

Weather | Events | Visitor's Guide | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes | Apartments | Shopping | Dating

Subscribe Now | Customer Service | Place An Ad | Contact Us



THE ENQUIRER

Search This Site:

Search

Cincinnati.com | NKY.com | Enquirer | Post | CiN Weekly | Community Press & Recorder | cincyMOMS.com | Cincinnati USA

Home | Local News | Sports | Business | Opinion | Life | Entertainment | Nation/World | Obituaries | Archives | Search

Local news Cincinnati.com » The Enquirer » Local news » 5 charged in train death
Last Updated: 6:35 am | Friday, April 20, 2007

5 charged in train death

BY JANICE MORSE | JMORSE@ENQUIRER.COM

E-mail | Print | digg.us! | del.icio.us!

OXFORD -- Beth Speidel, 19, was drunk when a freight train struck and killed her.

Now five of her friends -- all under 21 and too young to drink alcohol legally -- are accused of helping the Miami University sophomore get drunk.

In a rare situation, police on Friday filed misdemeanor charges against those five Miami students -- the first time in his 29-year career that Oxford police Sgt. Jim Squance can recall people being charged with supplying alcohol in an alcohol-related death.

ADVERTISEMENT

No such thing...



This is the next best thing!

GET STARTED NOW!



"It's unusual for us, because we don't have that many people that die related to alcohol," he said.

Another factor: investigators often can't track down the alcohol's source, Squance said.

But in this case, he said evidence points to five of Speidel's friends. Two 20-year-olds, Danielle Davis and Kristina K. Sicker, and two 19-year-olds, Christine A. Carr and Kathleen A. Byrne, are charged with permitting underage consumption at private residences. In addition, 20-year-old Maureen E. Grady is accused of buying alcohol for Speidel at an undisclosed tavern in Oxford's uptown area.

All five accused students were released on their promise to appear for hearings in Butler County Area I Court, set for May 3. If convicted, they each face six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Attempts to obtain comments from Speidel's parents and the charged students were unsuccessful Friday.

Squance said the situation is especially sad because Speidel's friends are facing criminal accusations while grieving her death.

"We're very sensitive to the victim and the victim's family and friends," he said. "We know that emotions are running very high now, but we have an obligation and a duty to issue citations if we feel there's been a violation of the law -- and that's exactly what we did."

Being a college town, Oxford has its share of alcohol-related offenses, but generally has avoided tragic results, Squance said.

"Over the past couple of years, we've kind of dodged the bullet. We've seen a number of cases that could have ended in tragedy. But they didn't, because someone took some type of action to alleviate a disaster," he said. "In this case, we didn't dodge the bullet."

The case provides a dramatic local example of the nationwide issue of alcohol abuse among college students.

"We're wasting the best and the brightest," Squance said, citing a Columbia University study that says young adults are drinking more frequently.

"This young person had too much to drink," Squance said. "She wandered away, and I don't know if we ever will know what happened on that train track."

Speidel was hit and killed about 1:15 a.m. April 14 by a southbound CSX freight train traveling 35 mph, according to police reports. The train was traveling through a well-marked crossing about a mile from her dorm room.

Her body lay undiscovered until another train traveled the same track two hours later.

Related Stories

[Miami sophomore was in bars, with friends before walking off](#)

[Miami student drunk when hit by train](#)

[Coroner: Miami teen was drunk](#)



PROVIDED

Beth Speidel

Quick Links

- [Sign up for Breaking News newsletter](#)
- [Sign up for Breaking news text alert](#)
- [Check out your community pages](#)
- [Post your own news using GetPublished!](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise Here

[Anxiety Got You Down?](#)

Think you've tried everything for anxiety? Our treatment has worked even when nothing else has. Click here to learn about this highly effective device
[depressiontreatmentnow](#)

[Weight Loss Prog. - Cincinnati](#)

6 Week Weight-Loss Program, given by Dietitians. Lose avg 2 lbs per week! Tues-May 1st; Sat-May 19th; and Mon-May 21st. Blue Ash & Western Hills!
www.PersonalNEWtrition.com

[Expert SAT Prep](#)

The "SAT MD" is now available 1-on-1 in the Cinti area for tutoring and free consultations. +300 point increases, refs given. Please call 513 939-9033
APlusTutoring-TestPrep.co

[Cincinnati Corporate Wellness](#)

Lunch & Learn Programs, Metabolic Rate Testing or Weight Loss Program in your company's conference room at any time. Need 5+ employees for class.
www.NutritionSOS.com

Speidel, a speech pathology major, had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit, the Butler County Coroner's Office said.

