

The Daily Iowan

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DAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1991

IOWA CITY'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

25¢

Gunman kills 4, injures 2



Michael Williams/Daily Iowan

Ann Rhodes, vice president for university relations, addresses reporters during a press conference at the

Old Public Library after four people were killed and two critically injured in a mass shooting Friday.

Lu upset over loss of award

Loren Keller
Daily Iowan

A UI doctoral student killed four people and critically injured two others in a Friday afternoon shooting spree at Van Allen Hall and Jessup Hall before putting a .38 caliber revolver to his head and killing himself.

The persons killed have been identified as: Christoph K. Goertz, 47, professor of physics and astronomy, who came to the UI in 1973; Dwight R. Nicholson, 44, professor and chairman of the physics and astronomy department, who came to the UI in 1978; Linhua Shan, research investigator in physics and astronomy; and Robert Alan Smith, associate professor of physics and astronomy, who came to the UI in 1989.

The assailant has been identified as Gang Lu, a UI doctoral student in physics and astronomy from Beijing, China.

Critically injured were T. Anne Cleary, 56, associate vice president of academic affairs and professor in the College of Education, who has been at the UI since 1979, and Mira Rodolfo-Sioson, a member of the academic affairs support staff.

Goertz, Nicholson, Shan and Smith were shot in room 208 of Van Allen Hall. The Jessup Hall shootings occurred in room 111. Lu was found in room 203 of Jessup Hall.

The two buildings were sealed off by police shortly after the shootings.

The shootings took place within the same area in each building, and there were no witnesses in the rooms where the shootings occurred, said Ann Rhodes, vice president for university relations.

Lu was apparently upset about not receiving an academic award after completing his Ph.D. dissertation,

said Rhodes. One of the victims, Shan, was the department's nominee for the award Lu was apparently seeking. The other victims, except for Cleary and Rodolfo-Sioson, were involved with Lu's

"At this point our priority is to provide whatever support we can to the families and cooperate with the investigation. The mood ... is one of shock and profound sorrow. This is a tragedy like no other we've ever experienced. The shock is just overwhelming."

Ann Rhodes, vice president University Relations

Ph.D. review committee. Cleary had apparently received a complaint Lu had filed with the university that he had not been the department's nominee for the award.

Iowa City police received a call at 3:42 p.m. Friday that someone was shooting a gun on Jefferson Street, said Don Strand, commander of administrative services for the Iowa City Police Department. A minute later, shootings in Van Allen Hall were reported. At 3:49 p.m., the police received a report that someone had been shot in Jessup Hall.

The state medical examiner was called at about 4 p.m. The Fire

Department and rescue squads were dispatched to Jessup Hall at that time also.

Iowa City Police Chief R.J. Winkelhake and two other officers found Lu in Jessup Hall shortly after 4 p.m. with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Lu was found breathing and was handcuffed. He died shortly thereafter.

A number of law enforcement agencies are involved in the investigation. Strand said Johnson County officers and the Iowa Highway Patrol had been called in for assistance. Off-duty Iowa City police officers were called in to help evacuate Jessup Hall and Van Allen Hall shortly after the shootings.

Since the incident occurred on campus, the case is officially under the jurisdiction of the UI Office of Public Safety, though the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations, state and county troopers, and the Iowa City police will help.

UI President Hunter Rawlings expressed "profound shock and sadness when he learned of the shootings," calling it a "terrible, terrible tragedy," Rhodes said.

Rawlings was in Columbus, Ohio, Friday afternoon and will return to the UI when the weather permits, Rhodes said.

Teams consisting of a police officer, a UI faculty member and a counselor were sent out to notify family members of the victims before their names were released, Rhodes said.

Counseling services will be made available to family members of the victims, colleagues and people who were in the area when the shootings occurred.

"At this point our priority is to provide whatever support we can to the families and cooperate with the investigation," said Rhodes.

"The mood ... is one of shock and profound sorrow," Rhodes said.

GUNMAN

Authorities searching for clues to personality

Eric Detwiler and Loren Keller
Daily Iowan

After the multiple shooting that left four UI staff members dead, law enforcement officials are still attempting to discover what prompted UI graduate student Gang Lu into his fatal shooting spree.

One witness to the shootings, UI physics and astronomy Professor Nicola Dangelo, said he had seen Lu and was in the same room with him less than a minute before he opened fire, killing four people.

"I had been in the conference room to get some coffee, and I was sitting there looking over a newspaper and Gang Lu came in," Dangelo said. "I just walked out of the room, and it was less than a minute later I heard several shots. Somebody was running to where I was down the hall, yelling about a shooting."

The gunman, according to associates, had been at the UI for 5 years and was currently working in theoretical plasma physics. He was also employed at the UI as a research assistant in Van Allen Hall.

"He actually had been in my

class," Dangelo said. "He was a good student and quite a bright one. As far as physics, he was a bright person."

Lu, who lived in an apartment at 515 E. Jefferson St., had one roommate who has not been identified. According to neighbors, Lu's roommate was taken into custody for questioning by the Iowa City Police Department after the murders.

"The police are over here right now at my neighbor's place, taking away his roommate," Bill Theisen said Friday afternoon. Theisen lives in the same building as Lu and works in the same area of study as Lu in Van Allen Hall. "I knew Gang Lu at parties and stuff. I really don't know that much about him."

