

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, April 2, 2018

Man charged with assault after being cut with scissors during fight



Charles Anderson

Charles Anderson, 26, Williams Road Tellico Plains, was charged with Domestic Assault, and Simple Possession. The Loudon County Sheriff Dept. had Charles Anderson on a traffic stop and advised he had been in an altercation that occurred in the city limits and stated he was stabbed by a pair of scissors. Officer James Cog-

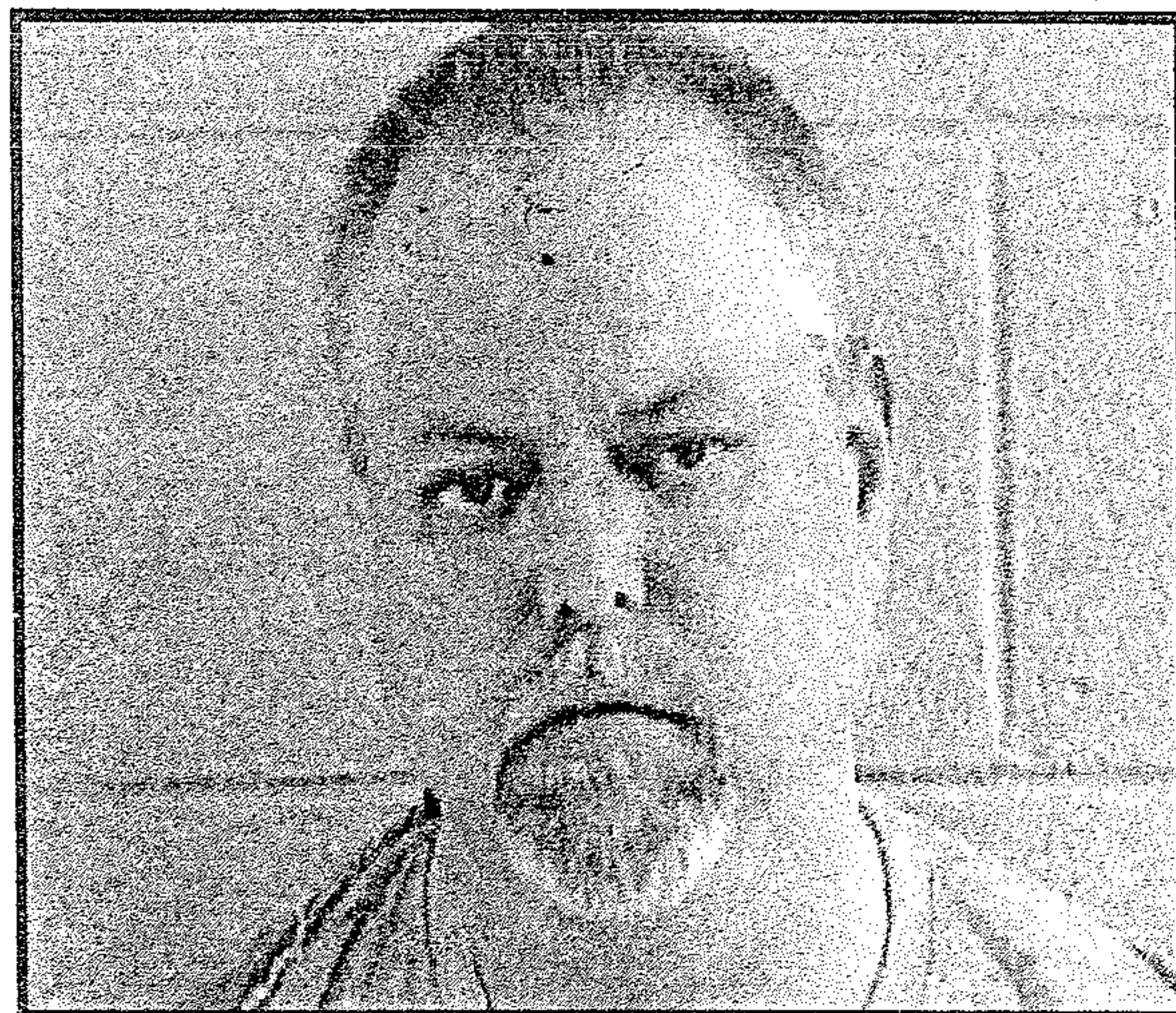
Blackmail call leads to arrest of revoked driver



