

THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21, 2008

## STATESMAN

Duluth, MN

At 12:16 PM CST  
Clear  
12°F  
SW 16 MPH

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**Police remove man from lecture hall*****A 36-year-old white male was put into custody yesterday after entering Montague 70 and acting suspicious***BY SARAH DOTY  
contributions by Marisa McKie  
STATESMAN STAFF WRITERS

University police were called to a UMD lecture hall Wednesday morning, after a man walked into the classroom and was acting suspiciously. The suspect, a 36-year-old white male is currently in custody. According to assistant professor Pedro H. Albuquerque, who was teaching Principles of Economics: Macro, at the time, a man walked into Montague 70 soon after his 9 a.m. class started. The class has nearly 150 students.

"It was quite evident he wasn't a student," said Albuquerque. "His behavior was bizarre." Albuquerque told the Statesman that the man stood on the stairway for about 10 minutes after entering the class, at approximately 9:05 a.m. "I didn't want to trigger the students, so I tried to hint at them by pausing for about 10 seconds [during the lecture] and staring up towards him," Albuquerque said. "He seemed a bit agitated."

Although Albuquerque had no formal training at UMD in handling this type of situation, he had been previously trained while working at a bank, which alerted him to the suspect's unusual and disruptive behavior. "I didn't know his intentions and didn't want to cause panic or leave the class," he said. Two students understood Albuquerque's subtle signals, and walked out of class to call 911. "We received a call from two students that were concerned about a person who was acting suspiciously," said university police Lt. Anne Peterson.

This was not the first call that the police had received this week. On Tuesday, Peterson received a call of a man acting suspicious. The caller was concerned for the stranger's welfare. The police were unable to find this man Tuesday, but believe that he may be tied to Wednesday's incident. According to freshmen Neil Greenbush and Ben Hanvelt, students in the class, the suspect was wearing a large black leather jacket, aviator sunglasses and had long brown hair.

The suspect was standing towards the back of the classroom in the middle of the stairs, and after standing for a while, he sat down, said Albuquerque. The man had a piece of wood or stick in his hand that was about six or eight inches long, said university police Lt. Anne Peterson. Within minutes of the students calling university police, they were at the classroom. "The cops came in and pinned him [the suspect] on the stairs," said Hanvelt, a business major. "The cops had it under control instantly."

According to Peterson, the suspect didn't go easily. "He was a little resistant, and not fully compliant," she said. "It took a little bit to get him to leave." Once in custody, university police found a whip on the suspect. "I was kind of shook up," said freshman Heather Thompson, who was in the class, "but the police had him so I wasn't too scared."

Another classmate had a similar reaction. "It was jaw-dropping," said Greenbush. Peterson said the suspect isn't a current or past student or employee of UMD. However, the suspect does know someone on campus. Specific details on that person were not able to be released. With the shooting on the Northern Illinois University campus less than a week ago in mind, Susan Beasy Latto, director of UMD Public Relations, said the actions of everyone involved were accurate. "Those two students did exactly the right thing," she said. "We urge people to do this ... in these times it is important to be aware of your surroundings."

As for instances like this happening at UMD, Peterson said: "I think this is very unusual and very rare. Nothing like this has happened in the past." UMD Health Services is offering counseling and support to anyone who would like to talk about this event or others. Beasy Latto encourages all students and staff to call 911, if they notice any unusual or suspicious activity.

In a conference call, Greenbush and Hanvelt were relieved with today's outcome. They had coinciding thoughts and feelings about the situation. "We were talking about it," they said. "We were thinking good thing it was not a gun. Good thing it was a whip and not a gun."

Sarah Doty is at  
doty0051@d.umn.edu**OTHER STORIES**

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