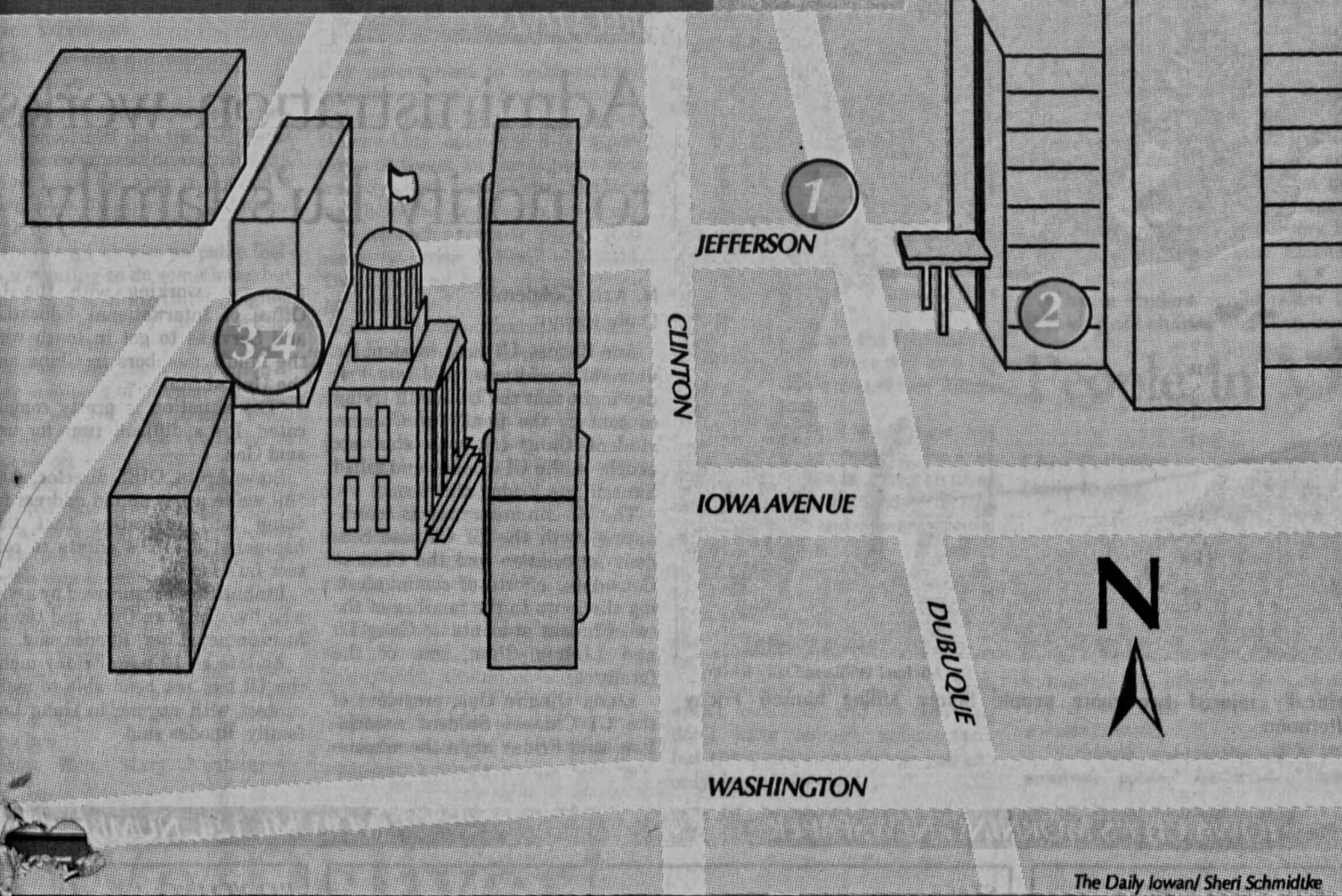
Evelyn Robinson, a neighbor of the gunman, described Lu as a mild, true gentleman. According to people who worked with Lu, he was a bright student in his field.

In the wake of the killings, Theisen said most people were dealing with the tragedy as best they could.

"I'm fine. ... Some people were shaken up at the scene, but most of us are doing all right," Theisen said.

The Daily Iowan published this special edition because of the tragedy that occurred on our campus on Friday, November 1. We strive to provide the best coverage of the UI and the Iowa City community on an everyday basis, and thus we felt the need for this comprehensive special edition.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CAMPUS SHOOTINGS



The Daily Iowan/ Sheri Schmidtknecht

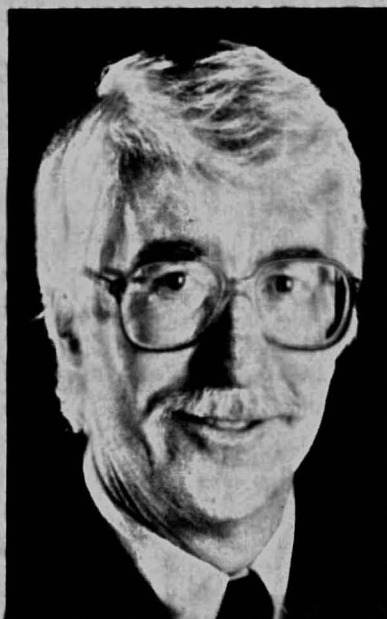
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1.

- 3:42p.m.** Initial Call to Iowa City police of shots fired on Jefferson Avenue.
- 3:43p.m.** Report of shots fired in Van Allen Hall. Later reports indicated 4 people were fatally shot.
- 3:49p.m.** Report of shots fired at Jessup Hall on the Pentacrest. Later reports indicated 2 people were critically wounded in room 111.
- 4:01p.m.** Gunman found dead of self-inflicted gun shot in room 203.

Campus Shootings



Dwight Nicholson



Christoph Goertz



Robert Smith



T. Anne Cleary

STUDENTS

'These things don't happen in Iowa City'

Diana Wallace
and Jessica Davidson
Daily Iowan

The mass shooting of five university employees and a UI student Friday began a network of phone calls that connected Iowa City students with worried parents and friends across the country.

