

Campus security unchanged after shooting spree

By ANN RILEY
The Daily Iowan, U. of Iowa

Despite last month's shooting spree at the U. of Iowa where a graduate student killed five people and critically injured a sixth before shooting himself, officials at UI don't anticipate any major changes in campus security.

"I think the main thing now is to make sure people know that this was a highly unusual event," said UI President Hunter Rawlings. "Not the kind of thing that could have been predicted or even stopped if someone has that kind of purpose in mind."

Gang Lu, a doctoral physics candidate, was angry because his dissertation wasn't nominated for an academic honor, and he shot the UI physics professors who nominated another student for the award, the student who was nominated, the chairman of the physics department, the vice president handling his complaint about the award and a member of her staff.

UI public safety officers, who were in charge of the shooting investigation, do not carry guns. Although there was some discussion on campus about changing that policy, Rawlings said officers would not be issued weapons.

Government

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At the U. of North Texas last spring, only 973 — or 3.8 percent of 25,750 students — voted in the Student Association elections. And at Wesley College in Dover, Del., only 47 of the school's 1,300 students elected Student Government Association officers.

These schools are not unique. Student government leaders nationwide cite poor election returns as a major problem.

Malinda Lawrence, student body president at the U. of New Hampshire, called lack of voter interest a "big, big, big problem. Ask anyone about student government and they'll say, 'This campus is so apathetic.'"

Lawrence said UNH also had problems finding candidates to run. "We can never fill all the seats that we have," she said.

Raising Questions

Election day aside, campuses recently have been awash in controversies questioning the scruples of student officials. Incidents of fixed parking tickets and falsified travel vouchers at the U. of Missouri-St. Louis, allegations of unreasonably lavish expenditures at the City U. of New York, and a case at the U. of Kansas where the student body president allegedly hit his girlfriend have tarnished already less-than-glowing reputations.

Such actions don't sit well with students, who say they have a hard time taking offi-

cially seriously when these reports surface.

"Our representatives have been mishandling our trust in them," said Gary Garufi, a student at the UM-St. Louis. "When student representatives do this, all students look bad."

Gaining and maintaining credibility is a tough battle for organizations that students commonly perceive as weak.

"I really don't see a lot of what they're doing," said Belinda Bankes, a senior at the U.

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— Gary Garufi
U. of Missouri - St. Louis

of Cincinnati. "They have a place on campus where you can write in your opinion but a lot of it is never seen... students don't feel like the senate can benefit them in any way."

Student government leaders at some schools have issued warnings to their senates to avert criticism.

At the U. of South Carolina, student vice president Shine Brooks advised representatives to "return to the people who put them in office."

Brooks said his statement was not in response to any particular incident on his campus, but a preventative measure.

Making Progress

Working to better students' interests is the main goal of campus governments, a task

met through various channels.

At Pan American U. in Edinburg, Texas, a major project involved relaying students concerns to the state legislature, which proposed changes to the student loan program, said senator Tony Mercado.

"We've taken the initiative as far as actually lobbying at our state capitol and holding press conferences and rallies on campus," Mercado said.

At Eastern Montana College, the Association of Students spearheaded a campaign generating 2,000 letters to the governor to protest tuition increases, said student body vice president Angela Marshall.

As a link between students and administration, student governments work hand-in-hand with school officials, a relationship most administrators find satisfying.

Luan Krager, dean of students at the U. of Arizona, termed her interaction with the Associated Students of the U. of Arizona as rewarding. While she doesn't always agree with the senate's actions, such as hosting Andrew Dice Clay last year, she supports its right to make decisions.

But Colleen Sullivan, assistant director of programs at UNH, believes the senate could benefit from closer supervision. A professional staff member could help with training and provide consistency, she said. "Each year, the new leadership of the student senate has to start all over again and I think that they lose a lot," she said.

Tige Watts, The Gamecock, U. of South Carolina, contributed to this article.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Four Students Get "Free Ride" in GMAC Sweepstakes

Four students won new cars as grand prize winners in the General Motors Acceptance Corporation's "MOVING UP" Sweepstakes, which ran in *U. The National College Newspaper* last spring.

The winners: Robert Richardson, Timothy Mayhall, Paige Elizabeth Martin, and Jonathan Dizon, were randomly selected from 86,000 entries received from college students across the country. The new cars awarded to the four grand prize winners were a GEO Storm GSI, an Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Coup, a Buick Regal Gran Sport, and a Pontiac Sunbird LE Convertible.

Paige Martin recalls her reaction to the win, "I was just shocked! It was really exciting! I got to pick out the colors for the car, silver with burgundy interior."

Look for your chance to win next year's GMAC Sweepstakes in upcoming issues of *U.*



Robert M. Richardson II
Richmond, Kentucky
GEO Storm GSI



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