

# Razor blade found in store-bought muffin

Craig Welch  
McClatchy Tribune

The owner of a bakery in Seattle said Friday that a razor blade found in a muffin bought at a QFC store in Mountlake Terrace, Wash., got there by accident when one of her workers dropped the blade in a vat of batter.

Molly Wilmot, owner of Mostly Muffins, said a longtime employee was using the blade last Sunday to open bags and boxes when it fell into a giant mixing bowl. He lost it in the batter and was afraid to tell his manager.

The employee has been suspended until the company completes an internal investigation, and all Mostly Muffins products have been removed from QFC stores until the bakery completes an independent audit of its facilities.

"I am mortified — mortified," Wilmot said. "I'm just glad nobody got hurt."

The incident came to light Thursday after Mountlake Terrace resident and Seattle Times administrative assistant Jill Hutchison, 48, broke apart an almond-poppy-seed muffin she bought at the grocery store and found a lump baked into it. When it turned out to be a razor blade, Hutchison

returned the four-pack of muffins to the store.

Quality-control staff at QFC, which is owned by Cincinnati-based Kroger, traced the prepackaged muffins to Mostly Muffins, a Kent, Wash.-based bakery that got its start 23 years ago in a church basement on Capitol Hill.

Wilmot said she confronted her staff and asked how such a thing could have happened, and a baker who had been with the company for five years immediately stepped forward and said he was responsible.

"I can say with absolute certainty that this was not a tampering issue," she said.

Wilmot said the employee was genuinely sorry and upset by his own actions.

Mostly Muffins requires its workers to use only approved box cutters to open packages, "but for some reason he brought in his own razor blade."

That the razor blade actually worked its way into one of her products is the result, she said, of "the perfect storm."

Bakers mix batter in giant 160-pound bowls, and typically make more than 5,000 pounds a night. Wilmot said she presumes her employee figured that the blade would have gotten lodged in the cylinder that squeezes batter into muffin tins.

"Literally a walnut shell is usually enough to stop this piece of equipment," she said. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, this machine would have caught it."

In addition, Wilmot said, the company normally runs its goods through a metal detector before they're shipped — all but one type of muffin, which gets wrapped in packaging that includes bits of metal that always sets off the machine. That's where this particular blade landed.

Kristin Maas, spokeswoman for QFC, wouldn't comment on Wilmot's explanation because the incident is still under an internal investigation. She said the company has "locked down" the bar codes on all Mostly Muffins goods at QFC stores around the region so customers who find a stray package they missed won't be able to purchase it.

"We are asking a third party to make sure that everything is compliant, make sure they are complying to the same food-safety standards that QFC does," she said.

Wilmot said she holds her company and employees to high standards of safety and quality, and has had QFC as a customer for 17 years.

"We've had a lot of good fortune in our business," she said. "We will make this right."

# Sigma Chi to hold annual Derby Days

Ben Booksa

The Sigma Chi Fraternity at Clarkson University will hold its 21st annual Derby Days — a weeklong, fundraising competition among both Clarkson and SUNY Potsdam Sororities — November 15-21, 2009. Sigma Chi will donate all proceeds to the local The Children's Miracle Network at the Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, NY. The Sororities that are participating this year are: Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Phi, Delta Zeta, Omega Delta Phi, Phi Kappa Pi, Phi Sigma Sigma, Sigma Gamma Phi, Theta Phi Alpha, and Zeta Gamma Sigma.

The brothers and sisters will give their time and efforts to make this year's Derby Days successful. Derby Days events this year include a skit night, costume competition, trivia night, field events, the A-Thon, and more! The A-Thon is a human-powered machine that will be running from 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through 5:00 p.m. Thursday on the Hamlin-Powers lawn at the intersection of Clarkson Ave. and Maple St. It will commence with a free BBQ Tuesday, November 17 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Cheel BBQ Pit. The food will be free of charge thanks to a generous donation from ARAMARK, but any and all donations to Children's Miracle Network are welcomed.

This past year Derby Days raised more than \$5,000, and this year we have set a fundraising goal of \$8,000 and are actively looking for the support of the North Country community, businesses, and students! Donations can be made by using PayPal on the Sigma Chi Iota Zeta website and clicking the "Donate Now" button next to "Click here to donate for Sigma Chi!"

Or you can also mail Sigma Chi a check by making it out to Sigma Chi Iota Inc. or to Children's Miracle Network:

Sigma Chi Iota Zeta  
Clarkson University  
PO Box 8587  
Potsdam, NY 13699

## Police Blotters

**11/08/2009 4:02 p.m.**  
Failed to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk  
Young, Thomas F.; b. 1964  
Potsdam, NY

**11/08/2009 3:34 p.m.**  
Operating MV while using cell phone without hands free device  
Simmons, Michael J.; b. 1988  
Clinton, CT

**11/08/2009 12:23 p.m.**  
Failed to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk

Delles, Kaitlin D.; b. 1988  
Theresa, NY

**11/02/2009**  
2 misdemeanor counts of unlawfully dealing with child — 1st degree  
Omicron Pi Omicron Fraternity  
Potsdam, NY  
On November 2, 2009, the Potsdam Police Department received information of an incident that occurred on August 30, 2009 involving an intoxicated female, age 19, that fell from a loft at a fraternity house in the village of

Potsdam. As a result of the fall of the 19 year old female sustained serious injuries that subsequently required surgery. As a result of the investigation, members of the Potsdam Police Department charged Clarkson Fraternity Omicron Pi Omicron with two misdemeanor counts of Unlawfully dealing with child in the first degree. The Omicron Pi Omicron corporation Liaison issued an appearance ticket to appear in the village of Potsdam court on 12/2/09 at 9:30am.