Scott Van Egeren, a senior marketing major, first heard about the shooting when his parents phoned from Barrington, Ill., to make sure he was unharmed.

Van Egeren, who had been walking to Schaeffer Hall for a 3:30 p.m. class around the time the shooting took place, was sipping a beer in the Deadwood, 6 S. Dubuque St., to quell his nerves after being in such close proximity to the murder sites.

As he spoke, Van Egeren paused to listen to the words of "Ohio," a song by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, about the killings of four students at Kent State by National Guardsmen during a Vietnam War protest.

John Soderquist, a senior history major from St. Charles, Ill., said a friend from San Francisco, Calif., called him with the news.

At the Deadwood, people gathered around the bar to watch the half-hour news updates on CNN.

"Nothing has ever happened like this. Nothing of this magnitude."

Jennifer Kelly, UISA president

"It's a little hard to sort out your feelings right now," said Christine Hill, a Deadwood waitress and UI student. "How are you supposed to know how to react to something like this?"

Jen Marshall, a senior comparative literature major from Woodridge, Ill., said she was sitting in Joe's Place, a downtown bar, at about 4 p.m. when "a guy came in and said another guy came out of Van Allen with a gun. People were saying that he would come in here and shoot up the place."

Initial disbelief of the shooting was prevalent among students who said they saw Iowa City as an insulated place with little violent crime.

"I was kind of in disbelief because this is such a small university town," said Andy Quinn, a senior communications major from Omaha, Neb.

"I just couldn't believe it was happening here, that I was just a couple blocks away from the shooting, playing cards," said Jeff Hammel, a junior from St. Charles, Ill.

Eileen Kelly, a student from a small village outside Glasgow, Scotland, said the popular British stereotypes of America revolve around huge buildings and mass shootings.

"Most of those stereotypes were dispelled for me when I got here," she said, "but it's just so weird to think that something like this could happen in a town that's about the same size as the village where I'm from."

And some students even joked about it.

"The first thing I did was call my father to tell him that, first, I didn't do it and, second, I wasn't wounded," Quinn said.

"I was just glad I didn't go to class today," said Joe's waiter Calvin Norris. "I'm glad I stayed away."

One student, who refused to give his name, said he "missed the lunatic by about 10 minutes."

He said he had gone to Jessup Hall just before the shooting to drop out of his doctoral program in mechanical engineering.

Responding to reports that the gunman was disgruntled about not receiving an academic award, several students said they saw the

shooting as a testimony to the pressures of academic life.

"Students are under a lot of pressure, and sometimes they just don't know how to handle it," said Shane Mitchell, a senior economics major from Anamosa, Iowa. "I don't think I ever felt like I could go shoot my faculty members, but you could see how somebody could just snap."

UI Student Assembly President Jennifer Kelly said she is sure UISA will have some sort of memorial for the victims, although the Executive Cabinet meeting is not planned until Sunday night.

"I was shocked when I found out, but it's too hard to put into words," Kelly said.

Kelly said there is no precedent to follow in planning a vigil or memorial for a mass shooting.

"Nothing has ever happened like this," she said. "Nothing of this magnitude."

Kelly said some rethinking might be necessary in the aftermath of the shooting.

"Obviously, this person was quite unstable at the time," she said. "I wish there had been some mechanism that could have helped him, someplace he could have gone."

"Maybe that's something that could be looked into," she added.

REGENTS

Board ready to help if UI needs assistance

Brad Hahn
Daily Iowan

Friday's tragedy was met with shock by Iowa Board of Regents members. However, all future plans in response to the day's events will probably be handled by the university.

Board of Regents Executive Secretary R. Wayne Richey said that in cases such as Friday's shooting, there really isn't much the regents can do.

"I don't know what we'd be able to do that the university isn't already doing. If the university has a need for the board to meet we would, but I don't foresee that happening," he said.

Richey said all conversations had with UI officials had been strictly with what happened and not with plans for the future.

Board member Marvin Berenstein reacted to the tragedy with disgust.

Member Betty Jean Furgerson said the events left her speechless.

"It's an awful thing, I'm speechless, I just wish I could do something to change it. It's just tragic," she said.

As far as reaction on the part of Iowa City, Mayor John McDonald said he didn't feel it was the right time to comment and declined to give any information regarding plans for the future.

WITNESSES

People in Jessup relate their brush with danger

Chris Pothoven
Daily Iowan

Although few witnesses to the actual shootings could be found Friday evening, many UI faculty, staff and students were present in Jessup Hall at the time.

Rex Honey, UI associate geography professor, was in a geography seminar on the second floor of Jessup when the incident occurred.

"I remember hearing what sounded to me like a tray of glasses being dropped," he said. "I didn't pay that much attention to it at the time."

UI graduate student Mark Lawrence, also present at the seminar, said he also heard something.

"Several of us heard a noise that sounded like furniture being knocked over," he said.

However, Lawrence said few took notice of the sounds since noise from custodians and others in the building is fairly common during the seminars. Although there was some whispering at the back of the room, Lawrence said he later learned they were telling someone to close the door in the back of the room.

At about 4 p.m., a policeman came in the room, Honey said.

"One of the police entered the seminar and said, 'There's a gunman lurking in the building. Get down under the table, turn out the lights and be quiet,'" he said. "We were absolutely quiet. Nobody made a peep."

After about five to 10 minutes, a policeman entered and told them to leave the building as quickly as possible.

"One of the graduate students left in their bare feet," Honey said.

