Students recall night of violence

By Tim Green
Enterprise Reporter

The DJ had announced that the Intercultural Greek Council (IGC) dance party was ending at approximately 1:15 a.m., but nobody expected what happened next.

“All of the sudden there was a pop,” said Samantha Gordon, senior class president. “People had stopped, but they didn’t really know what it was; it sounded like a firecracker. Then there were three pops and we knew what was happening.”

Gordon said she fell to the ground for safety, along with other students and saw others run out in confusion.

Senior Jere Smith said she was at the door of the Cavalla Room saying goodbye to friends when the gun went off.

“Security was directing people off the patio. That’s when we heard the shots,” Smith said. “For a moment I froze. I was like a deer in headlights. All I saw was the flood of people coming at me.”

After Gordon stood up and a lot of people cleared the room she said she noticed the shooting victims.

“I saw two people down on the ground,” she said. “It was then that I realized they had been hit.”

Sophomore Rahmael Magny said he had just left the dance and was headed towards the residential quad at the time of the shooting.

“I heard one shot and I thought that it couldn’t have been a gun shot,” he said. “Then I heard two, three, five.”

Although he knew at that point that shots were being fired, Magny said he continued back to his hall instead of taking the risk and going back to the party.

Senior Jason Carmona was just a few steps behind Magny when he heard the gunfire. He said that there were five shots altogether. There were two at first, followed by a brief pause, and then three more.

“I went back in and tried to find Rahmael and get others out of there,” he said. “The police were already there and they had assault rifles and were not letting people back into the Cavalla Room.”

These four witnesses said that they were stunned. They all said that the party was great and that everyone was having fun. They could not believe it had happened.

“I am not naive. I know something like this can happen anywhere,” said Smith. “But it’s just disheartening when you go out to have fun and your safety is threatened.”

Q: Do you feel differently on campus since the shooting?

Ian Wentworth, senior
“I feel that some of the guest policies are gray and need some clarification. I have faith that the university will deal with the matter successfully.”

Nigel Francis, senior
“I feel different about going to parties. I find it unfortunate that no matter how well we plan for an event, someone must ruin it.”

Jesse Torres, freshman
“I don’t feel very different going to parties. It wasn’t a violent attack against Rider students in general. It was more like a problem between individuals. It’s unfortunate that it happened on campus.”

Joy Salasin, freshman
“I feel that security is not doing enough, obviously if something like this could happen. Why should I feel safe if I don’t know who is running around campus.”

Shelly Helfgott, freshman
“I feel a little less secure walking around campus at night. Now I know these scary things can happen anytime and anywhere.”

Glenn Kasper, sophomore
“I don’t feel any different because I still feel safe on campus. I have faith in other people.”

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