

SHOOTER | NIU classes canceled until next Monday

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Weidner, a commuter student, had left campus just a few minutes before the shooting. A friend called her immediately to warn her, she said.

"Within five minutes of it happening, there was a warning up [on the University's Web site] alerting students and faculty to get in a safe place," Weidner said. "That's how my friend found out, from the NIU Web page."

She said she asked her friend if she needed a ride away from campus, then called both of their parents to let them know they were safe — campus phone lines were jammed with students calling family members and friends.

Weidner said that during her 45-minute commute, she wasn't yet sure of the details of the shooting.

"I was still just hoping nothing really bad happened," she said.

Weidner's father, a former emergency medical technician, had a police scanner at their home, which alerted the family that there had been at least five deaths.

"I was really shocked when they said there had been casualties," she said. "... I guess I didn't think that would ever actually happen. You hear it happening in other places, but you never think of it hitting home or school."

Weidner said one of her good friends was in the room Kazmierczak chose as his target.

"Right after, [my friend] was very much in shock," she said. "He's 21 years old, and he said he's never cried before in his life ... but he was just bawling, kind of aggressive, very upset."

Cole Hall, the building that housed the classroom, will be closed for the rest

of the semester, according to the NIU Web site. Weidner said Cole Hall only has two classrooms, both huge, stadium-seating lecture halls. Her chemistry class will be relocated next Monday when NIU students return to class.

Brian Krylowicz, director of University Counseling Services at Truman, said Virginia Tech counselors also volunteered their services and, sadly, their expertise to help the NIU community weather the next few weeks. Krylowicz spent a year as a counselor at NIU during a pre-doctoral internship.

He said that despite conventional wisdom, Kazmierczak's mental illness and prescription medication aren't the whole story.

"We're starting to look for what's wrong with people when the problem is that one in four people have a mental illness," Krylowicz said. "... We're trying to say, 'This is a deviant individual,' and truth is, these are normal human beings who are our neighbors."

Although Krylowicz stressed that he had no inside knowledge of the situation, he said starting and stopping prescriptions is a common occurrence.

"A lot of people go off their meds all the time," he said. "... Medication doesn't cause people to want to kill themselves. There might be a rare occasion when someone is actively, delusionally psychotic. But [Kazmierczak's] actions didn't seem like the kind of person who was psychotic."

It's more likely that Kazmierczak went off Prozac because he already had given up, Krylowicz said.

"I think the medication's a part of it, but I hope that people don't just look at that," he said. "... You can't get it down to, 'It's the medication, it's [because he's] a loner.'"

"I was still just hoping nothing really bad happened."

Jill Weidner
NIU Sophomore

CAR | Missouri Hall resident wakes up to car damages

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a lot of damage, and that is rare."

Abbott said DPS wasn't aware of the incident until observers notified them that the vehicle had been hit. He said DPS then dispatched an officer to the scene to identify the car, alert the owner and photograph and measure the damage.

"We develop a vehicle description [based on the damage]," Abbott said. "...

We just found ... a yellow vehicle with some black transfer yesterday. If the height matches up, [we might have a match]."

Abbott said it is likely that DPS won't know for sure if the suspect vehicle is the culprit until it sends paint chip samples to a lab for testing.

"If we find the person who is guilty, it will be handled through the courts," Abbott said.

SAFETY | Senate passes resolution calling for campus safety committee to meet — with a student representative — and review campus policies

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coming back together," he said. "Additionally, she's already talked to [Tom Johnson, director of public safety] and [Dave Rector, director of institutional research and budgets], and they are formulating some long-term planning for Truman specifically targeting what Truman's response would be to active shooters in a classroom and how we respond to an ice storm or a tornado."

Szewczyk also said a representative from Senate and possibly one from the Residence Hall Association will be a part of that committee when it meets.

In addition to those concerns being addressed, Szewczyk said students also can expect other policy and infrastructure changes in both the short term and the long term but that exact details are not yet worked out.

"Over the summer, there will be some changes made to facilities," Szewczyk said.

Johnson, the unofficial committee chair, said the safety committee, called

the DPS Advisory committee, is not a standing committee.

"I think there might be some confusion as to what this committee is," he said. "From my experience, it's been more of a sounding board type thing to bounce ideas off of people [from] campus."

Johnson said meetings have taken place throughout campus since both the Virginia Tech shooting and an intruder's entrance into Dobson Hall on Jan. 20, but that a student was not present for those meetings. He said he plans on calling a meeting of the committee in the next couple of weeks and having a student representative present.

"Basically it's going to be more of, 'Let's see what we can do to work together to make campus safer,' or, 'What ideas might you have?'" Johnson said. "It doesn't mean it's going to be something we'll be able to implement, but at least there's some ideas that we might be able to take from that."

Johnson also said he anticipates some discussion about events that have already happened at Truman and other

ATSU | Magruder steps into administration position at ATSU after reign at Truman

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job. He is the 10th person in history to have the title.

"I've known this place forever, and I've had high regard for this institution, and there's probably at least 1,000 D.O.s out there that were my chemistry students," he said.