He added that most of the seminar participants were fairly calm during the situation.

"A couple of us were quite scared," Honey said. "The rest of us were just doing what we were told."

Russian Professor Ray Parrott, whose office is located on the second floor of Jessup, was talking with a prospective student and her parents at the time of the incident.

"We were just sitting in my office with the door closed," he said. "Then the Russian secretary called me and said, 'Stay in the room. There's been a shooting.'"

Parrott and the others stayed in the room until the secretary called back, telling them to leave the building. Although the police initially told them to return to the office, they eventually left. The group passed the Office of Academic Affairs on the way out, where Parrott saw one of the victims.

"I saw that someone was on the floor and that oxygen was being administered to that person," he said.

Both Parrott and Honey were shocked by the killings.

"I've been here 20 years and never seen anything like that before. You don't think of things like that happening in Iowa City," Parrott said. "River City got a little noisy today."

"It's just incredible," Honey agreed. "It's not the type of thing you expect in Iowa City."

RELATIVES

Administration works to notify Lu's family

N. Aziz Gokdemir
Daily Iowan

Ann Rhodes, UI vice president for university relations, said late Friday night that the UI is still trying to contact the family of Chinese student Gang Lu, who shot six people on the UI campus and killed himself late Friday afternoon.

The UI administration is coordinating, with the UI Chinese Student Association and the Chinese Consulate, efforts of communicating the news to the families of the two Chinese students — Gang Lu and Linhua Shan, one of the fatalities.

Linda Qinglin Gao, president of the UI Chinese Student Association, said Friday night the associa-

tion was working with the UI Office of International Education and Services to get in touch with the family members in China and the United States.

"The situation is pretty complicated. It's a difficult time for us," said Gao.

Steve Arum, OIES director, said, "All we've got is an old address for Gang Lu," indicating that this hampered the UI's efforts to contact Lu's family.

Linhua Shan is survived by a wife who lives in Iowa City, and the UI has contacted her, Rhodes said.

As late as 10 p.m. Friday night, the UI had not been able to make contact with anyone in Gang Lu's family, Rhodes said.



Michael Williams/Daily Iowan

One victim is removed from Van Allen Hall after a gunman shot and killed four people there, then moved on to Jessup Hall, where he critically injured two more people before killing himself Friday afternoon.

THE DAILY IOWAN

IOWA CITY'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 124, NUMBER 92

GENERAL INFORMATION

Calendar Policy: Announcements for this section must be submitted to The Daily Iowan newsroom, 201N Communications Center, by 1 p.m. two days prior to publication. Notices may be sent through the mail, but be sure to mail early to ensure publication. All submissions must be clearly printed on a Calendar column blank (which appears on the classified ads pages) or typewritten and triple-spaced on a full sheet of paper.

Announcements will not be accepted over the telephone. All submissions must include the name and phone number, which will not be

published, of a contact person in case of questions.

Notices that are commercial advertisements will not be accepted.

Questions regarding the Calendar column should be directed to Ann Riley, 335-6063.

Corrections: The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made by contacting the Editor at 335-6030. A correction or a clarification will be published in the announcements section.

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RECYCLING

The Daily Iowan uses soybean ink and is often printed on recycled newsprint. We encourage our readers to recycle their newspapers.



Campus Shootings

UI student shares first-hand tale of disbelief, horror over killings

Jessica Davidson
Daily Iowan

I've never before seen a shotgun in the hands of a man ready to use it against another person, and I'm writing this still shaking from the experience.

I had been sitting in my Russian conversation class in Jessup Hall, discussing movies, when two policemen — one armed with a shotgun, the other with a handgun — swung open the door.

"There's been a shooting. Everyone down on the floor. Lock the door. Stay quiet," he said.

I won't go into the tired clichés about the eternity we spent on the floor. My professor, a Soviet national who speaks little English, was asking frantic questions.

"It's just like in the movies" was her comment, followed by, "I'm so scared."

"Does this happen a lot?" she asked.

I assured her that, no, I'd been here four years and this was the

Eyewitness Account

first time men with guns had told me to get down on the floor and be quiet. I can just imagine the stories of America she will tell when she gets back to Russia.

So I lay there, my imagination conjuring up all the recent images: high-schoolers killed near my Chicagoland suburb in gang-related activity, the man in Texas who shot 22 people in a restaurant, "Total Recall."

I could hear one of my classmate's sobs.

The policeman returned, told us to get our things and get out of the building. Now.

We left.

Now I'm home and watching updates on the television. A shooting at Van Allen ... two confirmed shootings at Jessup, two confirmed at Van Allen ... gunman dead, gunman not dead ... seven or eight victims in Van Allen.

And each time there is a new

update, my chills get worse.

And I think about what I told my Russian professor — "Oh, no, it doesn't happen here."

But it did happen here. And it happens in Waterloo, and it happens in Chicago and in New York, and it happens in Ireland and in Yugoslavia and in China.

What do I want? Gun control? Psychological evaluations of all applicants to the UI so that no more students get in who can send me to the floor, shivering? What do I want changed? How do we solve the problem?

I don't know. I cannot even say, as we did with the problems of cultural diversity and sexual harassment, that we need more education. It happened at a university.

A student shot another student, his teachers. So much for the ivory towers of academia?

So what do I want? I don't know, but at the final update of five dead and two critically wounded, my chills are getting worse.



Michael Williams/Daily Iowan

One of six victims shot in a mass killing spree by disgruntled graduate student, Gang Lu, is removed from Van Allen Hall and placed in an ambulance Friday afternoon.