"People, when they drink too much, tend to make bad decisions – and those decisions tend to be life-altering," Squance said.

Squance said that Miami University already has a number of programs aimed at educating students about the dangers of drinking. The police department also works with tavern owners to educate bartenders about avoiding serving to underage people.

"Young people, they want to have a good time and they don't understand what the consequences can be," Squance said.

Katie Wedell contributed to this report.

[E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [digg us!](#) | [del.icio.us!](#)

[Cincinnati.Com](#) » [The Enquirer](#) » [Local news](#) » 5 charged in train death

LOCAL NEWS

- [Leaders get peek at Banks](#)
- [Cop shoots man in the arm](#)
- [Bishop-elect loves Cincinnati's diversity](#)
- [One tough beauty queen](#)
- [Wanted: More People](#)
- [Police: Teen drunk, speeding](#)
- [Gun jam may have saved lives](#)
- [House fire causes heavy damage](#)
- [Here's tonight's DUI checkpoint](#)
- [5 charged in train death](#)
- [Court: City must maintain cemetery](#)
- [Man convicted on 16 drug, sex crimes](#)
- [Woman charged with abusing dog](#)
- [Proposal: parents to request drug tests?](#)
- [Mother dies in West Chester crash](#)
- [Have you seen this woman?](#)
- [Violent writing: When to worry](#)
- [Grads: Are you joining the military?](#)
- [I-75 tractor-trailer wreck cleared](#)
- [Lockland High sit-in over](#)
- [Tiny knife + school bus = trouble](#)
- [Wanted: Specialty Stops, Shops](#)
- [Wanted: Movies, Night Life](#)
- [Wanted: Mid-priced Condos](#)
- [Wanted: Groceries](#)
- [Fund set up for teen crash victim](#)
- [Wanted: Creative Clusters](#)
- [Wanted: The Basics, Plus](#)
- [Double-rape case delayed](#)
- [Wanted: Streetcars](#)
- [Wanted: A Big Bang](#)
- [Wanted: Arts for Tomorrow](#)
- [Man, 81, thwarts home invasion](#)
- [Moment of silence at noon today](#)
- [Children's services director fired](#)
- [Wanted: Leadership Smarts](#)
- [Baker charged in Kentucky](#)
- [Sheriff: Protect schools with arms](#)
- [Hamilton firefighter still critical](#)
- [Mom in court on scalding charge](#)

KENTUCKY

- [One tough beauty queen](#)
- [Restaurants ready for proms](#)
- [Tuned in, turned on by 'WKRP'](#)
- ['WKRP' crew grooved on Cincinnati](#)
- [Dinkel case gag order denied](#)
- [Educating generations](#)
- [Dinkel lawyers want gag order](#)
- [ATM robbery suspects sought](#)
- [Taylor Mill crash injures two](#)
- [Mugged violinist moved to NY for rehab](#)
- [NKU dean heading south](#)
- [4 accused of defrauding bank](#)
- [Gateway gets grant to bolster job skills](#)
- [Change of venue sought in murder case](#)
- [Fletcher, Miller come out on top in mock election](#)
- [McConnell poll data help him, not governor](#)
- [Northup jumps on Gov. Fletcher](#)
- [Judge suspended for denying Hispanics bail](#)
- [New leader guides NKU Foundation](#)
- [Sheriff to survey residents](#)

[Discover - June 24, 2007!](#)

The Enquirer's annual guide to your area will introduce you to the best Greater Cincinnati & NKY have to offer. Discover how to "Live it Up"!

[Cincinnati.Com/Discover](#)

[Depression Treatment Now](#)

Depression and Anxiety Treatment. Low side effects and highly effective - even with treatment resistant cases. Visit us to see if it's right for you.

[depressiontreatmentnow](#)

[Ads by Google](#)

[Online Law School](#)

Study for a JD and the California Bar online! Paralegals welcome.

[Erie Pa Paralegal College](#)

Not all legal work requires a law degree, Erie's Top Paralegals
[www.tsbi.edu](#)

[Lawyer Business Cards](#)

Create, Preview & Order Online. Use Your Own Graphics or Ours, \$2.99!
[www.PrintsMadeEasy.com](#)