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Pima student who made library threat arrested

Police say student sent an Oct. 30 e-mail threatening to shoot 'at least' six people

BY CYNDY COLE
News Editor

UA police arrested Pima Community College student Raymond Rodden III yesterday morning, on charges of threatening to shoot at least six people at the Main Library in October. The threat came just two days after a nursing student shot three of his professors and himself to death.

Rodden is accused of using a public computer in the Main Library to

send the local media a threatening e-mail at 5:09 p.m. Oct. 30. in which the sender threatened to shoot and kill students, faculty or others.

The e-mail stated, "I am going to shoot and kill at least 6 student, faculty, or anyone else who gets in my way at the University of Arizona Library today @ 5:30 p.m. I want to break the record and since I have nothing going for me I will at least leave this legacy behind. Also, I am not going to be a coward and kill myself I will either make the Police kill me or will surrender and make the state kill me with the death penalty" (sic).

Rodden is accused of making the threat two days after nursing student Robert S. Flores Jr. killed professors

Cheryl McGaffic, Barbara Monroe and Robin Rogers.

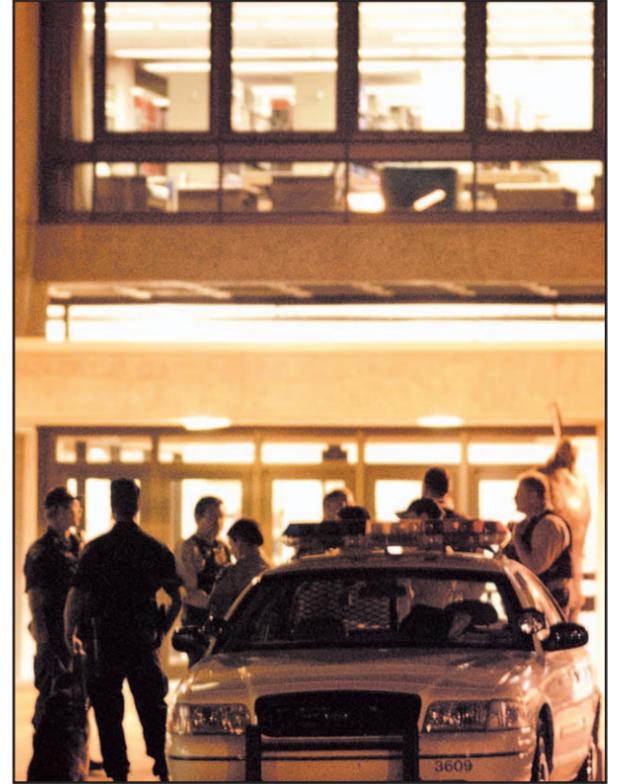
The University of Arizona Police Department reported that forensic evidence linked Rodden, 23, to the library computer in which the e-mail was sent, via a forensic investigation conducted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The author of the e-mail identified himself as "John Doe" and sent the e-mail from an address that included the words "copy cat killer."

UAPD cleared and shut down the Main Library for the night after receiving the e-mail they now believe Rodden sent.