LOCKDOWN

Union, Pentacrest closed in aftermath

Chris Pothoven
Daily Iowan

Doors to the Union were locked immediately following Friday's shooting at Jessup and Van Allen halls. Student employees at the Union reacted to the news with a mixture of shock, disbelief, fear and frustration.

UI junior Deanne Chung was one of the first to hear about the shooting, receiving the news shortly after the incident occurred. Chung, who was working at the Union Wheelroom bar, said police and campus security came to the Union and locked all doors.

"A security guard came in and said, 'Whatever happens, don't let anyone in this door. Three people have been shot.' We didn't know where or when," she said. "Our first reaction was disbelief."

"I was kind of frightened," said another UI student who was working in the first floor food service office when the Union was closed. "They said there were people guarding the doors and that nobody could get in, but you could get out if you wanted to."

Those inside the Union heard nothing but rumors about the event, she said.

"Everyone was just kind of buzzing around the halls with all kinds of stuff," she said.

Many students expressed shock and disbelief about the shooting.

"I just can't believe someone would do something like that, especially in Iowa," said a UI junior working at the Campus Information Center.

UI sophomore Pat Fenelon agreed. "It's just weird. You read about things like the Gainesville, Fla., murders and you just think it can't happen here," he said, "but it did."

The lack of definite information was frustrating to several students.

"I didn't really know anything about the shooting," said Anthony Ejiasi, a UI student who was working at the Union Station when the Union was closed off. "It was hard to believe. Everyone I talked to seemed really surprised something like that could happen here."

"Rumors just started flying," said Fenelon.

One student, standing on the Pentacrest near Jessup Hall only a couple hours after the killings, said the event seemed somewhat inevitable.

"It just goes to show just how stressed people at this school can be," she said.

The fact that the gunman was using a .38 caliber weapon — sometimes known as a "Saturday Night Special" — was significant, said George Curtis, a UI senior.

"This is an excellent argument for gun control," he said.

Curtis expressed concern about the rash of recent shootings.

"There seems to be a trend of national shootings right now," he said. "It seems like some sort of deranged fad."

Many buildings on and around the Pentacrest area were evacuated or sealed shortly after the shooting.

George Schrimper, director of the Museum of Natural History in MacBride Hall, said police entered the building around 4 p.m. and asked that the building be cleared since there had been shots fired nearby.

"Most people left the building and got off the central campus," he said.

Those present in MacLean Hall were also informed about the shots, said Richard Baker, assistant professor of mathematics.

"They told us to go to our offices and lock ourselves in," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Killing spree at UI shocks America

Daily Iowan

The shooting spree at the UI made headlines across the country Friday.

It was the top story on the Cable News Network throughout the night, and radio stations from Washington, D.C., to Sacramento, Calif., broadcast several reports from Iowa City as news became available.

Reuters news service carried the story of the murderer who killed three UI professors, an associate and himself, on its national wire as did The Associated Press.

The *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times* and *The Chicago Tribune* all were in contact with Iowa City residents to find out the latest news.

FRIDAY'S VICTIMS

KILLED:

Christoph K. Goertz, 47, professor of physics and astronomy.

Dwight R. Nicholson, 44, professor and chairman of physics and astronomy.

Linhua Shan, research investigator in physics and astronomy.

Robert Alan Smith, associate professor in physics and astronomy.

CRITICALLY INJURED:

T. Anne Cleary, 56, associate vice president of academic affairs.

Mira Rodolfo-Sioson, a member of the academic affairs support staff.

Mass Murders in Iowa

MARTINSBURG, May 27, 1962 — Andrew and Dora McBeth and their three children were shot to death in their home. Cayne Smith, 24, a nephew of the elder McBeths, admitted shooting the five and the previously undiscovered slaying of his stepmother, Juanita Smith, who had been missing for several months.

LYON COUNTY, Nov. 17, 1973 — Four Sioux City, S.D., teenagers, Roger Essem, Stewart Baade, Dana Baade and Michael Hadrath, were shot to death at Gitchie Manitou State Park where they were having a party. Three brothers, David, Allen and James Fryer, were convicted.

CEDAR FALLS, Halloween night, 1975 — A Cedar Falls couple, Leslie and Lorlean Mark, and their two children were shot to death as they slept at their rural home. Leslie Mark's brother, Jerry Mark, 32, was convicted of the deaths.

DES MOINES, February 1978 — Three West Des Moines youths, Gerald Hoffman Jr., 15, his brother, Geoffrey, 14, and Jeffrey Beavers, 14, and a Des Moines man, William Baldwin, 30, were shot in a downtown building they were cleaning. Daniel Munro, a drifter and Alabama prison escapee, was convicted of their deaths.

DELMAR, Jan. 3, 1981 — Bonnie Gilbert, 34, and her five children were shot to death in their home. Her husband, Gene Gilbert, 28, who was implicated in the slayings, committed suicide at his father's home in South Dakota.

ALCONA, Dec. 30, 1987 — John and Agnes Dreesman and their children, Marilyn Chuang and Robert Dreesman, and Chuang's three children were shot to death in the Dreesman home.

This *The Daily Iowan* special edition is the first such edition to be published since Pres. John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963.

STATE LEGISLATORS

Incident will not affect gun control

Jessica Davidson
and Brad Hahn
Daily Iowan

State legislators responded to Friday's shootings at the UI with negative comments on current gun control laws, but they expressed a lack of hope for stricter regulations in the future.

"There's an almost palpable feeling of wanting to do something, but there's a lack of anything tangible to do," said state Rep. Arthur Ollie, D-Clinton.

Ollie said there is "a temptation in these moments of passion" to want to pass stricter gun control laws, but he said it was unlikely to actually occur.

