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## Gateway Pundit Writer Will Not Face Charge in UConn Scuffle

By CHRISTINA CARON



Lucian Wintrich, left, leaving Rockville Superior Court with his lawyer, Norm Pattis, right, in Vernon, Conn., on Monday.

Prosecutors have dropped the breach of peace charge against Lucian Wintrich, the conservative pundit who grabbed a woman after she took papers from his podium during an appearance last month at the University of Connecticut, his lawyer said on Monday.

“The state realizes that my client

was in fact the victim of a theft,” Norm Pattis, who represents Mr. Wintrich, said in a phone interview.

Mr. Wintrich, who writes for The Gateway Pundit, was arrested on Nov. 28 after speaking at a university event hosted by a campus Republican group, where he was videotaped confronting the woman

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who snatched his papers.

She was later identified as an adviser at a Connecticut community college.

The scuffle happened as he was wrapping up his nearly hourlong speech — which The Associated Press said was titled “It’s O.K. To Be

White.”

During the speech, members of the audience shouted insults at Mr. Wintrich, interrupting him, yelling “Go home, Nazi” and “Black Lives Matter,” according to the police. The audience then began to leave the packed lecture hall around 8:50 p.m.

At that point, Catherine Gregory, 33, who works an adviser at Quinebaug Valley Community College, approached Mr. Wintrich’s podium, the police said. She took papers from the lectern, and as she walked away, Mr. Wintrich grabbed her and tried to take the papers back. The police intervened, and Mr. Wintrich was arrested.

The crowd outside the hall, which numbered about 200, was also getting rowdy, the police said. Someone broke one of the lecture hall’s windows and a smoke bomb was thrown inside the hall.

Mr. Wintrich was charged with breach of the peace, a misdemeanor, and was released after posting \$1,000 bond, said a university spokeswoman, Stephanie Reitz.

Catherine Gregory faces charges of attempted larceny and disorderly conduct for taking Mr. Wintrich’s notes after he spoke at the University of Connecticut last month. Credit University of Connecticut Police Department, via Associated Press

At the time, the police did not apprehend Ms. Gregory. When they later learned her identity, they

issued an arrest warrant, charging her with disorderly conduct and attempt to commit larceny in the sixth degree. She has been placed on administrative leave at Quinebaug, according to the arrest warrant. The college did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Sunday, Ms. Gregory turned herself in to the University of Connecticut Police Department, Ms. Reitz said, after the university contacted her lawyer and informed him of the arrest warrant. She was subsequently released on a \$1,000 bond. Her court date has been set for Wednesday.

Mr. Pattis described her actions as “outrageous.”

“We’re going to ask that she gets at least two days behind bars,” he added, so she can spend time “thinking about the value of the First Amendment.”

Ms. Gregory’s lawyer, Jon L. Schoenhorn, said his client was “violently attacked and choked” and received medical attention after the encounter. He is preparing a “robust defense.”

“It is in some ways ironic that the president of UConn would tolerate a speaker who spews racist rhetoric and deliberately incites the community,” he said in a phone interview. “If a student at UConn were to say a fraction of the hateful things that Wintrich said, such student would be expelled.”

Mr. Wintrich’s website, The Gateway

Pundit, gained notice last year for its pro-Trump coverage and for promoting false rumors about voter fraud and Hillary Clinton’s health.

Mr. Wintrich, who has collaborated with Milo Yiannopoulos, the conservative provocateur, was granted press credentials to attend White House news briefings this year.

On Monday, Mr. Wintrich tweeted that justice was “finally being served,” calling Ms. Gregory a “leftist thug” in another tweet.

Ms. Gregory’s lawyer, Mr. Schoenhorn, said her actions were no different than turning off a microphone.

“There’s a certain level of hypocrisy going on here. And my client’s reaction was mild compared to the reaction of others in the audience,” said Mr. Schoenhorn. ■