, 23, of 21 Rosalind St., was charged with torturing and injuring animals and failure to provide sustenance, according to Ontario County Sheriff's officials.

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