Robert Percell

see Revoked pg. 3

Domestic Assault at America's Best Inn



Todd Earle

See Assault P.5

(see Fight pg. 2)

Traffic stop finds Meth backpack



Rebecca Key

See Backpack p.4

State-Sponsored Cyber Theft Nine Iranians Charged in Massive Hacking Campaign on Behalf of Iran Government

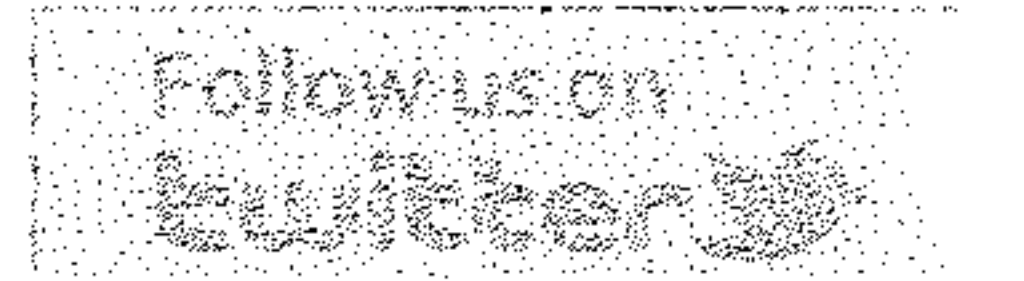
Nine Iranian citizens—working at the behest of the government of Iran—have been charged in a massive computer hacking campaign that compromised U.S. and foreign universities, private companies, and U.S. government entities, including the Department of Labor and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The hackers were affiliated with the Mabna Institute, an Iran-based company created

in 2013 for the express purpose of illegally gaining access to non-Iranian scientific resources through computer intrusions. Members of the institute were contracted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—one of several entities within the Iranian government responsible for gathering intelligence—as well as other Iranian government clients.

During a more than four-year campaign, these state-sponsored hackers

(see FBI pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those

who love him. — James 1:12

Obituaries

See p.4

Wazzup

Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Easter.

Weather

Today: AM Showers

High of 62F.

Tonight: Overcast. Low of 49F.

Tuesday: Showers. High of 67F.

Tuesday Night: Overcast. Low of 51F.

Horoscopes

Aries 3/21-4/19

Theres little or no hesitation

on your part when you are offered an alternative to your regular responsibilities today. You might say yes before you give any thought to the consequences of following your hearts desires rather than your heads logic. A wild Venus-Uranus conjunction

(Continued on page 6)



Fight

dill LPD, responded to Roberts Road and spoke to the victim.. The victim stated Anderson woke up around 10:30 and they got into a verbal argument over him returning his mothers truck to her. Victim stated she was bent down sitting next to a

heater and Anderson came over and grabbed her by the top of her head by the hair and started throwing her around the house by her hair. Victim stated Anderson was throwing her around when they went to the ground she grabbed a pair of scissors and cut Anderson on the leg to stop him from beating her

up. Victim did have scratches on the back of her neck, and bruising on her left eye. Victim stated Anderson left the scene and took her phone and broke his phone during the altercation. Anderson was placed under arrest.

