

# The Tower Story Stirred the World

By JACK MADDIGAN  
Staff Writer

Last Monday the phrase "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You" was tragically rewritten. By mid-afternoon, Aug. 1, it was: "The Eyes of the World Are Upon You, Texas."

Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, a University of Texas honor student, ex-Marine, one time world's youngest Eagle Scout, loving husband and son, and a fantastic rifle marksman, made Texas and the City of Austin the center of national and international attention.

He killed his wife and mother in their beds during the early morning hours, dragged a small arsenal to the observation deck of the University Tower, shot 13 persons dead, and wounded another 32. He committed the worst mass murder in U.S. history.

Almost as fast as news of Whitman's infamous deeds was sent from Austin, reporters and photographers from all over the country began pouring into Texas' capital city for a closer look.

Even faster than jet planes could get news to Austin, telephone lines immediately became jammed with newspapers and radio and television stations seeking information on "the sniper."

Everywhere in the nation — probably everywhere in the world but Viet Nam — the word "sniper" on Monday, Aug. 1, meant Austin, Texas.

News of the shooting Monday was often incomplete and all too often inaccurate. Since it was reported literally "in the heat of battle," many oversights can now understandably be overlooked.

Figures on the number killed and wounded varied, but not widely. In all Whitman killed 13 persons, including his wife and mother who were not shot from the tower. The figure 15 also includes the unborn baby of a seriously wounded woman. Adding the death of the gunman himself at the hands of Austin police brings the grim total to 16. He wounded 32.

One of the first pictures transmitted from Austin by the

Associated Press mistakenly identified one of the dead, 18-year-old Paul Bolton Sonntag, as the sniper. Since it was one of the first photographs of the tragedy made available to newspapers around the country, it was used, complete with erroneous identification, by many — including the New York Times.

An indication of the national attention given the Tower murders is the fact that the Tuesday New York Times used two photos and a story under a four-column headline on its front page. The story was continued inside the paper on a page devoted entirely to articles and photos pertaining to the shootings.

It would be impossible to say exactly how many out of town newsmen found themselves in Austin Tuesday morning trying to piece together again what had happened Monday.

The University News and Information Service counted about 125. Of these, at least five were from other countries and 36 from states other than Texas.

The National Broadcasting Company had a crew of nine people, the Columbia Broadcasting System a team of seven. Staff writers and photographers of Time and Newsweek magazines and The National Observer, a national newspaper published near Washington, D.C., were here.

The New York Times, Chicago Daily News, New York Post, Hearst Headline Service, and Pix magazine also had reporters in Austin shortly after Monday.

Representatives of foreign publications included men from Paris Match magazine and Epoca, a magazine published in Milan, Italy, and Stern magazine published in Cologne, Germany. There was also a representative of the Canadian Broadcasting Co.

How many other correspondents and photographers were prevented from coming to Austin because of the airline strike is impossible to determine.

Telephone calls from news media began before the first

out-of-town reporters arrived and continued long after they got here. Just some of the cities heard from were New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Calif., West Palm Beach, Fla., Milwaukee, Wisc., and Toronto, Canada.

The local staffs of both major wire services — United Press International and Associated Press — were augmented. The AP's staff of four reporters and one photographer was increased by four reporters and two cameramen. UPI which normally has four photographers and three reporters in Austin brought in three additional writers and one cameraman.

Local radio stations provided reports to broadcast media all over the country. While KTBC originated reports from the campus to more than 250 stations, KOKE was putting on broadcasts for more than 70 stations. And KVET's local coverage went to Westinghouse network stations in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Chicago and San Francisco.

