

Dear Michigan Student:

In recent weeks a number of questions and concerns have been raised about campus safety and security at the University of Michigan. While there appears to be some misinformation and confusion about these issues, it is also clear that a greater effort needs to be made to keep members of the campus informed about University activities in these areas. Therefore, I am grateful to the Michigan Daily for giving me this opportunity to clarify some of these matters.

First and most importantly, crimes against people and property are a serious and growing problem on our campus and on campuses across the nation. Unfortunately, here at Michigan, we experience more crimes than our peers in the Big Ten and many other universities of our size. This is not a record we can be proud of nor one that we can accept. It is damaging to our quality of life and learning.

We know that faculty students and staff are concerned about safety and with good reason. Just in the last few weeks, there were three different incidents on the central campus involving dangerous weapons, and, as you know, there was a shooting, several knifings, and other assaults in an incident early in the fall. You will be able judge the crime situation for yourselves next term when we plan to provide you with regular crime reports.

Obviously, we all understand that crime on campus and elsewhere is a complex problem that will not be solved simply or easily. Many of its causes are deeply rooted in social inequity and must be addressed as a priority by our entire society. But in the meantime, the leadership of the University has the obligation to do everything we can to make this campus a safer place.

We believe that the most effective deterrent to crime on campus will be you and your fellow students. As you become better informed and involved in crime prevention efforts, you will be able to protect yourselves, your friends and your property more effectively than anyone else. But the University must provide adequate support for these efforts, and we must act in the interests of the total University community--students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus.

Some immediate steps we are taking include improving lighting and transportation services, adding more emergency phones, initiating a widespread educational programs that will be gearing up next term. We will also be expanding the presence of deputized University officers on campus. These are among many actions that were recommended to the University by the Task Force

on Campus Safety, headed by Dean Paul Boylan of the Music School which included students, faculty and staff which studied the crime problem carefully and consulted widely before making its report.

Let me now address the issues raised by the most common slogans we have been hearing and seeing this past week or so--"no cops, no guns, no code".

"No Cops"

The "no cops" slogan is actually quite misleading. Obviously, we have always had police on the campus--but they have been Ann Arbor Police or Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputies. We have also had two deputized University officers for the past two years. So the issue before us is not police, but whose police.

One of the recommendations of the Safety Task Force was to expand the use of deputized University officers in our efforts to deter crime. Our decision to do so was not an easy one nor taken lightly. There have been extensive discussions, consultations, surveys and data collection, much of which is publically available at the University Library. We have listened carefully to arguments both pro and con over many months and in many arenas. In the end, the Board of Regents and the leadership of the University had to do what we believed would be in the best interests of the campus community. Our decision to expand our use of deputized officers--that is, to create a campus police unit similar to that existing on every other university campus in Michigan--is intended to prevent and deter crime more effectively than we have been able until now.

The principal argument for the utilized of deputized University law enforcement officers is that campus-based units will be more sensitive to the problems of the University, more responsive to the unique needs and values of our community, more knowledgeable about the campus area, and will have the University as its only priority. These are the reasons that all of Michigan's public universities and the great majority of America's universities across the country long ago moved in this direction and formed their own campus police units.

Of course, it is important to put into place appropriate mechanisms for interaction with and accountability to the broad campus community for such bodies. For that reason, the Provost will be appointing an oversight committee on campus safety with equal representation among students, faculty, and staff. I can assure you that the Board of Regents, the Administration and other bodies such as faculty governance also will be very concerned to make certain that the campus police and our other security staff perform in a highly professional way

with sensitivity and respect for students, faculty and staff and their rights and freedoms. The media and public officials will also be observing the campus closely and can be depended upon to report problems.

But let me stress again: There is no intent to use police or other safety personnel to interfere with the private lives of students. Their only mission will be to try to prevent serious crime and protect the people and property on the campus.

Let me clarify our overall plan. The University will be adding approximately 24 of our own deputized police officers over the next three years--enough to provide roughly two deputized officers per shift per day sometime in 1992. Eight highly qualified officers are currently undergoing a rigorous training program and will be ready for active duty sometime in January.

Some the policies governing campus police behavior include prohibitions of racial or sexual discriminatory harassment, non discrimination based on sexual orientation, and Civil Liberties Board guidelines protecting free speech. Our new police officers and other security personnel receive continuing education and training including instruction by staff of the Office of Minority Affairs, LGMPO, Affirmative Action, SAPAC and extensive training in all aspects of human relations.

"No Guns"

The "No Guns" slogan, while dramatic, is also misleading. In fact, by taking the steps recommended by the Safety Task Force, it is our intent to actually REDUCE the number of guns presently brought onto campus. Unfortunately, we have been encountering an increasing number of armed felonies on campus over the past several years. To counter this, armed Ann Arbor Police have been patrolling the Central Campus area for many years. However, the City was unable to provide such patrols in adequate or reliable numbers to deal with the growing crime problem.