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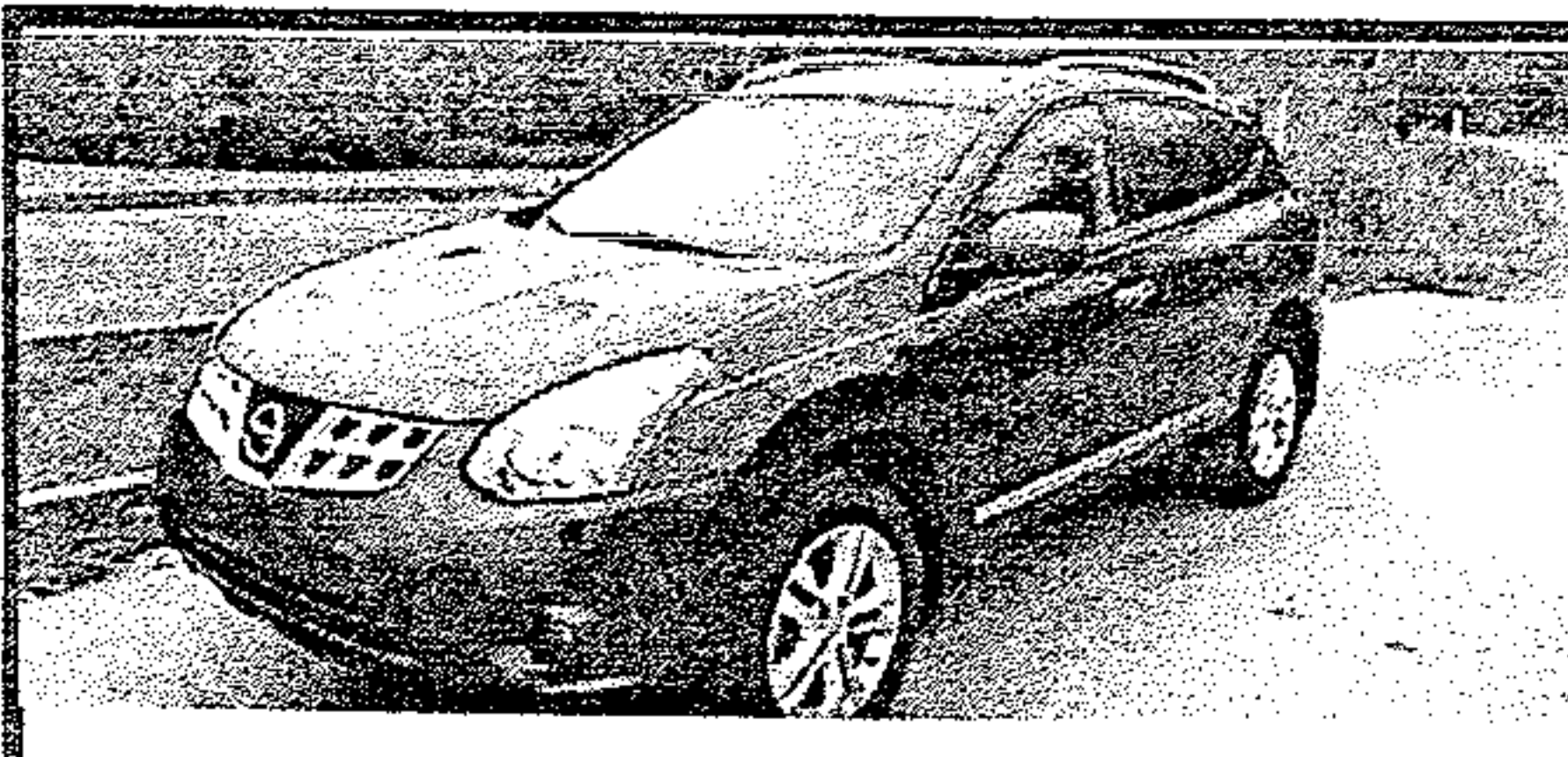
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Revoked

Robert Percell, 29, Candace Circle Knoxville, was charged with Criminal Impersonation, Legend Drug, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and Poss. of Drug Para. Deputy Chance Gray LCSO, was dispatched to Watt Road in reference to a person being black mailed. Upon arrival Deputy made contact victim who stated someone had given her a ride to her bosses house earlier that day. Victim stated while inside her bosses home the person left taking her purse. Victim stated the subject was telling her that for 100.00 dollars he would return the purse. While speaking with her she stated the person was supposed to be meeting her in the parking lot. Vic-

tim boss did provide a video of the vehicle at her home. Deputy then observed a red vehicle turn into the parking lot matching the vehicle. Deputy then pulled behind the vehicle, and made contact with the driver later identified as Robert Percell. While Deputy was attempting to identify him he gave multiple different names that did not come back to him. He then revealed his true name and stated he lied due to having suspended license. A check through dispatch revealed Percell to have an active warrant out of Knox. County, and his license were revoked. Percell was placed under arrest. A glass pipe and a syringe was located on Percell. Percell's girlfriend was called to the scene to pick up the child in the vehicle

with Percell. A search of the vehicle revealed several syringes throughout the vehicle several in reach of the child, empty suboxone packs, 3 meth pipes, marijuana grinder, 1 spoon with residue, set of scales, 312 baggies with white powder residue, 49 grams of a clear crystal substance believed to be Epson salt, 12 and 3 1/2 white pills identified as Buspirone. Percell was transported to the Loudon Jail.

