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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Professor admits to killing Psych. professor divulges that he killed dorm-mate in 1955

By Jesse Lewis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

After keeping it private for 50 years, a UA psychology professor admitted to his classes Tuesday he killed another student when he was in college.

Robert Bechtel, professor of environmental psychology, told his two classes that after a life of being bullied, he snapped when he was a 22-year-old college junior and killed a student in his residence hall Jan. 12, 1955.

Bechtel is the subject of an independent documentary being filmed on campus and decided to go public with the information this week after keeping it secret for almost 50 years.

"There was a wide range of reaction: Most people were thoroughly shocked, a lot came up to me after and thanked me, others said they had been bullied," said Bechtel of his classes' reactions.

Bechtel met with UA President Peter Likins and Alfred Kaszniak, head of the psychology department, to get permission for the film crew before he told his classes and to tell his story. He said Likins gave him his blessing.

Bechtel said he had been bullied from the time he was 4 years old until he was in college. His residents bullied him when he was a proctor, or a resident assistant, at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in fall 1954.

"They would pull my bed into the hall and urinate on it and tell everyone," Bechtel said.

The bullies moved his bed outside of the residence hall and into the quad and urinated on it.

Bechtel also heard a chorus of "Bechtel will eat shit" as he moved through each of the three floors of the hall, he said.

He also said he would be hit and kicked often and always with a crowd of people around to see his



EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Robert Bechtel, left, a UA psychology professor, announced to his class and the world Tuesday night that 50 years ago he killed a fellow college student in Swarthmore, PA.

mistreatment.

Over the years the bullying built up and Bechtel said he couldn't deal with it any longer. He went home for winter break and obtained two guns with the intent to cease the bullying by killing his tormentors, Bechtel said.

"I was going to stop it all by shooting up the whole place," Bechtel said.

After shooting and killing one student, he said "the feeling dissolved" and he stopped. He turned himself in to police later that day, Bechtel said.

"(I wanted to) blow away the whole dorm, but only shot one person," Bechtel said.

He was put on death row for a

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UA student assailed near campus in broad daylight

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Police are continuing their investigation of an incident where a UA student was sexually abused in broad daylight outside her university-area townhouse Tuesday.

The incident, involving an 18-year-old student, occurred Tuesday at 2:50 p.m. as she walked through a breezeway near her complex along North Tyndall Avenue and East Adams Street, said Sgt. Marco Borboa, spokesman for the Tucson Police Department.

Leila Samsam, the victim's friend and next-door neighbor, said the victim was walking back home from getting the mail when she heard footsteps behind her.

According to police, a man confronted the victim and inappropriately touched her in a manner police are referring to as sexual abuse.

Borboa said the victim then ran into the street and flagged down passing cars.

"We believe the victim did the right thing by drawing attention herself, which then caused him (the suspect) to run from the area," Borboa said.

Although police said the case is being aggressively investigated by TPD's sexual assault department, it would be incorrect to call the incident a sexual assault as this would imply an attempted rape.

"Sexual abuse by statute is the indirect or direct touching of another individual inappropriately in certain areas," said Borboa. "Either skin-to-skin contact or above the clothing."

Borboa said he could not provide further details and said the motives of the assailant are unknown.

But Samsam said the victim escaped the assault when the suspect began to unzip his pants.

"She got up and ran into the street," said Samsam, a psychology and molecular biology senior.

Borboa said people in the area were questioned, but no arrest was made.

The incident comes less than a week after a man was arrested in relation to a string of crimes and sexual assaults in the UA area.

Samsam said the attack was ironic because, just a week

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Smokers try to kick the nic for a day, then for good

By Jennifer Amsler
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Jennifer Huang knew she made a difference last year at the UA when a student approached her and said she quit smoking permanently.

Huang is the co-chair of the Great American Smokeout at the UA, which encourages students to give up smoking for the day and eventually give it up for good.

The Student Health Advisory Committee is celebrating the Great American Smokeout, a day created by the American Cancer Society 28 years ago, on the UA Mall today.

As a member of SHAC,

Huang said she organized events for the Great American Smokeout at UA last year and did it again because she realized the impact of her involvement after speaking with the girl she helped.

"That made me happy last year. It made it all seem worthwhile," Huang said.

Huang said she realizes the importance of reaching out individually to students who smoke.

"The point isn't to help a million people out there. As long as we can get to a couple of people, then we've helped," she said.

SHAC will be on the Mall today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hand out gift certificates to local restaurants in exchange for cigarettes and a 24-hour pledge to

stay smoke-free for the day.

"The goal of the event is for students and faculty, or whoever comes by our booth, to quit smoking for 24 hours and hopefully take the next step to get the call for help," Huang said.

Dannielle Wheeler, a media arts senior, said one day is not enough time to encourage students to stop smoking.

"It takes three days for nicotine to leave your body. One day wouldn't help me, it would drive me crazy," she said.

Wheeler said she plans to quit smoking at the end of the semester, so she won't have the stress of school while she kicks the habit. She said she probably

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CHRIS COBUTON/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Megan McGeorge, a secondary education sophomore, has smoked "on and off" since she was 12 as a stress reliever. The national smokeout at the UA targets students like McGeorge by encouraging them to turn in packs of cigarettes for free giveaways.