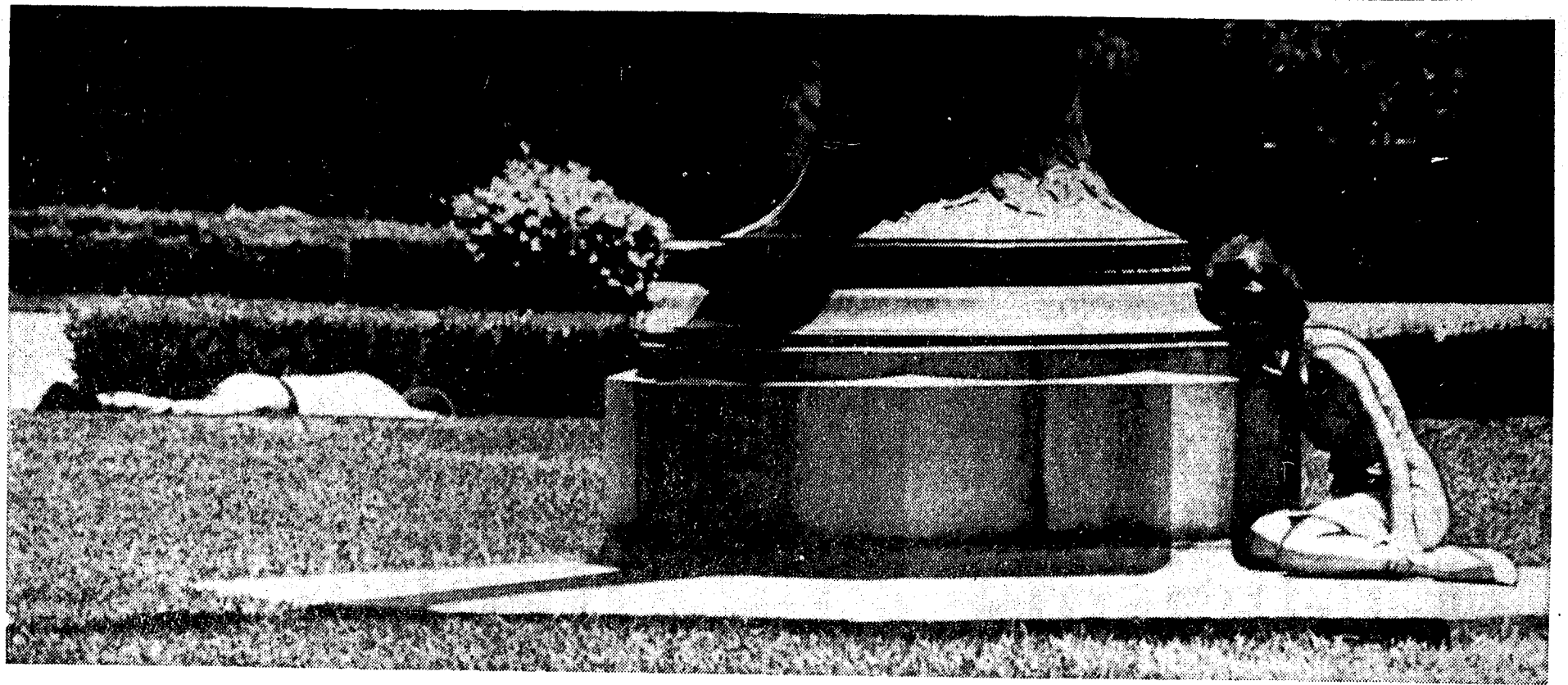
Over all, the national reporting of Monday's massacre was as accurate as could be expected. As more information came to light and details became clearer the impact of the story across the nation was decreasing, and so in some cases inaccurate initial reports went unchanged.

The quality of the coverage depended to a great extent on the type of publication one read.

Others apparently see us quite differently than we see ourselves, and some reporters who came to Austin apparently didn't see much at all.

One New York reporter described Whitman's home at 906 Jewel St. in South Austin as "a squat, yellow-brick dwelling typical of the austere prairie homes that are Austin's pride of ownership."

There seemed to be little, to date, of the general condemnation of Texas — and Texans — which followed President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas in November 1963.



PICTURE OF A GIRL COWERING AT THE BASE OF FLAGPOLE TO ESCAPE KILLER APPEARED ACROSS THE WORLD. The terrible ordeal has left scars and sorrow not only for individuals but for the University of Texas itself.

