

UO expert drafts violence guide

An Education Department panel produced the school safety guide in the wake of the Thurston shooting

By Rob Moseley
Associate Editor

A student, armed with a semi-automatic rifle and two pistols, opened fire in the Thurston High School cafeteria on May 21, killing two students and destroying the serenity of a quiet community. Kip Kinkel, 16, sits in Lane County Jail charged with the crime.

A University administrator believes that, armed with a document released by the U.S. Department of Education a month ago, Thurston faculty and schools that have suffered similar tragedies in recent months could have gone a long way to preventing the actions of Kinkel and other students with violent tendencies.

"I think it would have reduced the likelihood of something like this happening," said Hill Walker, co-director of the University's Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior.

Walker participated this summer in drafting a document titled "Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools." The guide was ordered by President Clinton while visiting Springfield in the wake of the Thurston tragedy and mailed to schools around the country Aug. 27.

The project was overseen by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley and Attorney General Janet

Reno, who drew on the knowledge of a panel that included "experts in a variety of disciplines, as well as principals, teachers, pupil personnel staff, families and youth," according to the guide.

Among those experts were Walker and his IVDB co-director, Jeff Sprague.

"One of the nice things about the guide, in my view, is that it synthesizes and distills very powerful research that's taken place over the last several decades on this topic in the fields of psychology, corrections and education," Walker said.

The guide includes eight sections with titles like "Characteristics of a School that is Safe and Responsive to All Children," "Getting Help for Troubled Children," and "Developing a Prevention and Response Plan," but includes just two major goals, according to Walker.

"One is to tell people — educators, parents, policy makers, community leaders — what to look for in terms of detecting the signs of troubled youth," Walker said. "And the second part is, once you know what to look for, once you see it, what do you do next? What are your next steps?"

According to the guide, that first goal includes identifying early warning signs, the first type of which Walker termed "generic" signs.

More troubling are what Walker calls "eminent" warning signs, including bringing weapons to school with the intent to use them and extreme cruelty to animals, both of which were characteristics Thurston

students said Kinkel displayed.

The Thurston incident was one of no less than five on-campus shootings to take place in the nation during the past school year.

Other shootings occurred in Pearl, Miss., Oct. 1; Paducah, Ky., two months later; and Jonesboro, Ark., March 24.

"While the same number, approximately, of tragedies happened this year that have happened in previous years on school campuses, for some reason this series of tragedies galvanized public concern and awareness about this in a way that in previous years it had not," Walker said. "And with respect to this past year, the Thurston shooting seemed to cause a sea change."

According to a senior advisor to Secretary Riley, one of the results of that change has been the drafting of 20 separate initiatives relating to on-campus violence, Walker said.

Other reactions include a national conference on violence to be held Oct. 15, as well as a conference hosted by Vice President Gore "this next year on how to design and supervise the space and the physical plan of schools so as to make them safer, to reduce student conflict and eliminate areas that are difficult to supervise," Walker said.

While those conferences are scheduled for later this year, the guide to safer schools was conceived, developed, produced and disseminated in a two-month time span.

"I'm truly amazed that the government could produce such a quality document in a two month period," Walker said.

Illusions

1311 Lincoln
Willamette Towers Building
345-1810



Haircuts.. \$10

reg. \$15
with shampoo & conditioner

Perms... \$32⁹⁵

Loop rods & spirals \$42⁹⁵

reg. \$50-65 w/ conditioners, cut & style.
Longer, color treated hair slightly more.

Good Through October 22, 1998

Still looking for a great place to live this year?

Duck's Village

has apartments open for the school year. Stop by today to look at a model, pick up an application, and sign a lease!

Office hours are M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Sat 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 485-7200 for more information or visit our website at www.ducksvillage.com



Duck's Village

3225 Kinsrow Ave., Eugene
Office: (541) 485-7200 Fax: (541) 485-4656

Textbooks

35-50%
off list price

Bring your textbook information to
Smith Family Bookstore

- Author
- Title
- Edition

We'll help you find used copies that will save you money!

Always buying:

- texts
- paperbacks
- Cliffs Notes
- current magazines

Smith Family Bookstore

One block from campus
(above Rainbow Optics)

768 E. 13th • (541) 345-1651

there are lots of frequent shopper cards...

but there's only one



Wild Shopper Card

save money

get a coupon book with more than \$50 in savings when you sign up.

each month you'll see a tremendous selection of new specials and great discounts providing Wild Shopper cardholders the lowest prices on the highest-quality products.

earn wild miles & build community

present your Wild Card every time you shop and accumulate Wild Miles (\$1 spent = 1 Wild Mile).

For every 250 Wild Miles you accumulate by October 15, 1998, you'll receive a 10% off certificate. You can either use the certificate to save additional money or give it to an Oasis-sponsored local non-profit. We'll increase your donation by up to 20%.

SIGN UP TODAY

it's fast ♦ it's easy ♦ it's FREE!

OASIS NORTH ♦ 2580 Willakenzie ♦ 334-6382

OASIS SOUTH ♦ 2489 Willamette ♦ 345-1014