In 1990, the Iowa state Legislature amended gun control laws, requiring a seven-day waiting period before purchase and a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Ollie said in order to pass the amendment, the Legislature also included a clause, sponsored by the National Rifle Association, which forbids local government from passing any law stricter than the state law.

State Rep. Mary Neuhauser,

D-Iowa City, said this clause would make it impossible for the Iowa City government to make stricter laws in response to Friday's events.

State Rep. Minnette Doderer, D-Iowa City, said that it is important not to act on the impulse of a tragedy but hoped the incident may help pass tougher restrictions.

"With such a tragedy, it's not good sense to write a law," she said, "but this may help us pass stronger gun laws."

State Rep. Ron Corbett, R-Cedar Rapids, said that while he hoped the event makes people more aware of the importance of gun control, he doubted it would change the minds of legislators.

"I think it will make people more open to gun control, but I can't say it will change people because the individual was obviously unstable. If it wasn't a gun, it may have been a knife," Corbett said.

Neuhauser agreed.

"The problem is we have people who go berserk," she said. "It could be anybody, it could be anywhere."

Neuhauser said although the possibility exists for stricter controls on automatic and semiautomatic weapons, Friday's events will not

change other rules.

"I don't see that we're going to outlaw all guns," she said. "A six-shot gun, there's nothing we can do about that."

Former state Sen. Charles Bruner, D-Ames, said the shootings may cause people to think about gun control, but he doubted it will affect the legislators.

"People tend to think this sort of thing won't happen in Iowa," he said. "But when it happens, they think a little more."

Bruner said since the Legislature is not in session, there will be a lag between Friday's events and future laws.

"What happened was tragic, but other things will come up," he said.

"The same force is acting on us as on Congress," Ollie said, referring to the NRA and other special interest groups. "Let's just say there's not a great deal of support for stricter laws."

However, Doderer said the tragedy showed that some changes need to be made.

"Obviously, the current laws aren't adequate, and we obviously don't have enough enforcement, but there are some things you can only deter," she said.

Steve Cruse
Daily Iowan

A local psychiatrist said that Friday's shootings at the UI — as well as other recent multiple killings — may be partially due to society's increasing acceptance of suicide.

Dr. Paul Loeffelholz, who has practiced in Iowa for 22 years, says he hasn't encountered "anything of this magnitude on a college campus" in the state during his career.

But he says Friday's tragedy, in which UI student Gang Lu shot six people before turning the gun on himself, is indicative of a larger, disturbing trend: mass murders in which the assailant kills himself afterward.

"That a student would resort to this kind of behavior and then turn

around and kill themselves — that's the pattern I see," he said. "It's almost like that's a preferable choice."

Loeffelholz is medical director for the Iowa Department of Corrections and clinical director at the Oakdale Correctional Facility, a psychiatric ward near the UI campus for people in prison which also performs forensics evaluations of prisoners.

"A majority of these multiple killings are suicides also; they plan to do it and then kill themselves rather than face the consequences," he said. "It's not terribly surprising, now that our social structure has made suicide more acceptable."

The recent mass shooting in Texas

in which the gunman killed himself is another example of this trend, Loeffelholz said. Also, he cited the recent use of a "suicide machine" by a Michigan doctor to help two patients kill themselves as demonstrating the current view of suicide as a logical option.

"This whole issue of dying, of suicide, is no longer something that's unacceptable, and that concerns me a good deal," he said. "People say, 'I'll just do these things and then shoot myself and not have to deal with it.' It's more of a rational decision."

He added, "We've made it easier for people to act on these things. It helps them get over any reluctance."

People in Van Allen express shock, fear

Chris Pothoven
Daily Iowan

George Knorr, professor of physics and astronomy, was in his office when the gunman entered the seminar room in Van Allen Hall.

"I heard several shots," he said. "At first, I thought it was a late Halloween joke."

Leaving his office to investigate the noise, Knorr headed for the seminar room.

"Someone was coming out of the seminar room," he said. "They

said, 'Call the police,' and so I went back to my office and called the police."

After that Knorr closed and locked his office door and stayed in the room until the police came.

"I was weak in the knees," he said.

Gerald Payne, another professor in the department, was on the floor where Dwight Nicholson was shot.

"I heard the shooting and went out in the hall to see what happened," he said. "I wasn't even sure what it was at first. It was just a loud

noise.

"Then I went to Professor Nicholson's office and saw that he had clearly been shot," Payne continued. "As I walked into the office, someone said, 'Dwight's dead.' I didn't believe it, but I looked in, and he was."

Nicholson was a friend as well as a colleague, he said.

"It was very upsetting. I can still see him there," Payne said.

