



Flores was known to be 'on the edge'

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Staff and faculty saw Robert S. Flores as a problem student for seven years before he killed three teachers and himself in October, but he remained a student in the nursing college despite academic problems and faculty complaints.

The UA recently released 331 pages dating back to 1995 that documented the nursing faculty's interactions with Flores. One staff member wrote five years ago that she had a conversation with Flores where he appeared to be "clearly on the edge," and spoke of killing himself.

Celeste Pardee, then-director of the Office of Academic Services, wrote in a report of her conversation with Flores that he appeared to be under extreme stress from his marriage, family, full-time job, and full course load when he spoke of killing himself. He refused to withdraw from school, where he struggled academically, was chronically absent and did not complete assignments, saying that leaving the nursing college would be "another form of death," Pardee stated in the reports released last week.

In emails that slain nursing professor Cheryl McGaffic sent to assistant dean of student affairs for the college of nursing Vickie Radoye before McGaffic was killed, McGaffic pushed college administrators to allow Flores to withdraw from her Ethics and Ethical Decision Making in Health Care class after the class drop deadline. The administration had previously refused Flores' request to be withdrawn from McGaffic's class.

McGaffic stated she was "not a big fan of this student." "The other issue, which is more serious, and is a 'heads-up' for you, is that this student has significant behavioral problems," McGaffic's email said.

McGaffic told Flores that his behavior was unacceptable, to which he replied, "I am doing better than I used to, in the past I would have bashed someone's head against a curb."

A student encounter form filled out by McGaffic in March stated that Flores was disrespectful to several students in class, would not listen, walked out of group activities, interrupted others when they were talking, and was very confrontational.

But the spokesman for Arizona Health Sciences said medical staff could not have possibly known what Flores' intentions were.

"The problem with statements that were made by Flores is that nothing he said was a direct threat," said George Humphrey, director of public affairs for the Arizona Health Sciences Center. "Yes, he said a number of disturbing, angry things, but at the time, none of it could possibly have been conceived as a threat."

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KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

James Jarred, of the Jordan Construction Company, moves dirt yesterday at the construction site on North Park Avenue at East Second Street that will be the future home of several academic programs, many of which are now located in the Franklin building.

Cramped programs to move

The Marshall Foundation breaks ground on 5-story building due to open in '03

BY BRITTANY MANSON
Staff Writer

The dirt hole that sat at the corner of North Park Avenue and East Second Street surrounded by chain link fence for months is finally seeing some change.

With clearing and construction on the land beginning just weeks

ago, the framework has begun for a new building that will incorporate street level retail space with several UA academic departments, leading the way to the demolition of the 42-year-old Franklin building.

The building was originally planned to be completed in the spring, but now will have a tentative completion date of December 2003, said Mercy Valencia, director of the Space Management Office.

Currently, Middle Eastern studies, journalism, Judaic studies, media arts and a program from the College of Engineering have negoti-

ated for space in the building, she said.

The first floor of the five-story building will contain commercial space, but the specific businesses it will house have not been finalized, Valencia said.

The building is part of a larger plan by the Marshall Foundation, the landlord of the Main Gate business district. The project will transform the intersection of North Park Avenue and East University Boulevard from the decade-old

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Football player arrested

Levasseur jailed on charge of possessing 87 lbs. of pot

BY JEFF LUND
Assistant Sports Editor

The football player head coach John Mackovic called a disgrace to his family was arrested Tuesday in Henry County, Ill., on charges of possessing 87 pounds of marijuana. Police discovered the marijuana in a vehicle driven by junior tight end Justin Andrew Levasseur, according to Illinois State Police reports.

Levasseur, 22, who is from Antioch, Calif., was stopped for speeding at 9:16 a.m. on Interstate 80 in a rented 1990 Ford box truck, reports stated.

The marijuana could have had a street value of up to \$150,000. Possessing that much of the illegal substance is a felony, said Sgt. Thomas Burek of the Illinois State Police



Justin Levasseur
junior tight end

Department.

Levasseur has been charged with trafficking more than 5,000 grams of marijuana and manufacturing and delivering more than 5,000 grams of marijuana. Both are class 10 felonies in Illinois, which means they typically carry penalties of between six and 30 years in prison.

Burek was not certain how the arresting officer discovered the marijuana or how it was packaged.

Levasseur had his initial court appearance in Henry County Circuit Court on Tuesday. Bail was set at \$300,000.

Two of his teammates had not heard about the arrest, but said that based on Levasseur's character, they were surprised.

"It sounds unbelievable," senior wide receiver Bobby Wade said. "I'm pretty sure there is a lot more to it. Based on his character, this really surprises me."

"I had no idea about this and it real-

ly surprises me," fellow tight end senior James Hugo said.

A passenger riding with Levasseur, Max Necochea, 22, of Mission Viejo, Calif., was arrested for unlawful use of weapons and marijuana trafficking.

Both were being held in Henry County jail as of yesterday.

Burek said he did not know the relationship between Levasseur and Necochea or why the two were in Illinois at the time.

Levasseur made news after Mackovic called Levasseur "a disgrace to his family" when the tight end missed a block in a November loss to UCLA. The remark stirred emotions that led to a meeting between more than 40 football players and President Pete Likins, and prompted an apology by Mackovic.

In a release issued yesterday, Mackovic said he was aware of the situation, but did not comment in detail.

"I am aware of the situation and I have spoken with Justin's parents,"

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Biz college may add fee to keep top 25 ranking

BY KEREN G. RAZ
Staff Writer

Business undergraduates may have to pay an additional \$500 to major in business next year if the dean of the business college gets approval to charge business majors more tuition than undergraduates in other majors.

The Eller College of Business and Public Administration faces losing its accreditation as one of the top 25 business colleges in the country if it cannot replace 21 lost faculty members, said Mark Zupan, dean of the college.

A \$500 fee for in-state students and a \$1,000 fee for out-of-state students would generate the money needed to pay new faculty and save the college's accreditation, Zupan added.

Zupan hopes to raise the business college's tuition from \$2,500 to \$6,300 in coming years, which is the average cost of tuition for the top 20 public business schools in the United States.

The business college is not the only college considering raising its undergraduates' tuition above that of their peers.

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