

Vandalism 101

It was a shocking morning for many students and teachers as they arrived at Washington High School. It seems that the night before vandals had used black paint to scrawl several offensive phrases and pictures on the school front and sidewalk leading to the main entrance of the school. Footprints were found leaving the scene of the crime (down the sidewalk away from the main entrance). The footprints originated in a puddle of spilled paint and extended some ten strides from the origin. After examining the footprints left at the scene and comparing them with several suspects, your team should be prepared to present quantitative evidence to the local police department that will allow them to obtain a warrant and possibly make an arrest.

Early morning interviews with the principal, assistant principal, and the custodian who arrived to unlock the building, revealed three potential suspects.

Philip Crafton- Philip, a 16 year old, 5'7", 10th grader at Washington High, was suspended the day before the crime was committed. He had been caught smoking and selling cigarettes on campus. After the principal told him of the consequences of such actions and phoned Philip's father, Philip flew into a rage. He began cursing the principal and shouting: "You'll get what's comin' to you!!".

Landis McCauley- Mr. McCauley, a 24 year old, 6'3" substitute, was unable to maintain order in his classroom the day prior to the crime. The assistant principal had to visit Mr. McCauley's room four times that day to help with situations that had gotten out of hand. At the end of the day, the assistant principal met with Mr. McCauley and informed him that his inability to monitor and manage student behavior would necessitate his removal from the "Substitute Call List". Mr. McCauley told the assistant principal that he was relying on the work he could get as a substitute to help pay some debts he owed a couple of guys in town. Regretfully, the assistant principal held firm on his decision to fire Mr. McCauley. As Mr. McCauley was leaving the building, he was overheard saying: "I'll show you behavior you can't monitor!"

Emily Lee- Emily, a 15 year old, 5'1", 9th grader at Washington High, is a spunky, loud, and sometimes rude and offensive child. Her art teacher sent Emily to the office the day prior to the crime. It seems that Emily had painted a rather obscene depiction of her boyfriend Joey. When the art teacher confiscated her work and sent her to the office, Emily was outraged. "It's art!" "It's art!", she kept yelling. After calming down, Emily admitted that what she had drawn was inappropriate. She received in-school suspension despite her apologies and remorse. This didn't set well with Emily who stormed from the office, looking back over her shoulder with an evil glance aimed at her teacher.