

Kalamazoo students killed

By Lisa Singhania
The Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich.— A Kalamazoo College junior killed his ex-girlfriend and then himself in his dorm room Monday with a shotgun he bought around the time the couple broke up.

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Capt. Jerome Bryant said it appeared that Neenef Odah, 20, of Seattle, shot Margaret Wardle, 19, of Plainwell, Mich., twice before turning the gun on himself.

The students started dating last year, but broke up about a month ago, college president James Jones Jr. said. Soon after that, Odah bought the gun he used Monday, Bryant said.

The shootings followed a late-night argument, Jones said. Campus security discovered the bodies about 12:15 a.m. in Odah's first-floor dorm room in DeWaters Residence Hall, a three-story brick building that houses about 110 students.

Jones said he didn't know of any violent history between the pair, or of a similar shooting in the school's 166-year history. Police said no restraining or personal protection orders had been taken out against Odah, and he had no

criminal record.

"Could anything have been done to prevent this? As I walked around campus, I've tried to answer that. I don't know how you rout out this plague of violence, which seems to have descended on the most powerful society in the world," Jones said Monday.

Odah appeared happy Saturday night, the last time Kirsten Fritch saw him, barely 24 hours before the apparent murder-suicide.

"He danced with me at homecoming. He was smiling. Everything seemed fine," said Fritch, 19, of Kalamazoo.

Students at the private, west Michigan liberal arts college clutched tissue boxes and each other as they gathered in the school's chapel and lawn to grieve. At a noontime meeting, Jones told them not to "second-guess" whether the shootings could have been prevented, saying some tragedies defy explanation.

On this picturesque, leaf-covered campus of less than 1,400 students, many knew at least one of the victims, if only by sight. Wardle was a golfer described as friendly and outgoing.

Fritch remembered Odah as a quiet individual who always said

hello but was shy. She said her dance with Odah on Saturday appeared ordinary.

Her friend Andrea Bartuski, 20, of La Crosse, Wis., said both victims appeared to be happy when they dated last year.

Ms. Bartuski said she had a hard time believing Odah would be capable of such violence, adding, "I just don't want him to be remembered for this."

Chris Wilson, 19, a sophomore from Kalamazoo, said he was good friends with Odah last year and often saw him and Wardle together.

He said they had their quarrels, like any other couple. "But when he would get upset, he would just not talk to her," Wilson said. "They may have had their shouting matches, but I never saw violence."

All classes were canceled Monday and two grief sessions were held.

"I don't think this is something that could've been prevented," said Bryant. "We believe (Odah) was not handling the break-up very well and attempts to put the relationship back together had failed."

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Peter Lohr

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he will do next.

Before the Greatful Bread opened last year, Lohr worked for 22 years as the chef and production manager for the EMU, preparing food for catering orders and other events. He also currently teaches a cooking class in the Lane Community College culinary program.

The performance summary was compiled by looking at the bakery's revenue and the cost of goods, wastes and labor, Miller said. Some of the results were based on direct customer input.

"However, this doesn't mean he is officially fired as of March," Miller said. "I am reviewing the bakery's performance every day, and there are many options that can happen from now until then."

Miller wouldn't say if one of those options could mean a contract renewal for Lohr, just that he is reviewing every option.

Senior Carrie Anderson, Greatful Bread's student manager has worked with Lohr since last year. She said she thinks students will still come to the bakery, but many faculty and community members who have known Lohr for years might take their business elsewhere if he is let go.

"He is the key element of this bakery. People come here just to see him and just to buy the foccage he bakes," she said.

Anderson added she felt Lohr's personality made him a great manager too.

"He is fair and gives people chances, which you need to do in college atmosphere where students put classes first," she said. "Many times he would stay longer or work harder if a student had a test to study for."

Miller said he did not know if or when the EMU will start looking for a replacement for Lohr. If he is replaced, Miller also does not know if Lohr will be replaced by one person who will serve as baker and manager or two separate people.

"This is a tough, tough business and many restaurants fail," Miller said. "But we have to adjust to our customers, not expect them to adjust to us."



Single Graduate Students

We want your input

University Housing is considering the feasibility of building apartment housing for single graduate students.

Single graduate students are invited to an open forum to provide your ideas and input. The forum will be held:

Wednesday, October 20 at 5:30 PM.
in the EMU Maple Room

We will present some opinions that have been successful elsewhere, invite your ideas, and ask you to complete a brief survey. We will also provide you an opportunity for future input if we should go forward with the project. The entire meeting should take less than an hour with a light dinner provided afterward.