

news

FUNDING: SGA President refuses to replace money

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donor. However, Avramidis said that he knew of students who had gone on the trip for free. He did not specifically mention students by name or where their funding was acquired.

Eisler also stated that he approached Director of International Programs Marie-Louise Abram about giving the \$2,200 credit to a single student.

"To the best of our knowledge there are no rules against this," Eisler said in the e-mail to Vargas-Vila.

Abrams refused to comment on the discussion, adding, "It is all being taken care of appropriately and correctly."

Vargas-Vila said that he was unaware of the transaction between the SGA and the Spanish club and that he felt the lack of knowledge club advisers have regarding their club's financial activity is "a real

weakness."

According to financial documents submitted to Student Activities by the SGA, \$2,200 was allocated to the Spanish club by the SGA Senate as part of the club's budget for the spring 2009 semester. The allocation went to Celestial Voyages Travel Agency, according to Vargas-Vila, to cover the expenses of Avramidis.



Photo courtesy of Capital Times

Med student held without bail in Craigslist death

MELISSA TRUJILLO
Associated Press Writer

Prosecutors said Tuesday they found a semiautomatic weapon at the home of a Boston medical student who has been ordered held without bail on charges he shot to death a masseuse he had lured to a hotel through Craigslist.

Philip Markoff said nothing during the brief hearing in Boston Municipal Court.

Authorities said they followed a computer trail to Markoff, linking an account used to set up appointments on Craigslist with two women who were attacked to his address in Quincy.

They say a search of his home found the gun, ammunition and materials exactly matching those used in an attack on another masseuse in a Boston hotel.

Markoff is charged with murder in the death of Julissa Brisman of New York City and kidnapping

and armed robbery in the other assault.

The second-year Boston University medical student lives with his fiance, who claims police have the wrong man.

"He could not hurt a fly," Megan McAllister said in an e-mail to ABC's "Good Morning America." "All I have to say is Philip is a beautiful person, inside and out," she said in the e-mail read on Tuesday's program.

Markoff's attorney, John Salsberg, did not immediately comment.

Authorities have said there could be more victims.

"Our top priority is holding Philip Markoff accountable. He's a predator," Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley said Monday night in announcing Markoff's arrest earlier in the day during a traffic stop south of Boston.

An e-mail message sent to McAllister via her Facebook page was not immediately returned Tuesday. The McAllister family

did not respond to knocks of the door of their Little Silver, N.J. home Tuesday. Shortly after, a police officer emerged from home and said the family did not wish to speak with reporters, and asked the media respect their privacy.

Michael Bernard, who lives in Markoff's building in Quincy, was shocked to recognize his neighbor on television reports of the killing.

"He was smart, he carried himself well, he was clean, a good looking guy," said Bernard, a retired electric company worker. "He seemed like the type that would have it all. It doesn't make sense."

Authorities believe Markoff also may be connected to the attempted robbery Thursday in Warwick, R.I., of a stripper who had posted an ad on Craigslist. She was held at gunpoint before her husband entered the room and her attacker fled.

A Boston University spokeswoman said Markoff was suspended from the medical school after his arrest.

Flags lowered on 10th anniversary of Columbine

By KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press Writer

With words of hope and healing, Coloradans on Monday marked the 10th anniversary of the Columbine High School shootings that left 12 students and a teacher dead.

Flags flew at half-staff over the school and dozens of mourners lay roses and carnations at a nearby memorial.

About 70 people gathered outside the state Capitol to push for gun control, while lawmakers inside passed a resolution honoring the victims.

"Columbine will not become just a metaphor for tragedy," Rep. Ken Summers told lawmakers before they passed a resolution called "Triumph Over Tragedy." Summers was a pastor in the Columbine neighborhood when the shootings occurred.

Two seniors at Columbine unleashed an attack with guns and pipe bombs on the morning of April 20, 1999. A bigger bomb, which they hoped would destroy

the crowded cafeteria, failed to go off.

The gunmen, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, committed suicide.

