

Subject: Two more Northgate crimes, two more international student victims
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To: FCIC

Two more violent incidents have taken place in the Northgate area adjacent to the Texas A&M campus. Late last week, Ahmed Satriano, a TAMU student from Indonesia, was knocked down and robbed. An article on the incident from The Battalion, TAMU's student newspaper, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/8vzow>. Today, that newspaper reports that around 3AM on Sunday night, ****, an Indian graduate student, was assaulted on Cherry Street by four white men in a truck. The men beat him till he was unconscious. The assailants looked like the same men who had hassled **** earlier that evening at The Library, a bar in Northgate. The victim does not place the blame for the assault on the bar, the Battalion reports. The Battalion article can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/8e6to>.

We don't know the motivation for either of these incidents. Other recent assaults (on gay former student Mathew Rooney and Indian student Ravi Mallipeddi) were clearly motivated by hate. However, let's also assume, for the sake of argument, that the recent assaults were not racially motivated. The TAMU administration knows that Northgate is a violent place. As a result, the university must act to make the area safe for the students who live there. It is acknowledged that a disproportionate number of international students live in Northgate. That makes the issue of safety in Northgate a diversity issue, one that is directly relevant to President Gates "zero tolerance" policy for hate. After the long history of violence in Northgate documented by the office of International Student Programs and the recent attacks on Rooney, Mallipeddi, Saurin Shah, Ahmed Satriano, and ****, I can only ask: When will TAMU act?

Starting tonight, we need dusk to dawn police patrols in the entire Northgate area from University Drive to Old College Road and Wellborn Road to South College Road. TAMU University Police have jurisdiction to patrol in the entire Northgate area, but they don't have the staffing to do so. Alternatively, private security could be hired to patrol the area, and I have been informed that the going rate is \$25 dollars an hour. On a basic human level, Northgate violence is an issue of health and safety. Falling disproportionately on international students and, in particular incidents, explicitly motivated by hate, the violence in Northgate is an question of fundamental social justice issue. Ultimately, this problem will become academic issue. Fear of violent assault is not conducive to learning. Should this problem continue, it will be harder to attract the best students to TAMU, and the university's reputation--and its rankings--will suffer. Other major universities (Yale University, University of Chicago, Columbia University) patrol the areas next their campuses. TAMU must do the same.

Faculty and Staff Committed to an Inclusive Campus has written the university to recommend basic steps to improve Northgate safety, and the first point on our list has been increasing police patrols in Northgate. We have met with administration officials, served on committees, held rallies, and written open letters. Still, the level of policing is

the same, and still the violence in Northgate continues. What will it take to put more police on the ground in Northgate?

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