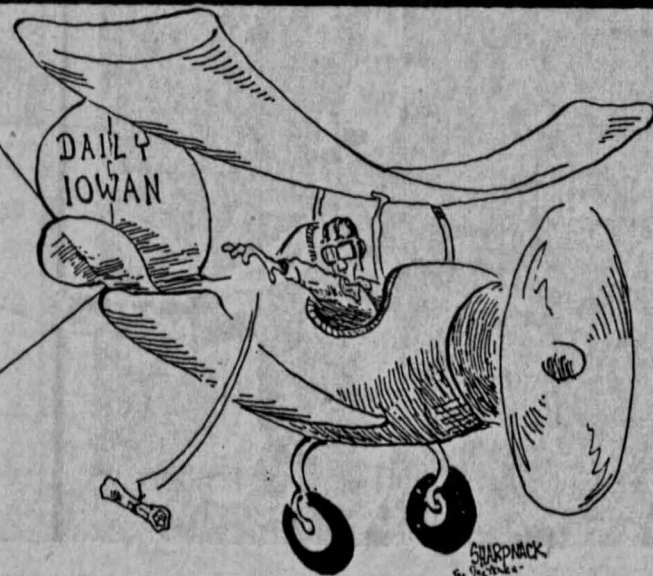
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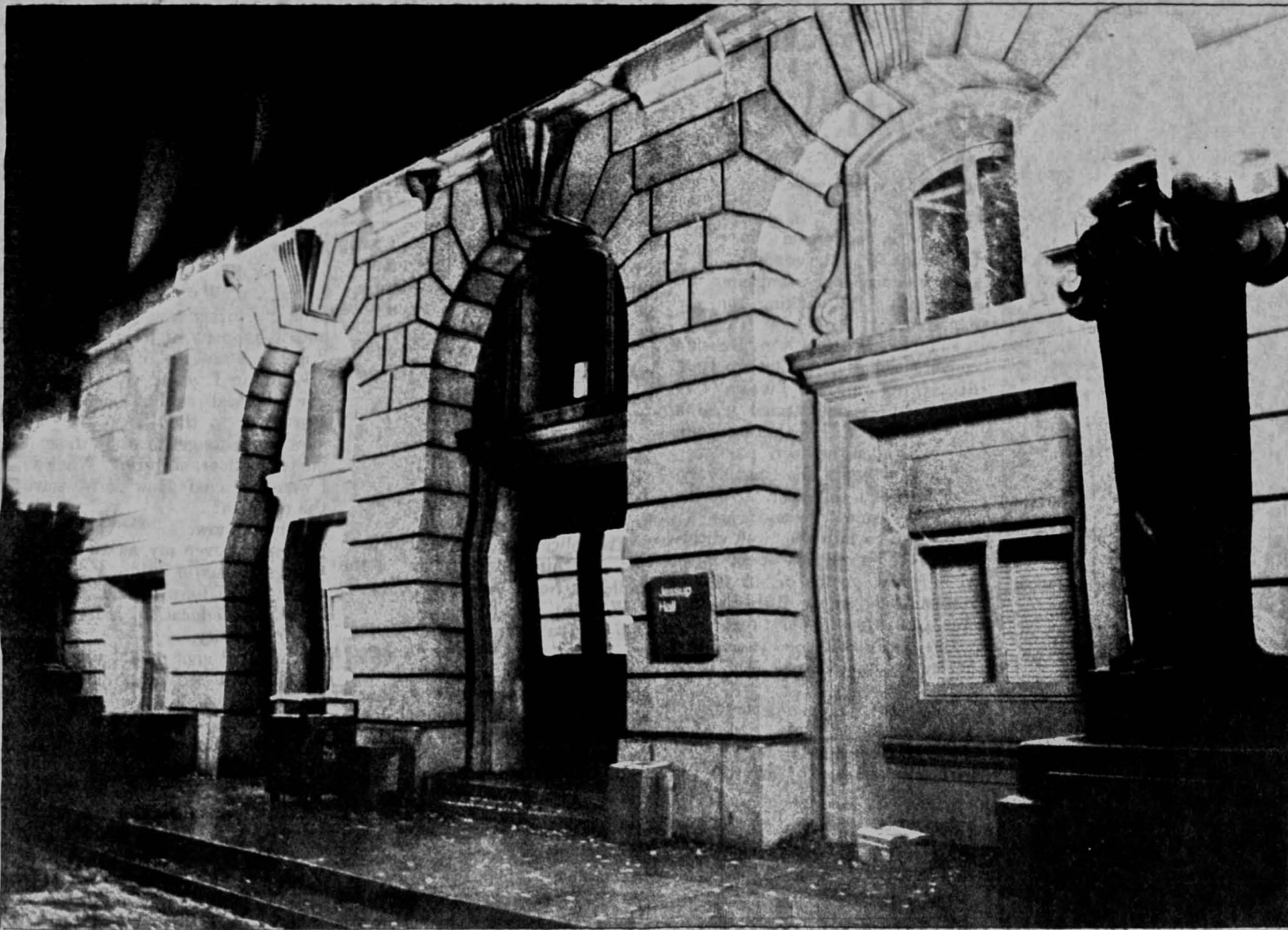
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