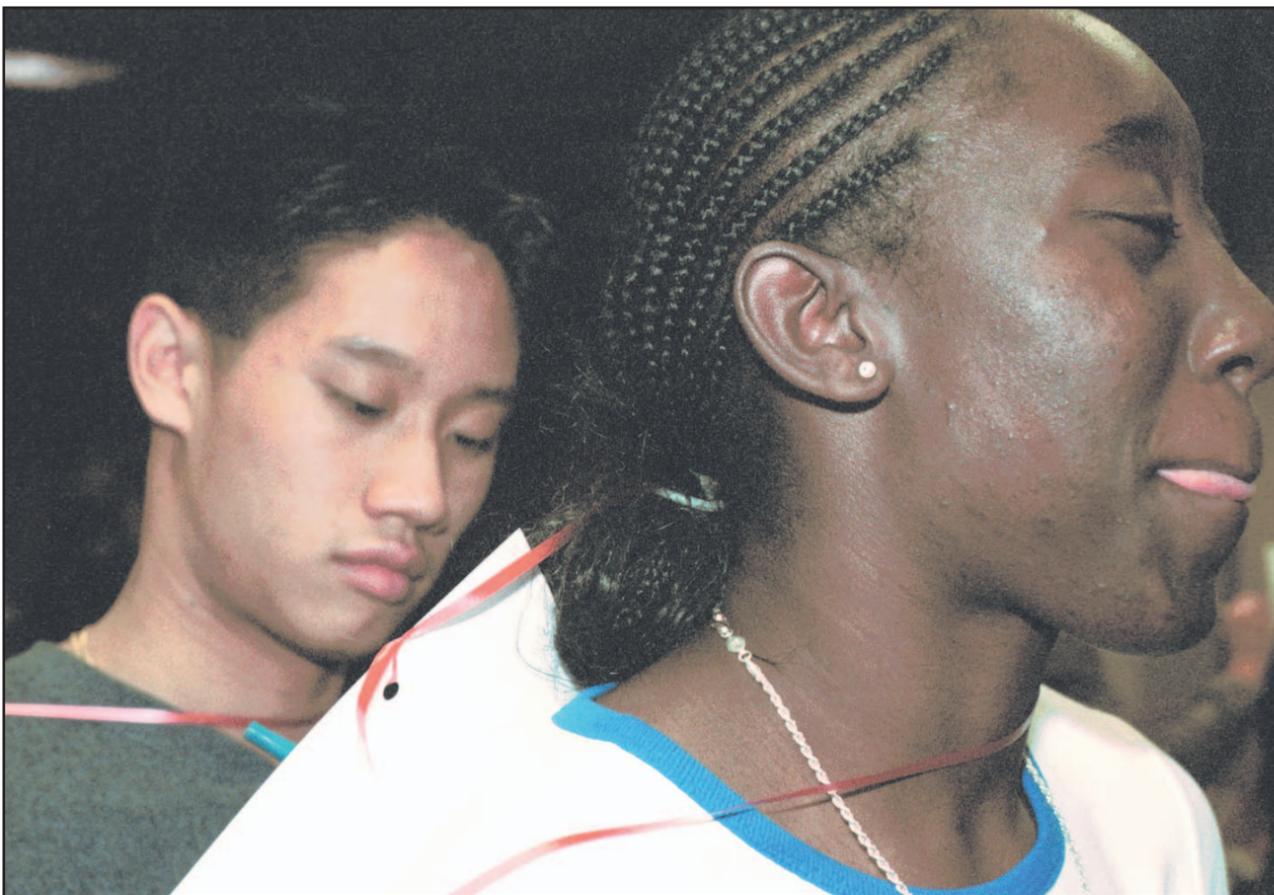
Students who were studying in the

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FILE PHOTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Police stand outside the Main Library after it was evacuated on Oct. 30 after an e-mail threat to shoot "at least" six people inside.

DEBATING DIVERSITY



EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

For an exercise as part of their Individuals and Societies 101 class last Tuesday night, communications engineering sophomore Andrew Lin writes comments about business freshman and women's basketball player CoCoa Sanford on a piece of paper on her back.

Focusing on differences

UA debates faculty diversity as Supreme Court decides role of race in admissions

BY KEREN G. RAZ
Staff Writer

When Terry Valenzuela, professor of emergency medicine, wants to illustrate why he thinks the UA is unbalanced in its hiring practices, he shows a video.

On the tape, a medical student takes center stage in front of a large auditori-

um of people, then he sits down and belts out a song about the past four years and his views on Hispanic women.

"Well, she's only 18, and she's got five children all on the public's green. There's a new guy in town and when his pants come down, he'll be the father of her next baby," the student sings.

As one of the only Mexican-American professors in the College of Medicine, Valenzuela said he has witnessed discrimination against Hispanics.

But Valenzuela doesn't blame

students. He blames university administration's failure to make its faculty more diverse.

Students aren't becoming culturally aware because those who educate them aren't culturally diverse, he said.

In October, President Pete Likins released UA's plan to increase diversity. Dubbed the "Diversity Action Plan," the plan lists 87 short- and long-term goals that seek to make campus more diverse.

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Group fears drop in UA accessibility

Likins proposes diversity increase to reassure concerned groups who fear Focused Excellence could result in fewer Hispanics being admitted

BY RYAN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

President Pete Likins' proposals to raise tuition and admissions standards as part of Focused Excellence have raised concerns from members of the UA's Hispanic community, who say the new standards and higher tuition may cause Hispanic enrollment rates to drop.

Administrators counter that, contrary to some groups' fears, they will be able to maintain and eventually increase the population of minority students on campus.

Minority advocacy groups, such as the Juntos Student Advisory Council, which works to ensure that Hispanic students are represented in groups across campus, worry that the biggest loser in the university's plans will be underrepresented groups.

"We are supposed to be providing access to underprivileged individuals," said Veronica Martinez, co-chair of the Movimiento Estudiantil de Chicanos de Aztlán and a Juntos member. "As a land grant institution, we're supposed to serve the population. If they're going to make it more difficult to get in, how do they expect Arizona students to get in when our K-12 education is so substandard?"

Likins and other administrators said they understand Juntos' concerns and have promised that they will commit themselves to recruiting a diverse student body.

"I've told (Juntos) that we will regard Focused Excellence as a failure if we don't increase diversity," Likins said.

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