## Under 'Tower of Death' What Now for the University?

By DERRO EVANS  
Staff Writer

"The Main Building with its 307-foot tower rising 27 stories above the campus is the University's visual symbol around the world."

Until Monday, Aug. 1, there was nothing ominous about those words, which appear in the map and guide distributed to visitors at the University of Texas.

Now the sentence is one more in the series of ironies surrounding the desperate moments when a peaceful, historic university campus became a battlefield, a place of death and suffering.

The university will learn to live with that sentence, just as it will no doubt come to accept as irrevocable fact the nightmarish memories which everyone has sought to banish from existence.

The process will be long and painful and to many, personally agonizing, but it will happen,

simply because there is no alternative.

The process began this week with what Chancellor Harry Ransom describes as an investigation in "minute detail" of the events connected with the mass slayings.

"These facts are already being mustered," Dr. Ransom said, and hopefully will be ready to present next week to the Board of Regents and the public.

The report will cover Charles J. Whitman's seven semesters and two summer sessions as a U. T. student as well as his actions from the moment he entered the campus on Monday.

The investigation will be an effort in pure research, surely the most gruesome ever made at the university.

With the report the university will determine which, if any, of its regulations need to be changed, ranging from the counseling needs of students to the rules for traffic and parking on the campus.

One question which will be answered in time is the future of the observation deck of the tower, the spot from which the killer fired on his victims.

A popular attraction which attracts thousands of tourists each year to view the countryside for miles around, the observation deck has been closed to the public since the tragedy.

A final decision will have to be made on the grounds that the tower is "a piece of public property" and consideration of any necessary "additional security measures," Dr. Ransom stated.

The chancellor pointed out that "in a way, closing the tower might almost be like closing a street where a terrible accident has happened."

For years the tower has warmed the hearts and lifted the spirits of students and ex-students. To observe the victories of the school's athletic teams, as well as special holidays, the tower was bathed in orange light.

Now the feelings are different.

"Looking at the tower used to make me feel so happy," said one student, an Austin girl.

"Now it is a symbol of death." Six hundred youngsters who were to enroll at U.T. in September had arrived on the campus Monday for freshman orientation — learning what college life is all about.

After the shootings, at least five returned home, having changed their minds about attending U. T. Others seemed too dazed to know what their feelings actually were.

A girl from Kennedy explained, "I think that in a way I'm afraid to think about how much this thing has affected my thinking toward the university."

"I don't want to feel any different about U. T. So maybe I'm afraid to think about it."

"I'm embarrassed," said another prospective freshman, an Austin girl. "I don't want people to think that this sort of thing

happens here all the time. I have a feeling people are going to look down on us now." Although some will stay away, the university will have more than a full-time job educating the students who continue.

"Just as Austin is becoming a much more metropolitan community, the university is becoming more and more complex," Dr. Ransom points out.

"Just as a city therefore confronts the problems of complexity, a university is obligated to keep as near abreast of that complexity, making it an advantage instead of a handicap."

Dr. Ransom says he agrees with "those experts in mental health (who say) that every college and university has an increasing obligation to consider the mental health of the whole (university) community."

"Universities and colleges must . . . show additional responsibilities (in mental health), but this does not include the invasion of privacy or the rights of individual students or groups of students."

## What Happened: The Terrible Sequence of Tragedy

By GLEN CASTLEBURY  
Staff Writer

Following is the sequence of events that led to 16 dead and 32 wounded in the tragedy of the University of Texas Tower:

July 31

Between 11 a.m.—1 p.m. While Whitman's wife Kathy is at work at the telephone company, Whitman purchases canned meat and other foodstuffs, much of it later found in his footlocker, at the 7-11 Store at 1017 Barton Springs Rd. He pays the \$6.65 bill with a \$10 check.

1 p.m.

Whitman picks up Kathy when she completes the first half of her split shift at the telephone company.

2:30 p.m.

Whitman and his wife have lunch at Wyatt's Cafeteria in Hancock Center with his mother who is on duty there as a cashier.