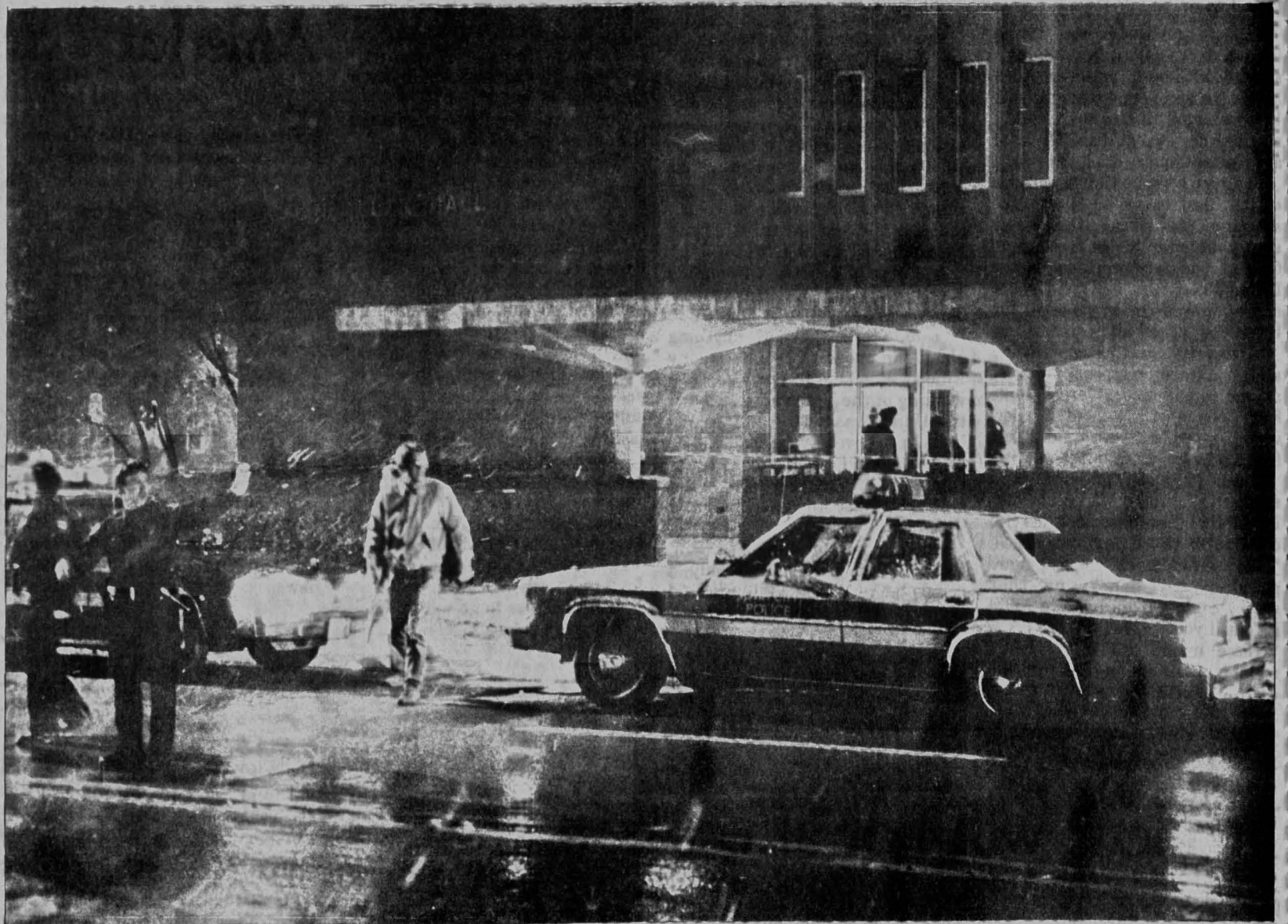
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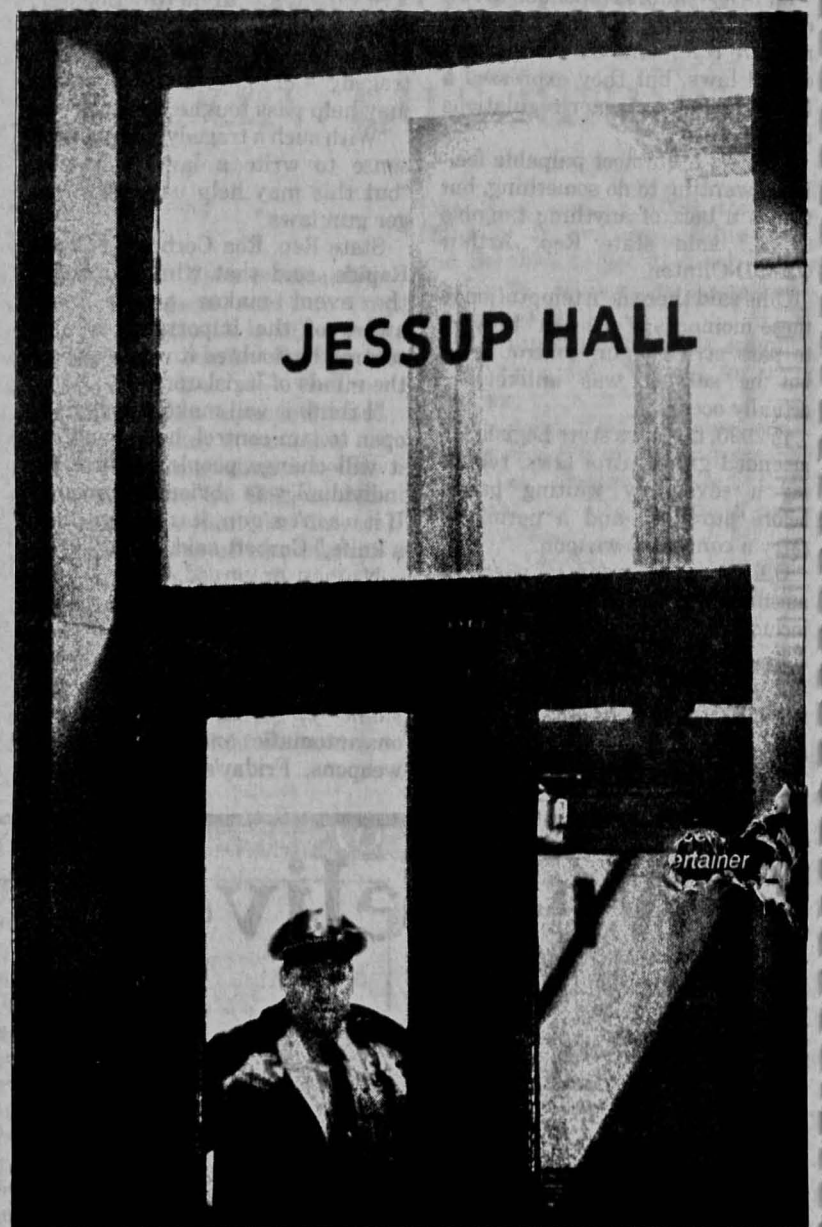
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