# Dog whisperer's body missing in Washington

Christine Clarridge  
McClatchy Tribune

Skagit County, Wash., prosecutors filed first-degree murder charges Friday against a Kennewick, Wash., man accused of killing T. Mark Stover, a charismatic dog trainer whose clients included a host of Pacific Northwest celebrities including Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz and Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki.

Michiel Glen Oakes, 41, the boyfriend of Stover's ex-wife, is being held on \$5 million bail.

Stover's body remains missing. According to court documents filed today in Skagit County Superior Court, Oakes had purchased three ankle weights, anchor line, a backpack, shin guards and camouflage clothes the day Stover disappeared.

He met with his ex-wife later and told her that a big and "dangerous" mission had turned into a "job gone bad," court documents allege.

Oakes also told his ex-wife, according to court documents, that he would go to prison for the rest of his life if police saw what was in his car.

In Oakes' car, detectives found, among other things, a backpack matching the receipt, two 9 mm magazines, a bulletproof vest and instructions for a .22 gun silencer, court documents allege.

According to a friend of Oakes' family, Oakes met Stover's ex-wife, Linda Opdycke, when he was hired as a bodyguard to protect her.

Opdycke, the daughter of wealthy Eastside businessman Wally Opdycke, had filed for an order of protection against Stover in April 2008.

She claimed he had hidden on her property in Winthrop, Wash., and pointed a gun at her.

According to court documents filed in King County Superior Court in Washington state two years ago, the couple's divorce started off amicably, but several of Stover's friends said it became ugly.

Recently, Stover had threatened to sue the Opdycke family over the proposed sale of Kiket Island, where he and Opdycke had opened a dog retreat and training center after they married, several friends said.

After the divorce, Stover moved to a property south of Anacortes and resumed his training operations.

Stover, 57, was last seen by his employees Oct. 28, according to the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, when he was believed to be headed off to visit clients in Seattle.

That same day, a woman reported seeing two vehicles — that later turned out to be registered to Stover and Oakes — parked illegally behind the Summit Park Grange, a half-mile from Stover's house.

The two cars were parked back to back in an area of the grange that had been closed off with a locked chain, the woman told police, and there was clear plastic stretched between the two cars.

The following day, Stover was reported missing after his employees arrived at his home in the 13100 block of Thompson Road to find his dog had been wounded by a gunshot.

Deputies found blood outside and inside the house. They also noted the bathroom was unusually clean and it smelled like "fresh bleach."

A few hours later, Stover's station wagon was found abandoned in the parking lot of Northern Lights Casino, on the Swinomish Indian Reservation, about three miles from the grange.

Police found what appeared to be bloody fingerprints on the station wagon.

According to Chief Criminal Deputy Will Reichardt, Opdycke called the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office when she learned Oct. 29 that her ex-husband had been reported missing. Oakes and his car — the same one spotted near the grange — were at her home when Okanogan deputies arrived, according to charging documents.

According to court documents, when deputies arrived Oakes excused himself and said he needed to get some medicine from his car.

Prosecutors allege in charging documents that a deputy watched as Oakes retrieved a white plastic bag from his car and threw it over an embankment.

When police retrieved the bag, according to charging documents, it contained a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol and smelled like bleach.

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CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY

## Book Theft is a Problem!

### PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Each year Clarkson University Campus Safety & Security take numerous book theft reports. This theft may be the most preventative crime occurring on any college campus. By using good judgment and a little extra effort, these thefts can be reduced.

Keep your books and other personal property in your possession. Unattended property tends to become lost or stolen.

Do not leave books unattended anywhere! This includes in the library, rest room, lounges, vending or dining areas.



Mark your books so that only you can easily and readily identify them.

- Use a permanent marker.
- Open each book to a page with a significant number to you.
- Mark a distinctive and significant identifier on that page, along the inner binding of the book.

If your book is ever stolen, or a dispute over ownership ever takes place, you have positive identification.

### IF YOUR BOOK IS STOLEN

- Report the theft to the Campus Safety & Security Department.
- Have as much information about the property as possible (title/author/value/identifying marks).
- Report the information to the University Bookstore and any other local bookstores that may buy back books.

The loss of your book may also include valuable class notes, projects, or computer disks. These items may be irreplaceable.

268-6666 • 203 Cheel Campus Center (Box 5640) • www.clarkson.edu/campussafety/tips (for anonymous tips)

#### CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY MISSION

In an effort to keep the campus community informed, the Office of Campus Safety & Security conducts programs at new student orientation and throughout the course of the academic year. Campus Safety & Security also conducts an on-going campaign of crime awareness on its web site, the student newspaper, University e-mail announcements, and bulletins.

