

Suit exposes hidden cameras

By Michael Hirsley and Rick Hepp
College Press Exchange

Purveyors of "hidden-camera" videotapes that show naked college athletes using locker rooms, showers and urinals are targeted in a lawsuit filed Monday in Cook County (Ill.) Circuit Court.

Charges in the civil suit range from invasion of privacy to unauthorized and unlawful use of plaintiffs' images for monetary

gain to mail fraud and wire fraud under the federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statutes.

The suit seeks unspecified monetary damages and a permanent injunction against further sales and Internet displays of the hidden-camera material.

With the court's approval, 28 "John Does" are listed as plaintiffs, along with "unknown Illinois

State University football players."

The anonymous plaintiffs are described as past or present intercollegiate athletes on teams from such sports as wrestling, football and squash at universities including Northwestern, Illinois, Eastern Illinois, Illinois State, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Iowa State and Michigan State. They are seeking legal recourse via jury trial after discovering that they appear on the tapes.

Chicago attorneys Louis Goldstein and Dennis Berkson, who filed the suit, said the plaintiffs represent a cross-section of dozens of athletes and coaches who have contacted them since April 4, when the Tribune disclosed the making and marketing of the hidden-camera videotapes.

Goldstein said a motion will be filed later seeking to expand the lawsuit into a class action suit. That would allow others who recognize themselves on hidden-camera tapes to join as plaintiffs.

Smoke not yet cleared in settlement debates

By Mike Smith
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — More than half of the tobacco settlement money that states have planned to use is earmarked for health care services, a new report says, but an anti-smoking group said too little is going to programs to keep people from starting the habit.

Twenty-nine states have not decided how they will spend the money from the historic settlement with cigarette makers. The other 21 have authorized the use of \$1.3 billion.

Of that, about 10 percent has been earmarked for tobacco-control and smoking-cessation initiatives, drawing the ire of an organization that has been lobbying states to spend more on such programs.

"We have a problem with the fact that not nearly enough of the money is being spent on what it was intended for in the first place, which is using tobacco money to fix the tobacco problem," said Bill Novelli, president of the Washington-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

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decided how they will spend the money from the historic settlement with cigarette makers.

Novelli's organization advocates spending 20 to 25 percent of the money on tobacco education and smoking cessation efforts, but he said only about a dozen states are doing that.

He noted that some states are spending it on children's health insurance programs, college scholarships and biomedical research.

"Those are all laudable efforts and there is enough money to go around, but unless the states put a good portion of the money into tobacco programs, what will happen is they'll be paying out more and more over the years," he said.

The tobacco companies agreed to pay \$40 billion over 25 years to settle four state lawsuits and another \$206 billion in a broader deal reached with the other 46 states last November.

Under the deal — the biggest civil settlement in U.S. history — the tobacco company payments will be distributed beginning in 2000 and will also help finance anti-smoking research and education programs.

The report by the Health Policy Tracking Service at the National Conference of State Legislatures shows that nearly 20 percent of the \$1.3 billion states have authorized so far will be spent on childhood development, elementary and secondary education and college scholarships.

Six percent will go to services for the elderly and the remaining funds — about 11 percent — will be spent on assorted state needs. In all, more than half the money is being spent on health care.

Almost \$7 billion of the initial settlement funds remain to be authorized or appropriated.

Many states have had to choose or are still deciding on how best to spend the money.

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