

Date/time

Sun, 10/19/2025 - 2:15pm

Library

[Central](#)

Area of library

1st Floor Computers

Patron(s) involved (from the database)

[Richard Rathmann](#)

redacted

Other patrons involved

FNU LNU, redacted

Incident description

Around 2:15 security was radioed to the first floor. redacted, who had been doing rounds on 1st, was able to arrive first. redacted who had been doing rounds on 2nd, quickly followed. When redacted approached, redacted was in conversation with library staff and 3 patrons. As redacted entered the situation, she was immediately pulled into conversation by redacted who told her that she had been harassed, despite not having done anything at all.

redacted, who was incredibly worked up at this point, explained to redacted that due to vision impairments, she specifically needed to use the computer (PC 1-04) with accessibility implements. Unfortunately, when she had arrived, Richard Rathmann was sitting at that computer. However, Rathmann had not been using the actual computer, but rather, was using his laptop at the desk. redacted intervened on her behalf and asked Rathmann if he had felt comfortable moving, and he agreed and moved. Things escalated when at some point Rathmann returned to redacted and solicited "oral copulation" from her. This had been overheard by a third patron who was sitting across from redacted at PC 1-08. This patron was understandably disgusted and reprimanded Rathmann for talking to a woman like that. That is when Circ Staff (redacted) intervened, as it had gotten a bit heated.

Due to how worked up she was redacted brought redacted a bottle of water which she accepted.

As redacted was getting this rundown from redacted, redacted had taken Rathmann aside. Rathmann tried to find some sort of solidarity with redacted, stating that redacted would "get it" because he is also a man. redacted calmly listened to Rathmann but did not validate nor condone his actions or words. redacted lead Rathmann out of the building and told him that he had to LFTD and that he could return tomorrow.

While redacted was doing this, redacted went to discuss with LIC redacted about the situation, wanting to determine if this was indeed a bannable offence. redacted agreed that it was.

10/20/25 - Update: redacted was notified Rathman was seated at a PC on 1st and instructed him to follow her to the exit. I was typing his ban letter for one year. I caught up with them just inside the exit and

served his ban letter. [redacted] and I both made clear the reason for the ban. I explained the length of his ban and the instructions for appealing were on the letter. [redacted] reminded him he's appealed before and was aware of the process.

After serving his letter, I escorted Rathman to the exit. He stood in the entry and claimed the ban should only be three months since his last one was one month. He said, "One week, one month, three months. That's how it goes. I clarified his comments were so severe and the effect on the patron so disturbing, a one year ban was justified. He then denied making the comment, stating, "She's so fat and ugly I would never solicit that from her." I told him that was enough and he needed to leave. He repeated it, saying, "She so fat, ugly and evil, I would never ask for that from her." I told him to stop talking again and leave.

Rathman continued protesting and addressed his last harassment ban. He asked, "Do you remember the last time I was banned when you told me not to talk to that woman and I did anyway? I didn't hear you tell me not to talk to her." I told him we've already addressed that incident with the Library Board and I was not going to talk with him about it any further. Rathman left with his letter. - [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted]/MAD

[redacted]/MAD

[redacted]/MAD

[redacted]/MAD

Police/ambulance called

No

First aid given

No

Type

Sexual harassment

Incident/banning letter(s) shared with appropriate email lists?

Yes

Debarred in ILS?

Yes

Infraction listed in Lib on Line/myPC?

Yes

Staff initials

[redacted]/MAD