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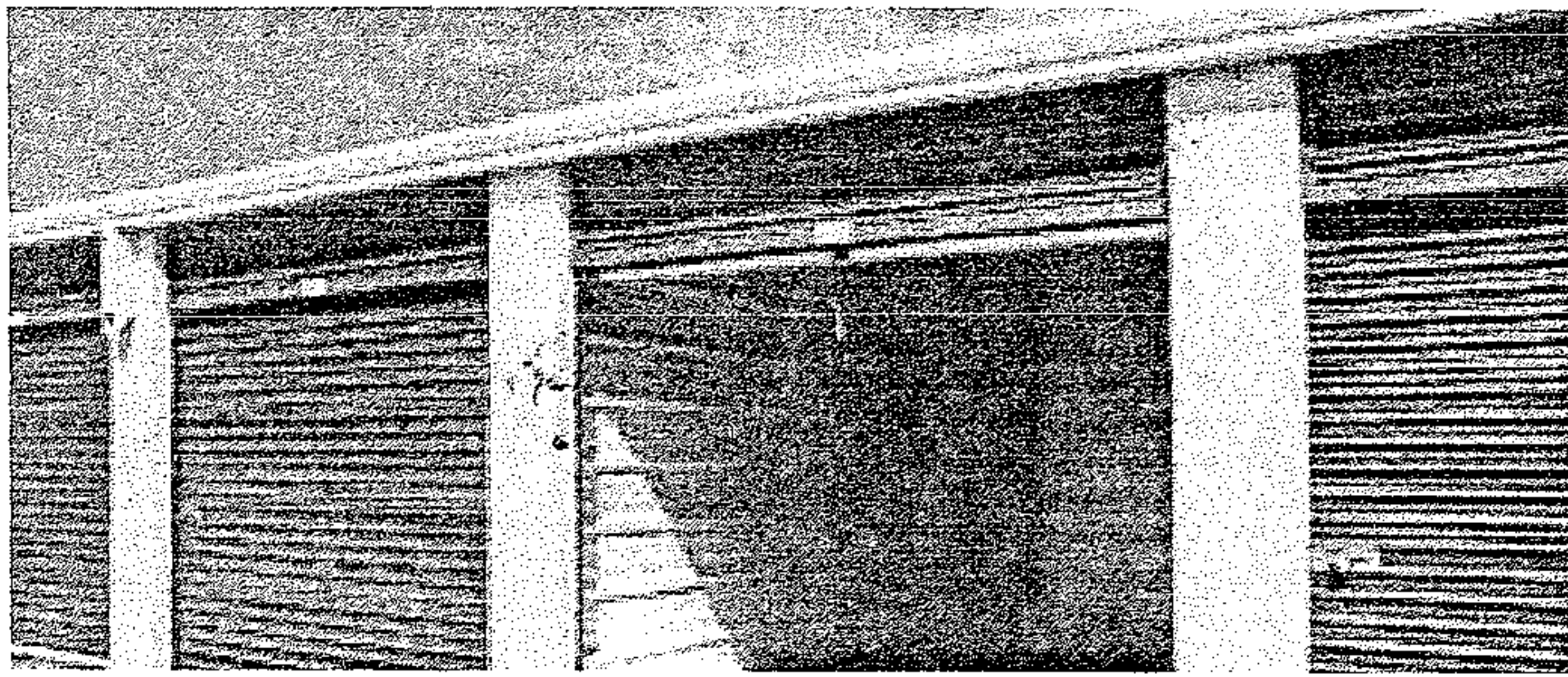
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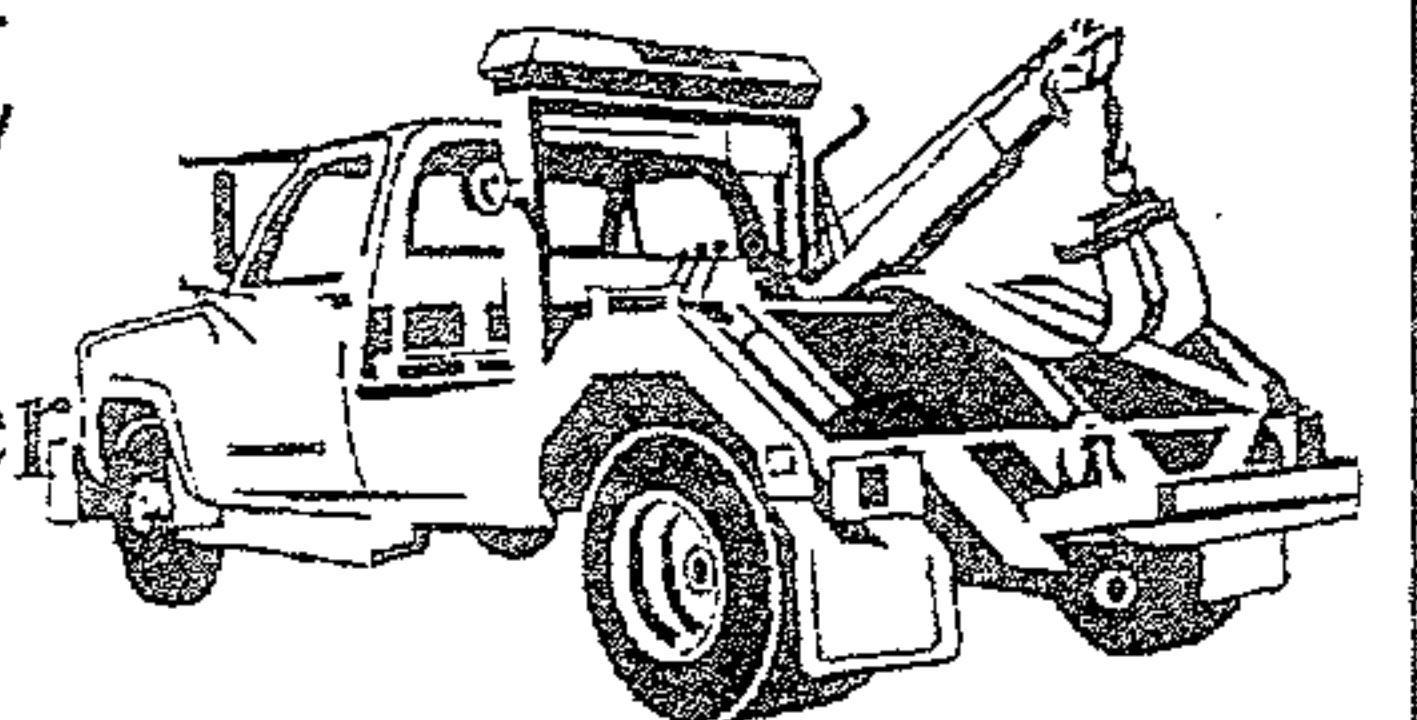
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Charges