For now, Magruder said he is content with the presidency. One thing he does not know is what will happen once he steps down from this position.

"It depends on how this all unfolds," he said of returning to the Board of Trustees for ATSU. "I have a little bit of a problem being a past president immediately on the Board for a new president."

Magruder said he is concentrating right now on doing his homework for the posi-

tion. Upon returning from the ATSU campus in Mesa, Ariz., where he received the appointment last week, Magruder said he found a stack of reports on his desk that will bring him up to speed on the inner workings of the University.

"I've asked for that because I felt like I don't want to do anything before I get the information," Magruder said. "I [have to] have a lot of information and then we'll get after it."

Beside familiarizing himself with ATSU based on what it looks like on paper, Magruder said he also is getting to know the people and letting them know his way of operation. He said he wants to encourage a lot of conversation among faculty, staff and students on how to solve what-

ever problems might arise.

"All the actions of the president and everybody else employed there ought to be focused in a way that is designed to achieve the mission of the university and take care of its people," he said. "The mission here is to provide the finest professionals in health sciences."

Just as in his first year as the president of Truman, Magruder will be responsible for leading ATSU through a North Central Association Higher Learning Commission accreditation evaluation — an assessment that looks at a university's mission statement, evidence of progress and indicators of success. This time, Magruder said he has a leg up on the evaluation after having served on the board of the NCA commission

before retiring from Truman.

"Now I have more of a sense of what we've got to do than I did when we started with Truman, and I really feel good about that," Magruder said.

Even though Magruder said he thought his active role in the Kirksville community was finished four and a half years ago — a role that included a term on the Kirksville High School Board and the presidency at Truman — he said he intends to serve as ATSU acting president for as long as he is needed.

"It will be as long as the Board of Trustees wants me, as long as Sue still approves," Magruder said. "You got two groups who can say no anytime. I can say no, but I'm not likely to."

REC | Recent thefts from Student Recreation Center add up to more than \$500

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thefts, I would have thought it was a prank, but a kid's stuff was originally in the lobby, and was then found hanging in the men's locker room," Limestall said.

Shears said that although Denief has been charged in connection with a recent theft, students should not become careless with their things at the rec center.

"Last year there were several thefts, and we solved all the cases," Shears said. "But students are most vulnerable in the locker rooms, and we can't guarantee their safety if they don't lock their stuff up." Some students, like junior

Danielle Barrett, are not convinced that their belongings are unsafe when left unattended at locations such as the library and the rec center.

"I haven't had anything stolen in three years, so I'm not too worried about locking my things up," Barrett said.

The locker rooms aren't the only place students should guard their belongings, Limestall said. Even leaving personal items in the open areas of the gym makes them free game for sticky fingers, she said.

"If you haven't had your stuff stolen by leaving it under chairs and benches, then consider yourself lucky be-

cause we've had just as many instances of theft from these places as well," Limestall said.

Barrett said she doesn't have a reason to bring valuable belongings to the rec center.

"I don't usually bring stuff that anyone would want to steal," Barrett said. "I bring my ID, keys, shoes and jacket. Just the necessities, I guess."

Limestall said students also can lessen the probability of theft by exercising during the slowest times at the gym. The rec center has put together charts to help students with flexible schedules figure out a new workout time. They recorded at what times the cardio machines, the weight room and

the courts are the busiest.

"Unfortunately, when we are at our peak load, I don't have enough lockers for every person who is in the gym, so that's why we made these charts, to show people what our usage is in different areas," Limestall said.

Denief was released Tuesday from the Adair County Detention Center, where he was being held on a \$25,000 cash-only bond. His attorney, Andrew Farwell, filed a motion for bond reduction Tuesday. A preliminary hearing and review for enrollment in an alcohol-and-drug-screening program is set for Feb. 27, according to court documents.

PLEA | Williams will serve two years of probation

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the Feb. 8, 2007 issue of the Index. Darby is accused of second degree assault, a class C felony.

Kilcrease and Darby are scheduled to stand trial in Macon County beginning April 28.

A Wednesday afternoon call to Ed Campbell, attorney for the men, was not returned. In an Index article relating to their January 2007 indictment, Campbell cautioned that the pending charges are simply allegations.

Vogt said Wednesday that he is not satisfied with the supervised probation Williams received.

"I think it's a sad state of affairs when a businessman can't leave his business without an unprovoked attempt to murder happening to him in his parking lot," Vogt said.

He said the more than two years since the incident is too long to wait for sentencing, and he pointed out that Williams' charge was reduced.

"I just think that it is a sham," Vogt said. "... Darnell never missed a football game, he never missed a practice and he was never suspended from class at Truman."

He said he was unhappy with Truman's response to the incident.

"I don't see what purpose it serves to save the football players or any athlete or anybody that commits crimes like that," he said. "... I was embarrassed at the way the school handled the situation."

Darby and Kilcrease also were members of the Truman football team.



Mark Hardy/Index
Lou Ann Gilchrist, Dean of Student Affairs, speaks with freshman Brooke Voss, Residence Hall Association representative and junior Matt Szewczyk, Student Senate president, at the University Conference on Wednesday.

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