At the gun control rally, Tom Mauser, father of Columbine victim Daniel Mauser, said the shooters did not kill the victims' spirits, and "they did not kill our spirits either."

At the gun control rally, 13 people with ribbons in school colors white and blue wrapped around their necks lay on the ground to represent the victims and 23 others representing the wounded encircled them.

Andrew Goddard of Richmond, Va., whose son Colin was wounded at the Virginia Tech University massacre two years ago, also attended the rally. He said new police tactics that emerged after Columbine probably

saved his son's life.

"They (Columbine victims) paid a huge price for that small lesson, but that lesson did benefit the students at Virginia Tech," he said.

At Columbine, police and deputies followed a standard

tactic of establishing a perimeter before advancing carefully toward a gunman. Afterward, many agencies adopted a new policy of aggressively attacking the shooter.

Virginia Tech student Seung Hui-Cho killed 32 people and

committed suicide on April 16, 2007.

A memorial service was planned for Monday night in Clement Park, next to the school in the south Denver suburbs.

On the anniversary, Oprah Winfrey canceled an episode schedule to air Monday, "10 Years Later: The Truth about Columbine."

Winfrey posted a message Monday morning on her Facebook page, saying that after she reviewed the taped show, she decided to pull it because of its focus on the two gunmen. She urged viewers to keep the Columbine community in their thoughts.

Gov. Bill Ritter had planned to address the Legislature in the House chamber Monday, but his speech was canceled at the last minute because House Speaker Terrance Carroll declined to suspend the rules.

"Traditionally, the governor doesn't come on the floor unless it's the State of the State speech, and I'm not inclined to change that precedent," said Carroll. Both Carroll and Ritter are Democrats.

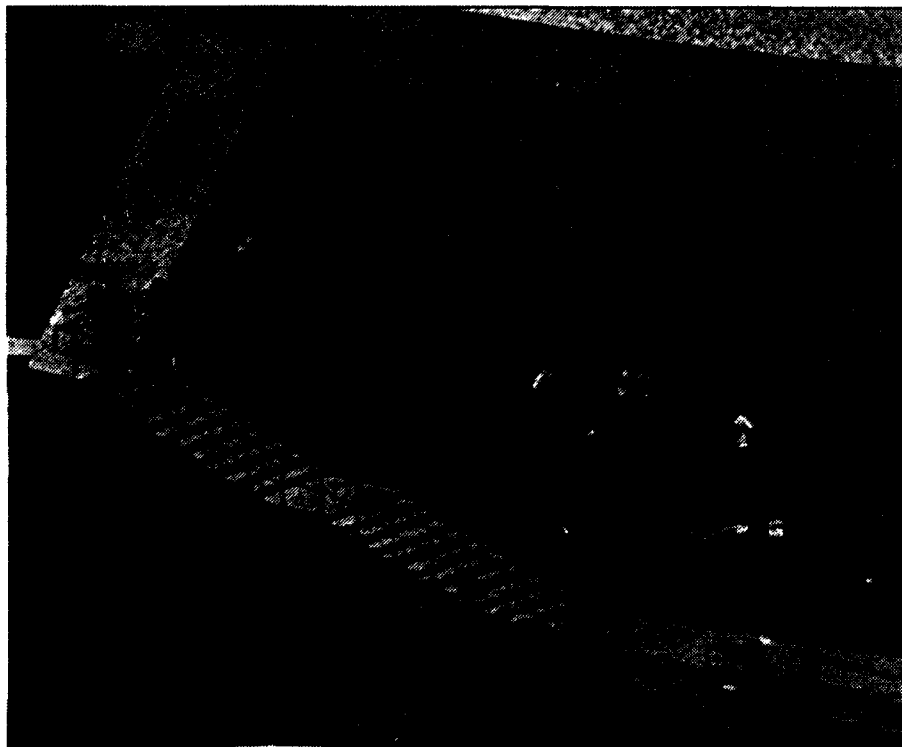


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