Rebecca Key, 29, Old Midway Road Lenoir City, was charged with MFG/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, and Simple Possession. Officer Caleb Green LCPD, observed a gold vehicle traveling S. on West Hill Dr. with the left brake light out. Officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at Silver Hills Apt. Officer made contact with the driver and 2 occupants. After speaking with the occupants Officer ask if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. The back seat passenger made Officer aware of a syringe in a red bag in the floorboard. Officer was given consent to search the vehicle and located a white backpack in the passenger floorboard. As Officer open the backpack he observed a small clear plastic container containing a .5 grams of a white crystal like substance believed to be meth. Also located was a small cylinder containing 1 gram of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. The last item located was a blue lock box that was locked. Officer spoke with the occupants and identified the owner of the backpack as Rebecca Key. Ms. Key voluntarily provided the key to unlock the box. Located inside was numerous individual baggies and a set of scales with white crystal like residue on them. Key was placed under arrest.

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FBI

"compromised approximately 144 U.S.-based universities and 176 foreign universities in 21 countries," said FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich during a press conference today at the Department of Justice in Washington to announce the indictments. When the FBI learned of the attacks, he said, "we notified the victims so they could take action to minimize the impact. And then we took action to find and stop these hackers."

Initially, the cyber criminals used an elaborate spear-phishing campaign to target the e-mail accounts and computer systems of their victims, which in addition to the universities included nearly 50 domestic and foreign private-sector companies, the states of Hawaii and Indiana, and the United Nations.

According to the indictments unsealed today in a Manhattan federal court, the hackers stole more than 30 terabytes of academic data and intellectual property—roughly three times the amount of data contained in the print collection of the Library of Congress.

