

# Cops on campus: What are their qualifications?

(CPS)—For college administrators, for competent campus police officers, and for students and their parents, the University of Toledo story is perhaps the ultimate tale of horror.

On Jan. 27, University of Toledo police found the body of Melissa Anne Herstrum, a 19-year-old nursing student, face down in the snow, shot 14 times. On Feb. 1, police arrested a university police officer for the murder.

As police continued to release the details of the killing, more allegations against Offi-

cer Jeffrey Hodge, 22, have surfaced.

Although Hodge has been charged only with aggravated murder, police suspect the officer in a plethora of crimes on campus—including three death threats made to female students over the telephone; two bomb threats; nine arsons over the 1991 Labor Day weekend; and a Jan. 20 shooting spree in which six shots were fired from a 9mm pistol into a women's dormitory, barely missing a sleeping student.

In the Herstrum case, police say the Toledo student

stopped at an accident scene about 4 a.m. to offer help. According to police, Herstrum did not know officer Hodge prior to the accident. Hodge was one of several officers who found Herstrum's body after an anonymous person—whom police believe to be Hodge—called a local cab company and said he saw a taxi driver robbed at gunpoint in a campus parking garage.

The cab dispatcher called police, who didn't find the taxi but did find Herstrum's body in the area, near the Engineering Technology Laboratory Center at the University of Toledo's Scott Park campus.

While the Toledo case is uncommon, it has raised a basic question of trust—how much faith students should have in the police officers who are hired to protect them.

According to Roger Serra, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and chief of the University of Washington Police Department, the credentials of campus police vary from state to state.

Serra says most states require basic police academy training for all officers—state, city, federal and campus. But, he says, many two-year colleges and private colleges are not bound to the same guidelines.

Herstrum's parents released a statement following Hodge's arrest asking students to keep their confidence in university police. They "do not want to suggest that the University of Toledo police department is incompetent in any way," a family spokesman, Rev. David Bell, said in a prepared statement.

Campus police administrators say that's the right message to send, since the Toledo case was unusual. Still, other incidents have occurred.

In 1986, Katherine Hawelka, a 19-year-old Clarkson University student, was raped and

## U. Police Chief says our cops are A-OK

by Tricia Ciaravino

University Police Chief David Hollenbeck was shocked and disgusted by University of Toledo Police Officer Jeffrey Hodge's actions. He said it was one of the few campus police shootings he had heard of. He also said he does everything possible to make sure officers of that caliber aren't hired here.

All UNLV officers fall under category one. "That's the highest level of training they give," Hollenbeck said.

Officers are subjected to an extensive background check, to find problems in past work history; an extensive oral examination, to find his or her basic attitudes toward the general campus community and academics; and a written examination.

"We have to take a softer approach here," Hollenbeck said. "We tend to do things differently. We don't want officers here who will cause more problems."

A college campus is different than the outside community and must be treated as such, he added.

Hollenbeck said he tries to hire officers who have college campus experience.

"I want to hire officers who have worked in a university before or who were university students (here)," he said. "It gives them a perception on what students are going through."



photo by Wray Hallerman

Officer Wayne Washington is one of UNLV's finest.

## BROTHERHOOD

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members on Friday. Both said they were more concerned with the dangers of what the students were doing rather than reprimanding them for it.

"(We need to) inform students about the dangers of things being done on campus," Gladney said. "If they're going to do things as far as personal choices, they need to be educated about dangers."

He said it was each member's personal choice to brand himself and so it can't be considered hazing. He compared the branding to sporting a tattoo or piercing ears.

"The issue is bigger than them (the

few individuals here). We know we can't stop them from doing something like this," Rodriguez said.

Gladney said fraternity members across the country have branded themselves and, while he doesn't deem it a wise choice, they can't be stopped.

The fraternity is not a member of a national organization and is not recognized by the Interfraternity Council.

Student Government President Roderick Colebrook said the organization is not recognized by CSUN, and if it was, he certainly would not condone disfigurement.

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