

Assault: Director cautions against letting strangers into residence halls

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the assault victims. The victims were not in the hall at the time and Crompton said a resident heard commotion in the hallway and saw Valencia-Torres with a gun.

Bean Complex Director Heather Dumas said she heard about the incident through second-hand accounts and launched an investigation, questioning residents and tracking down witnesses.

"We weren't notified of the gun being in the hall until close to 11:30 p.m.," Dumas said.

Crompton said police were contacted as soon as a concrete account of what happened had been obtained, which he said didn't take place until about 20 hours after the incidents occurred.

"By the time they were able to confirm enough and make a report it was one o'clock in the morning," Crompton said.

The Eugene Police Department issued a security alert and the Department of Public Safety posted safety bulletins around Bean Complex to inform students of the incident and urge them to keep an eye out for Valencia-Torres.

Director of University Housing and Vice President for Student Affairs Mike Eyster said safety bulletins were not posted in the other complexes because "based on what happened, we don't have any reason to think that he would go to some other room in some other building."

EPD and University Housing would not release the names of the students who were assaulted, citing student privacy laws.

"I didn't want to go out there because it sounded like people were getting slammed into walls."

JOHN HUGHES | Willcox Hall resident

University student Nathan Corliss, the Willcox Hall RA who broke up the early-morning altercation, said he could not comment on the incident.

Freshman David Hamburger lives in Willcox Hall and said the assault woke him up, but he said he assumed it was "just drunk people."

"I was going to tell them to be quiet, but there were a ton of them," Hamburger said.

Freshman John Hughes said he heard most of the early-morning altercation while in his residence hall room, which he said is just down the hall from the room where the incident occurred.

"I didn't want to go out there because it sounded like people were getting slammed into walls," Hughes said.

It is not known how Valencia-Torres was able to enter the residence hall twice, but Crompton said he suspects another resident let him in thinking he was doing someone a favor.

Eyster said Willcox Hall's locks

have been changed just in case Valencia-Torres had a key.

Eyster said it is likely that a resident let Valencia-Torres into the hall, and he said if housing officials are able to determine who it was, he or she will be punished accordingly.

Students who let strangers into the residence halls may think they're doing someone a favor but in actuality "they're endangering the lives and safety of everybody in the building," Eyster said.

Dumas said she hopes residents will learn from the incident and be more cautious about who they let into the halls.

"This situation has definitely raised safety awareness," Dumas said.

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