"Their primary goal was to obtain user names and passwords for the accounts of professors so they could gain unauthorized access and steal whatever kind of proprietary academic information they could get their hands on," said a special agent who investigated the case from the FBI's New York Division. "That information included access to library databases, white papers, journals, research, and electronic books. All that information and intellectual property was provided to the

see FBI ctd. pg. 7

Obituaries

Mary Elizabeth Hill Freshour, age 92, of Lenoir City passed away Tuesday evening, March 27, 2018 at her home. She was a

member of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City for over 60 years and a member of WMU. Mary enjoyed reading, crocheting, gardening, and visiting with her family. She was a former volunteer at Parkwest Medical Center and was active with elections in Loudon County. Preceded in death by her devoted husband, Robert S. Freshour; son, Herbert Thomas Freshour; parents, Tom W. and Mayme C. Hill; brother, John Clyde (Buster) Hill and sister, Lillian Graham. Survived by her son, Dr. Ken (Chris) Freshour of Adairsville, GA; daughter, Debbi (John) White of Lenoir City, Jan (Rev. Terry) Brown of Clarksville, TN; daughter-in-law, Dana Freshour of Lenoir City; grandchildren: Todd White, Josh White, Jennifer (Bryant) Arnaud, Wesley (Shari) Brown, Matt Freshour, Beth Freshour, Megan Hawkins, Morgan (Erik) Elliott, Rob Freshour, Shannon (David) Christian, Tracy Martin, Katy Prosceno, Mike Freshour, Laura Smith, Carrie Freshour, Carmen Freshour, Adrian Freshour, Rosa Cloer, Anna (Parker) Key, and Ernie Freshour; 40 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; brother, Tom W. Hill, Jr. (Yasuko) of Oak Ridge; sisters, Nell Dial, Tom-

mie Haun of Philadelphia, and Geri (Walter) Babb of Sweetwater; many nieces and nephews. Mary had a special bond with Dr. Dick and Della DeMerchant, Deacon Randy Freels and close neighbor of 60 years, June Kinkaid. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 31st at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Funeral services will follow at 7 p.m. with Dr. Dick DeMer-

chant officiating. Family and friends will gather at the funeral home by 2:30 p.m. on Sunday and proceed to Lakeview Cemetery for 3 p.m. graveside services. Memorials may be made to the building fund of First Baptist Church in Lenoir City. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

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Assault

Todd Earle, 46, Reeds Spring Road Sweetwater, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Benny Houser LPD, was dispatched to the America's Best Inn for a possible Domestic. Upon arrival a female victim came running out of a room stating her boyfriend Todd Earle was beating her up. Victim had a cut above her left eye and marks on her left leg and hip. Todd Earle stated that happen earlier when he was trying to get away from victim. Earle was highly intoxicated, and placed under arrest.