6 p.m.

Whitman takes Kathy back to work and returns home to begin writing notes later found beside her body. Shortly after 6 p.m. Whitman's friends Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fuess come to 906 Jewel to visit. Whitman tells them he is writing letters, but his notes later said he "was interrupted by friends." The Fuess couple stay about an hour.

After they leave, Whitman apparently returns to his writing.

9:15 p.m.

Whitman's mother gets off work at Wyatt's and goes home with Mrs. Goldie Harris, a fellow worker at the cafeteria. At the Harris home in Southeast Austin Mrs. Whitman calls her son.

She tells Mrs. Harris that Charles and Kathy would come to her apartment at the Penthouse "to cool off before going to bed" because they did not have an air conditioner.

Mrs. Whitman remains at Mrs. Harris' until 10:30 p.m. before making the 15-minute drive to the Penthouse.

9:30 p.m.

It is time for Whitman to stop writing and pick up Kathy at work. He has written that he intends to kill Kathy and his mother to spare them the embarrassment of what he is going to do.

Whitman picks up his wife and they return home.

Aug. 1

Shortly After Midnight

Whitman's mother, in pajamas and robe, comes to the lobby of the Penthouse to wait for her son. She tells the night watchman, U.T. student Dick Thomason, that Whitman called and said he wanted to come over and study.

Whitman arrives, carrying a black attaché case, about 12:10 or 12:15 a.m. Mrs. Whitman introduces "my Charlie" to the night watchman. Whitman and his mother go to her apartment.

12:30 A.M.

Unknown until Monday afternoon, Whitman signs a note saying "I have just killed my mother."

1:20 A.M.

Night watchman Thomason gets off duty. His roommate Charles Hardy, also a U.T. student, takes over. Thomason does not mention Whitman's routine arrival to Hardy.

1:40 a.m.

Whitman comes to the Penthouse lobby and tells Hardy he has locked himself out of his mother's room, that she is asleep and he doesn't want to bother her but that he forgot a prescription bottle he told her he would have filled.

Hardy does not know if Whitman had just come down from the fifth floor or if he came from the outside through a rear elevator that opens onto the parking lot (which he could have done if he had had his mother's pass key). Whitman did not have the attaché case at that time.

Hardy accompanies Whitman to the fifth floor and opens the door of Room 505 for him. Har-

dy does not enter the room. He stands in the hallway a minute or so before going back to the lobby.

Hardy notices a note to "Roy" on the door but does not read it. The note, penned by Whitman, was to the houseman, saying Mrs. Whitman was ill and would not go to work and did not want to be disturbed.

Not more than 10 minutes later, Whitman comes to the lobby by office and shows Hardy the amber medicine bottle and left the Penthouse. Hardy did not notice at the time if Whitman had the attaché case.

There were reports attributed to Fuess that "another friend" called Whitman at home at 1:30 a.m. to talk about a quiz. It is doubtful that Whitman, using his dead mother's pass key, could have left the Penthouse, gone home, received the call, and got back to the Penthouse by 1:40 a.m.

2:05 A.M.

Whitman had left the Penthouse about 1:50 a.m., according to Hardy. By driving directly home to South Austin, he could have arrived at home by 2:05 a.m.

3 A.M.

Between arriving home and 3 a.m., Whitman kills his wife by stabbing her to death as she sleeps. He signs a note at 3 a.m. saying "both dead."

Whitman might have spent time after this doing more writing on one long note found in his house. Possibly he did some footlocker packing — for he was very busy come daylight.

5:45 A.M.

Whitman calls his wife's supervisor at the telephone company to say that Kathy is suffering from diarrhea and vomiting and will not be at work.

7:15 A.M.

Whitman rents a dolly from Austin Rental Equipment Co. at 900 W. 10th. He pays the 24-hour rent rate of \$2.04 for the vehicle to haul his arsenal of death.

AFTER 7:30 A.M.

