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UO Student Alumni Relations Board

Assault: Directors discuss security procedures

Continued from page 1

hear any concerns from students in case some felt threatened or uneasy after the incident.

"From the interactions that Heather's had, it doesn't appear that students are feeling like that," Eyster said.

Eyster said he has received two e-mails from parents regarding the incident, and both focused on concerns about students in the High School Equivalency Program living in the residence halls with University students.

Valencia-Torres is a graduate of the University's High School Equivalency Program and the students he allegedly assaulted are currently enrolled in the program.

The students did not know Valencia-Torres, but they were living in the room where he lived while he was a student. This was a connection that police say Valencia-Torres tried to use to strike up a conversation with the students and "more or less hang out with them," Crompton said in an April 28 Emerald article. The incident occurred around 6 a.m., police said.

Eyster said the parents who wrote the e-mails seemed concerned about

the age difference between students in the program and University students in the residence halls and the steps taken to integrate them.

Eyster said the age of the students is not something that should be of concern. However, the incident and student and parent responses have shown housing officials that more needs to be done to help integrate students from the program with University students in the residence halls, Eyster said.

"We're definitely going to be there to orient both groups to each other next year," Eyster said. "That is a certainty."

Eyster said he and High School Equivalency Program Director Emilio Hernandez will be working with housing officials during the summer to plan a better orientation program for HEP students. He said they will try to come up with more integration activities.

Conversations also centered on security procedures and the need for students to refrain from letting strangers into the residence halls. It is not known how Valencia-Torres entered the locked residence hall twice, but housing officials said they suspect another student let him in or that he

came in behind someone.

Hernandez said most of the complaints he receives about the High School Equivalency Program center on the race or ethnicity of the students involved.

"It all starts with the fact that they're Latino students," Hernandez said. "It turns into this racial thing of 'why are they here?'"

Hernandez said he is committed to doing whatever it takes to improve the tarnished image that the Valencia-Torres incident has given the program. He said the bias that exists in society means he must hold his students to a higher standard in hopes of breaking such stereotypes.

"I have to really be a hard hand on it because those daily stereotypes will destroy a program like that," Hernandez said.

Because the housing department is not directly involved with the search for Valencia-Torres, housing officials reported that questions about the nature of the HEP program were the biggest issues they had to address, besides typical concerns about security and safety.

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Ebony: Winners selected from 30 candidates

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history major, was the first person awarded during the ceremony. He had good academic standing in his courses and is very active in campus student activities.

Grace said the ceremony's arrangement was "exceptional," and he and his friends had a lot of fun. He believed the University's black community is like a big family and getting recognized by family members is "a great honor."

LaTina Lewis, co-director of the Black Student Union, was the only woman awarded in the ceremony. A

"I have been through all those struggles, but I overcame them ... and now I'm back."

CORY MAINOR | Winner, Ebony Man Showcase

journalism student, Lewis worked on a documentary "Forgotten Ducks," which explored the first black athletes on the University's football team in the early

20th century.

Lewis said she was really honored by the award and appreciated the efforts of everyone who organ-

ized the event.

Lijin Abraham, who helped arrange the event, said she is happy it turned out well and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun.

She said the decision deciding who would receive awards took a lot of time. About 30 candidates were selected in the first round, and the final winners were decided according to their academic records, public service records and personality or influence in the black community.

She believes there are several more black students who could qualify for the awards but missed the competition this year.

Leiberman: Award honors willingness to sacrifice

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Controversy has swirled around the Sinclair Broadcasting Group since last spring, when the group forced its stations to block an episode of ABC's Nightline in which Anchor Ted Koppel read the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq.

Leiberman revealed to the press during the election season that the group had discussed preempting programs on its stations to air the Kerry documentary and that he had been fighting what he believed to be

unbalanced news programming over several months.

"They have a First Amendment right to run what they want on their television stations — 62 of them," Leiberman said in an October article in The Baltimore Sun. "But when they called it news, it stepped across the line."

Gleason said the Payne Awards strive to honor those who uphold ethics.

"(Leiberman's decision) speaks loudly to the power of journalism

ethics and the practice of journalists who are willing to sacrifice careers to do the right thing," Gleason said.

The Payne Award judging committee consists of eight individuals in the journalism industry, including editors, professors and one former executive. Only two members of the committee, Gleason and Journalism and Communications Professor Tom Bivins, are part of the University.

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