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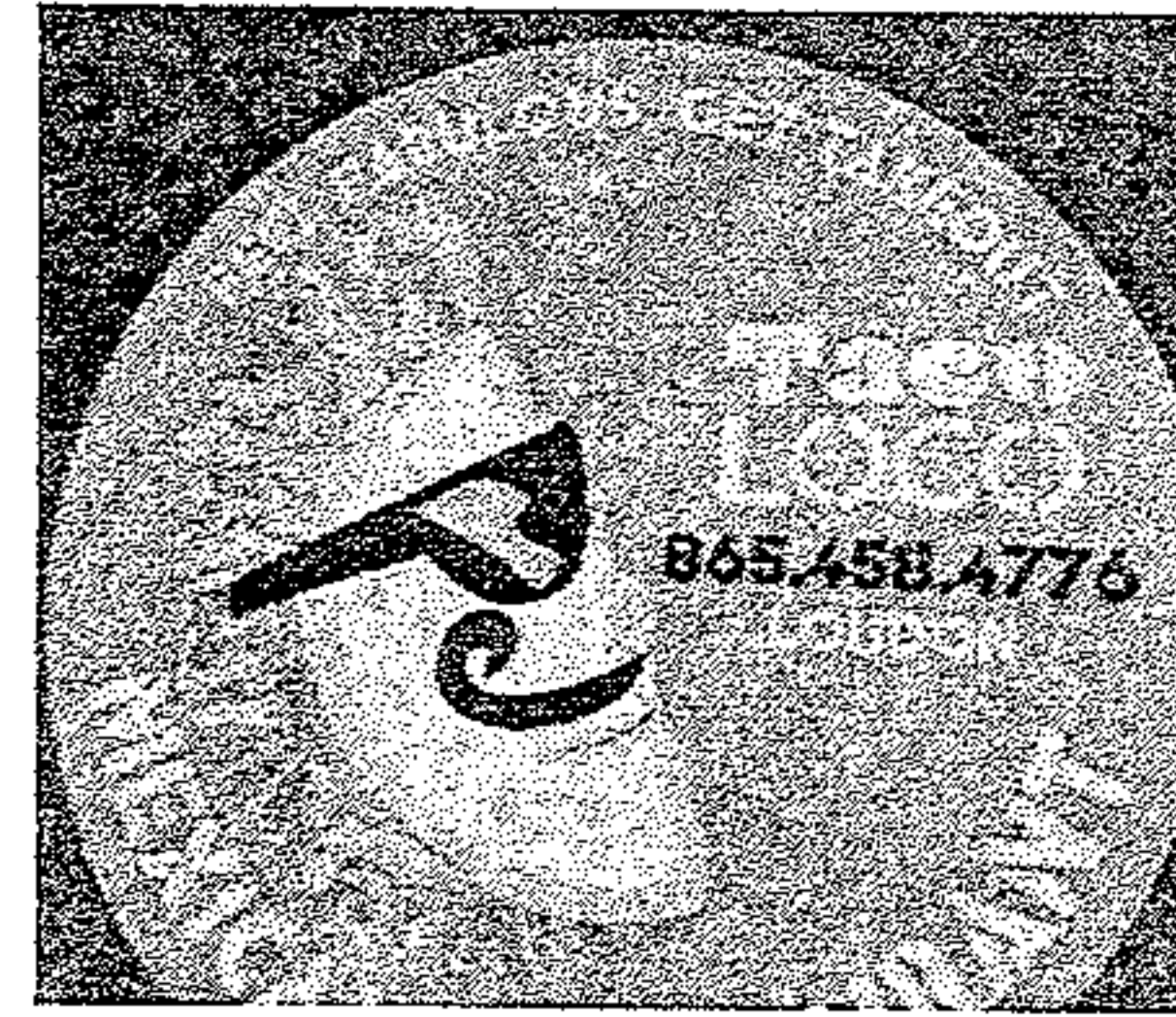
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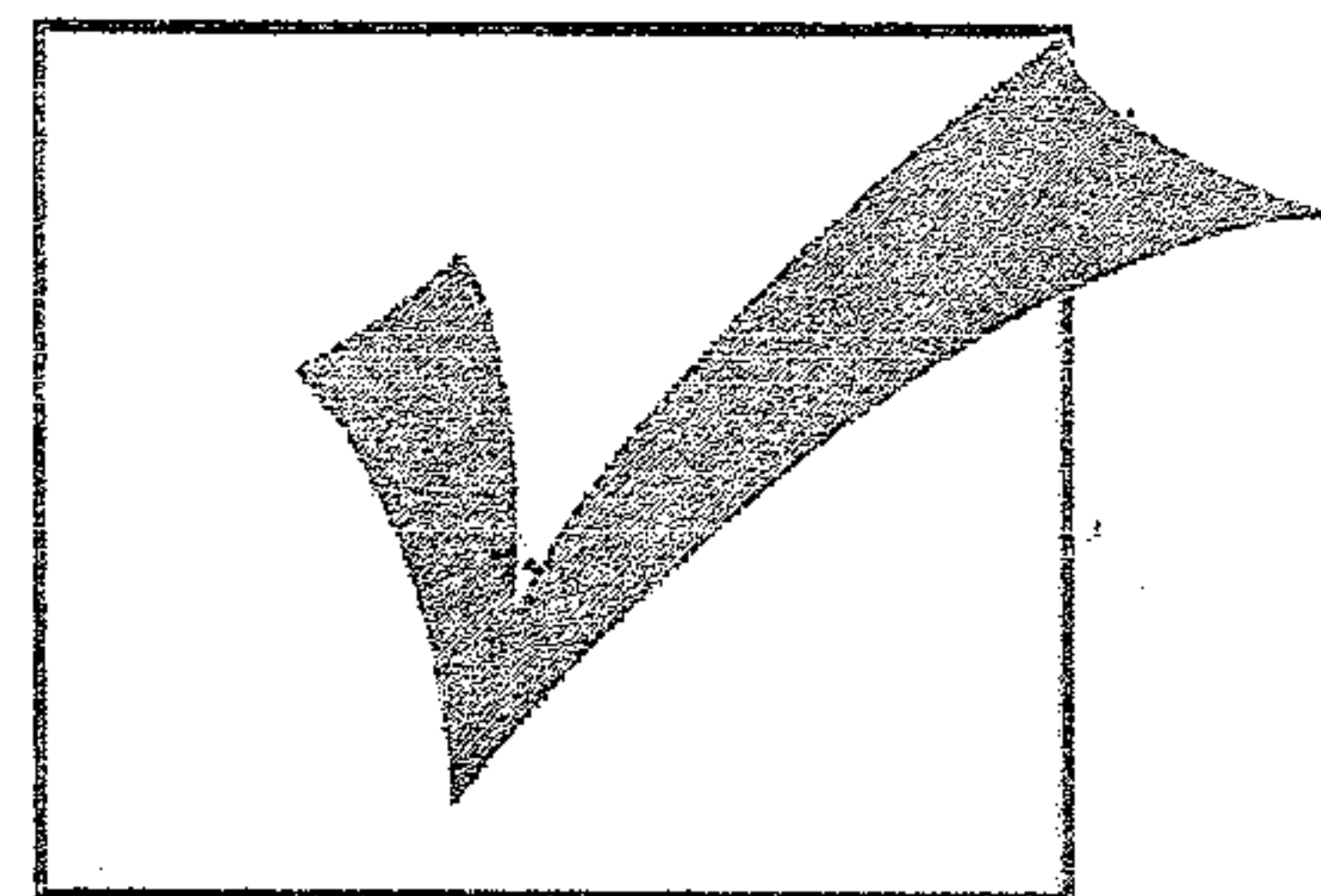
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see FBI ctd. from pg. 4
Iranian government," he added.