Drive-in windows at Austin National Bank open at 7:30 a.m. Whitman Monday morning cashes two \$125 checks, one on his account and one on his mother's account. This transaction might have happened before or after he made check and credit purchases described below.

9 A.M.

Charles Davis Hardware at 4900 Burnet Road, far north of any of Whitman's other Monday activities, sells Whitman a 30-caliber carbine, three boxes of 6 mm shells, two boxes of 35 Remington shells, and one box of 9 mm Luger bullets. Salesman Ted Beard, who said Whitman "knew exactly what he wanted," quoted Whitman as saying he was "going to Florida to shoot wild hogs."

Davis Hardware has refused to tell newsmen the price of the merchandise or if Whitman paid cash. Other gun men have figured the worth of the purchase to be about \$100.

9:30 — 9:45 A.M.

Between these times Whitman makes stops at Sears in Hancock Center and at Chuck's Gun Shop at nearby 3707 East Ave. Which stop was made first cannot be ascertained.

At Sears, Whitman buys a shotgun on credit, even though apparently he would have had cash on hand if he had already been to the bank. While selecting the shotgun Whitman asked if it had metal in the stock. He was told it did not. He also asked for clips for the carbine but was told the store did not have such.

Again at Sears he told sales personnel that he was going to Florida to shoot hogs.

At Chuck's, Whitman bought four boxes of carbine shells, two boxes of 6 mm shells and a can of gun oil. He paid for the purchases with a check for \$48.63 and casually inquired if the store was going to ask the bank if the check was good. The store did not call the bank. The check was insufficient after his withdrawals Monday.

SOMETIME LATER

Whitman goes to his home and saws the stock and barrel off the new shotgun. Police found stock sawings in the garage. A neighbor reported seeing him enter the garage with two weapons between 9 and 9:30 a.m., but it must have been later than that.

10:30 A.M.

Whitman calls D. W. Quinney, manager of Wyatt's Cafeteria, and tells him that his mother has diarrhea and cannot come to work. She was due on duty at 11 a.m. There was no indication of the origin of the call.

Other than sawing off the shotgun and maybe doing some last minute packing, there is no indication of what Whitman did at home. No neighbors reported seeing him leaving the house.

11:25 — 11:30 A.M.

Jack O. Rodman, officer at the traffic check point leading into the campus at 21st and Speedway, reported that Whitman drove in the gate in his late model Chevrolet and asked for a loading zone permit.

He tells Rodman he needs to unload some equipment at the Experimental Science Building. Whitman says he will need more time than the usual 20 minutes.

Rodman looks in the back seat of the car and sees "an Army issue foot locker, covered with a quilt," and the black attaché case. Whitman says he has other goods in the trunk but Rodman does not ask to see them. Rodman issues him a permit for 40 minutes.

11:35 A.M.

At precisely 11:35 a.m., Professor Atone Jacobson, his two children and another professor step off the elevator at the base of the tower. Prof. Jacobson bumps smack into Whitman's dolly — loaded with a footlocker and quilt-wrapped bundle, apparently Whitman's already assembled weapons.

Prof. Jacobson told city police that when he left the tower observation deck there was still a young couple enjoying the view.

11:40

Arriving at the 27th floor and lugging his equipment up the stairs to the 28th floor observation deck, Whitman apparently has his first fatal encounter at the tower. He apparently clubbed the receptionist, Mrs. Edna Townsley, without arousing the notice of the couple still on the observation deck.

He stuffs Mrs. Townsley's body behind a couch in the reception room. Whether she was only clubbed at the time — and shot later — is unknown except that the couple, Don Walden and Cheryl Botts, heard no shot.

As Walden and Miss Botts walk through the observation reception room they see Whitman bending over the couch, but they do not see Mrs. Townsley's body. They do see a large dark stain on the floor that later proved to be her blood. Whitman is holding two rifles. He returns Botts' "Hello" with "Hi, how are you all." The couple goes down the stairs to the 27th floor elevator, the luckiest people in Austin.

11:45 A.M.

