

Module One

College Case Study

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Case Details

Campus police received a complaint regarding a threat to blow up a building on campus made on the social media app Fizz. Campus police contacted the social media app. Fizz provided the information that the post was allegedly made by Klaus Hargreeves, "I wish we actually did something to spur up the board of trustees into divesting instead doing our performative liberal arts thing. Let's blow up a building or something." Of note, the college has several students engaged in protests and encampments on campus related to the Gaza/Israeli conflict. Hargreeves denies any involvement with any of these protests or groups.

Hargreeves was transported to the campus police department and then taken into custody by local police officers, where he was charged and remained the night in jail. Upon release, two roommates picked him up, and he described the night as "very difficult," joking that he had spent the time "in the hole." He is a second-year student, studying sociology and has a girlfriend at a local college who has been supportive during this time. Hargreeves has no student conduct history and a 3.5 GPA. He drinks occasionally with friends and played Lacrosse in high school but not at college due to a shoulder injury.

He signed some documents to give the police access to his phone and generally expressed defensiveness and surprise that this statement resulted in him being in trouble. After spending the night in jail, he began to rethink the seriousness of what had occurred.

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the primary risks you see in this case?
- What type of assessment(s) would be best (psychological, triage, violence risk, threat)?
- Would you characterize the threats as transient or substantive in nature? What questions would you need to ask to help with this appraisal?
- Would you consider this case behavior as more hunting or howling?
- Would this case be better understood as an affective or targeted violence motivation?
- Using the metaphor example of "touching all the parts of the elephant," what parts of this case should we include to gain a better context?
- How might you have handled the case differently?
- What other facts would help complete an assessment and engage in risk mitigation planning?
- While you consider risk or escalation factors on one side of the see-saw, what might be some supportive, stabilizing, or protective factors on the other side?
- What general level of risk would you assign to the case (low, moderate, high)?

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