Mabna Institute targeted more than 100,000 accounts of professors around the world and successfully compromised approximately 8,000 of those accounts. The campaign continued through at least December 2017. Although it is difficult to calculate a dollar loss amount, through the course of the conspiracy, U.S.-based universities spent approximately \$3.4 billion to procure and access data that the Iranians accessed for free because of their criminal activity.

"The hackers did their homework," the cyber agent said. They conducted online reconnaissance of professors to determine the individuals' research interests and the academic articles they had published. Armed with that information, they sent spear-phishing e-mails to their targets—messages that ap-

peared to be from professors at other universities.

Victim professors believed they were dealing with colleagues who had expressed an interest in academic articles. The e-mails tricked many of the professors to click on links that recorded their keystrokes when they signed into what they thought were their secure university domains but were actually bogus sites controlled by the hackers.

The Iranians targeted data across all fields of research and academic disciplines, including science and technology, engineering, social sciences, medical, and other professional fields.

In addition to targeting universities, the hackers gained access to employee e-mail accounts at nearly 50 private companies around the world—the majority of them U.S. firms. Among the U.S.-based victims were academic publishers, media and entertainment companies,

technology companies, and investment firms. During that same period in 2016, the hackers also began conducting intrusions against various U.S. federal agencies and other organizations such as the United Nations.

This brute force technique involves collecting lists of names and e-mail accounts through open-source Internet searches and then guessing the users' passwords, betting that some users never changed default company passwords or used common ones such as "password123." Password spraying is such an unsophisticated technique that it can go undetected by company security networks. "They were flying under the radar," said the cyber agent who investigated the case, "and the magnitude of their effort was remarkable."

The tactic worked, providing hackers access to victims' entire e-mail accounts. Now, in addition to academ-

ic data, the hackers were accessing companies' trade secrets and sensitive U.S. government information.

The nine defendants, who all reside in Iran, have been charged with conspiracy to commit computer intrusions, wire fraud, unauthorized access of a computer, and aggravated identity theft.

Bowdich acknowledged that apprehending the Iranian cyber criminals presents a challenge, "but it's not impossible." He explained that the defendants might travel outside of Iran and be subject to arrest. "Where we can't apprehend these individuals quickly," he added, "we will resort to different methods—naming and shaming, sanctions, and a lot of publicity. We will keep at it," he said, "because the FBI and our partners at the Department of Justice have a very long memory."

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