The plan we are now putting into place is to utilize instead of armed Ann Arbor Police trained, undeputized (and unarmed) campus safety officers for routine campus patrols and for dealing with routine student matters. We will continue to seek the assistance of Ann Arbor Police to handle student disruptions which grow out of control, as we did last week. In addition, we will be using deputized law enforcement officers ("campus police"), stationed in satellite offices on our various campuses, to respond to calls for assistance in dealing with felonies--just

as Ann Arbor Police now attempt to do, with some difficulty and limited effectiveness because of limited resources and limited knowledge of the campus. Here it must be stressed that the deputized officers will deal only with CRIME prevention, not with STUDENT matters. Further, the deputized officers will undergo extensive training to sensitize them to the University environment. Training includes sessions on multicultural relations, gay male and lesbian awareness, free speech issues, and dealing with sexual assault. The efforts of the deputized officers will be used to supplement those of the Ann Arbor Police to reduce crime on campus and the surrounding community.

As to the issue of arming deputized officers, here it should be noted that it is practice in most states (including Michigan) that deputized officers while in uniform must carry firearms for self-protection when dealing with felonies. Whether they be Ann Arbor Police, Washtenaw Sheriff's Deputies, the Michigan State Highway Patrol, or deputized campus police, they must be armed. And, if you visit any college campus in America, you will find that ALL uniformed campus police are indeed armed--not for dealing with students, but for protecting themselves when dealing with crime. Michigan will differ from other campuses only in the degree to which we use undeputized, unarmed safety officers for handling routine patrols and student matters, while most other campuses use armed officers for all safety patrols.

The majority of my mail, calls and other communications strongly support our security plans. The scientific survey conducted by the Institute for Social Research also indicated majority support. On a campus of this size and complexity, it is hard to determine consensus especially when a small and vocal group is intent on imposing their views on all of us. But we have tried to reach out and listen, and I believe as our plan moves forward, many more students will come to accept and appreciate the array of protections we are putting into place.

I know that some fear that the University is creating a campus police force in order to curb dissent. This fear is groundless, and frankly it makes no sense. I have stated on the record on many occasions that our security plans are aimed at deterring crime and that is all. We have well established guidelines developed by the University Civil Liberties Board that protect free speech, free assembly and dissent that we will respect and enforce. If there should be cases of violent or illegal disruption, and I sincerely hope there will not be, the University will continue to have to rely on the Ann Arbor police for protection as it has had to do in the past. We do not have enough officers to deal with violent disruptions nor are we foolish enough to want to try.

Let me digress to say a few words about costs. Extravagant numbers have been bandied about in recent weeks. The truth is that the incremental costs of the safety initiatives will be in the range of \$600,000 per year. To put this in context, let me know that this is only about one-third of the amount we now spend to clean up campus graffiti. And we believe it a small price to pay for improving campus safety.

No code

Another slogan we have been hearing says "no code". I must confess that this strikes me either as the most cynical opportunism on the part of a small group with a radical political and personal agendas or else evidence of a surprising degree of paranoia. The development of a code of student conduct really is not an issue for the University administration. Rather it is (or should be) a STUDENT issue--and a student responsibility.

Student governments on all other college campuses in America have stepped up to their responsibility for their own citizenship as members of the campus community by developing a set of guidelines for student behavior (e.g., prohibiting assaults, drug sales, arson, etc.), coupled with appropriate sanctions for violating these guidelines (e.g., probation, education, suspension, expulsion). These range from entirely student-enforced honor codes (North Carolina, Virginia, Stanford) to rather detailed policies with Student-Faculty Judiciary bodies (Michigan State, UC-Berkeley, Harvard). Unfortunately, during the student unrest of the 1960s and 1970s, the Michigan student government rejected all such policies, and hence we now have a "no rules of any kind" anarchy on this campus. And, apparently some students wish this rather unusual situation to continue, although it clearly jeopardizes the rights of others on the campus.

In any event, I do not believe it is my role, nor the role of the University administration, to develop such a code. Rather, I believe the STUDENTS themselves should step up to their responsibility to develop a set of such guidelines for student behavior as one of their duties as citizens of the University community. Faculty have such policies. Staff have such policies. And students need to develop such policies to govern themselves.

Let me say it again. We have no code now. We have none planned. It is not a priority for me or members of my administration. At some point, like civilized

people everywhere else, I believe that students will take the initiative. Until then, there is "no code".

Some Final Comments

It is clear from extensive consultation, surveys, and interactions, that most students, faculty, and staff on campus...and essentially all parents and citizens of this state want the University to be a safe and civil place for learning. They fully support "cops", "guns", and "a code"...in the sense outlined above (e.g., campus law enforcement officers and guidelines for student rights and responsibilities).

Those who truly object to responsible actions to make the campus a safer place, who will not accept any guidelines for rights and responsibilities associated with membership in an academic community, are, in reality, calling for a different kind of institution in which the fundamental values of safety, civility, and citizenship disappear. This, clearly, is not the desire of the vast majority of students, faculty, and staff of the University of Michigan.

We are committed to working with all members of the University community to make our campus a safe and civil place for learning.