Walden and Miss Botts could hardly have cleared the 27th floor when the M. J. Gabour family and the William Lamport family started up the stairs between the 27th and 28th floors. As the Gabour sons Mike and Mark approach the top step they find the doorway blocked by Mrs. Townsley's desk and chair. The boys peer over the desk and Whitman wheels and fires.

Mark Gabour, 16, and Mrs. Lamport fall dead on the stairs. Mike Gabour, 19, and Mrs. Gabour are wounded. Mr. Gabour and Mr. Lamport are not hit.

These first shots at 11:45 a.m. started the mass killings that shook the nation. The first shots apparently triggered the first alarms through the tower and to police.

11:48 A.M.

U.T. Security Guard office on the campus receives a telephone call that a man is killing people in the tower. The office did not get a record of where the call came from. Two officers were dispatched immediately.

11:50 A.M.

City police receive their first notification by telephone from Michael Hall in the History Dept. on the campus. He says there has been a gunshot on the main mall and at least one person was wounded.

Officer Houston McCoy receives that first dispatch immediately and goes to the campus. He confirms gunfire from the tower at 11:52 a.m.

11:55 A.M.

U. T. Security officers Rodman and L. W. Gebert had come to the Main Building and taken the elevator to the 27th floor. As they get off the elevator they see a man — apparently Mr. Gabour — splattered with blood and carrying a pair of ladies white shoes — asking for a gun because "the man has killed my wife and family."

Rodman and Gebert start to the 28th floor. They encounter the fallen Gabours and Lamports. The officers, who do not carry weapons, turn back to spread the alarm through the tower.

Mrs. Vera Palmer, going to relieve Mrs. Townsley at the reception desk, steps out of the 27th floor elevator about this same time. She encounters a man who tells her: "Lady don't get off that elevator. Go on down." She said she thought the man was carrying a pair of shoes.

By this time the battle was raging full between Whitman on top of the tower and lawmen on the ground.

12:20 P.M.

Melvin Hees of Armored Motor Service is in his office in the Capital National Bank building and does not know about the tower battle until a friend comes in and asks if his cars might be useful in removing persons pinned under Whitman's fire on the open mall.

Hees located one of his cars and got it to the campus by 12:35 p.m. The car rescued two persons, both still alive, from open areas.

12:45 P.M.

A raiding party of officers reaches the main building

through underground tunnels. They are joined by city police officers Jerry Day and Ramiro Martinez who had made it to the building through the open. They set up shop on the 26th floor and lay plans for their rooftop capture.

12:50 P.M.

An airplane from Aviation Training Center at Tim's Airpark carrying Lt. Marion Lee buzzes the tower for a shot at Whitman but the sniper drives the plane off with high-powered rifle fire. The plane stayed in the area until the battle ended.

1:24 P.M.

The raiding party of police officers and civilian Allen Crum go to the 27th floor, climb the staircase past the bodies of the Gabours and Lamports and goes onto the observation desk to capture and kill Whitman.

It took several minutes to halt all ground fire after officers Martinez and McCoy brought Whitman down by blasts from a revolver and a shotgun.

Papers on the body of the dead gunman showed him to be Charles Joseph Whitman of 1001A Shelly.

2 P.M.

Kathy's father, R. W. Leissner of Needville, Tex., hearing his son-in-law's name on the radio, tries to call his daughter but gets no answer. He calls the Austin police to ask that they check on his daughter.

The Whitmans have moved from Shelley to 906 Jewel in South Austin last winter. Lt. Merle Wells and Sgt. Donald Kidd go to that address. When their knock gets no answer, the lawmen break into a window to find Kathy's body.

2:30 P.M.

At Wyatt's Cafeteria, manager Quinney has heard the news from the tower and fears what has happened to Whitman's mother. He telephones police.

Police also receive a call from Mrs. Margaret Eilers, manager of the Penthouse, who recognizes the name Whitman from the news. Mrs. Eilers went to the fifth floor, found the "Do Not Disturb" sign on Room 505 and called police.