

Opinions

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Recent campus gun crimes heighten safety awareness

By Patrick Graziosi
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Two students were robbed at gunpoint on campus last week and one student was arrested Monday for bringing guns onto campus property.

These incidents have brought up issues of how to be safe while walking around campus.

A 24-year-old student and his 22-year-old friend who were playing a cellphone game were robbed at gunpoint Feb. 17 after two robbers jumped out of a black SUV headed north on State Street.

The suspects, unidentified black men in their early 20s, demanded the victims' personal belongings, according to a campus police report. After obtaining a wallet and two cell phones, the suspects got back into the

vehicle and took off toward Central Avenue.

A few days later, University of Memphis campus police officer John Hudgens received a call from a 19-year-old female student just after 2 p.m. on Monday. The student said she received a text message with a video of a man pointing multiple weapons at two females – one of whom was recording the video, the campus police report said.

When officers arrived to the Carpenter Apartment at 3860 Tiger Paw South, they discovered a loaded Ruger 556 semi-automatic rifle and a Smith and Wesson nine-millimeter pistol. The two females in the video were not present when officers arrived. The male suspect, a

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The suspect in Monday's incident possessed a semi-automatic rifle like this one at a University of Memphis dorm.

Professor arrested for domestic assault

By Shayne Dotson
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Three U of M police officers arrested Cedar Nordbye, associate professor of art, on Feb. 16, a half-hour before the studio art class he was teaching was scheduled to end.

Nearly a dozen confused students watched as police asked Nordbye to step into the hallway, said Mason Nolen, an 18-year-old freshmen taking the Thursday afternoon class.

"The police were really nice," Nolen said. "I didn't see them do it, but I could hear them handcuff him ... They didn't tell us what was happening. We sat there 'til our class was over."

Nordbye was arrested for domestic assault of his wife. At press time, it is unknown if Nordbye has been or will be charged with a crime in connection to his arrest. He has not returned to teach at the University of Memphis since his arrest. An email to Nordbye's students from the Department of Art said Nordbye would be back the week of Feb. 27.

Nordbye allegedly got into an argument with his wife at their home on

Feb. 12, according to the Memphis Police Department. When his wife tried to walk away, Nordbye allegedly grabbed her from behind and slammed the left side of her face into a wooden cabinet, knocking her glasses off, police said. Nordbye's wife had a bruise and scratch above her left eye, police said.

Nordbye's son told police he heard the argument from his bedroom, police said. When he tried to walk out into the hallway, Nordbye allegedly pushed him in the chest back into his room, police said.

Nordbye's wife called Memphis city police from inside their van with her son, police said. Nordbye was not at home when police arrived.

Nordbye said suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

"Regardless of what someone is charged with, there's always the possibility that the charges are completely mistaken, or that there are extenuating circumstances around the charges," Nordbye said. "We all have trials and tribulations of sorts that go throughout our lives. When our difficulties cross a legal threshold, it enters into a

strange, different kind of world."

Nordbye said the justice system wants to get people booked, no matter if they are guilty or not.

"Police make judgments too often deciding who is guilty and who is innocent, and they treat people who are suspects as if they were convicted," Nordbye said. "I felt like I was treated like a convicted criminal instead of a professional member of the educational academic community who has a charge brought against him."

"I think people are falsely accused of crimes all the time and should be treated with dignity and respect," Nordbye said. "But the way our criminal justice system works, that is very rarely the case."

Nordbye said U of M police should have handled his arrest differently.

"I felt like the whole process was extremely humiliating and embarrassing, and it didn't need to be done that way," Nordbye said. "If I would've received a phone call saying, 'Hey, come down to the police station,' I gladly would have."

As far as his standing with the university, Nordbye is confident he will

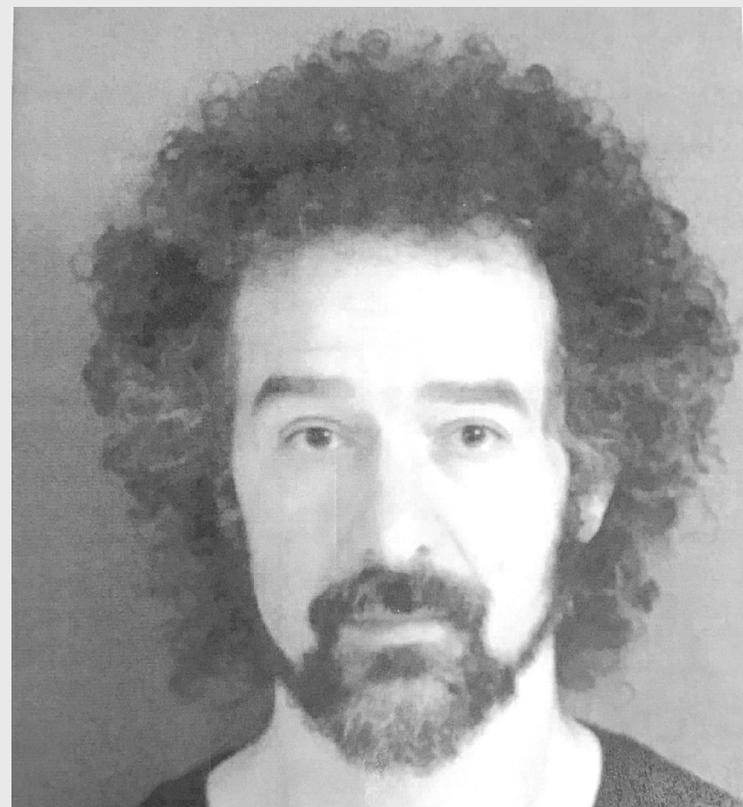


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cedar Nordbye teaches Foundations Studio Art classes at the University of Memphis. He was arrested on Feb. 16, 2017 during one of his classes on charges of domestic assault.

return.

"I've spoken to members of the administration at the university, and they expressed regret on how things were handled," Nordbye said.

Richard Lou, chair of the Department of Art, would not answer *Helmsman* questions about Nordbye's employment status. However, in an email to Nordbye's

students, Lou said the professor would be back.

"Your instructor Cedar Nordbye will be out this week. However, class will continue to meet at their regular meeting times," Lou said. "If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me."

Mitchell Koch and Jonathan Capriel contributed to this story.

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GUNS

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guest of one of the female residents in the video, was arrested.

Students should possess a heightened awareness of their surroundings, Germantown Police Department officer Angie Blankenship said.

"Each situation is dictated by time and place," the officer said. "For example, if you know you're going to be on campus after dark, make arrangements to walk with a friend."

representative will arrive by foot or golf cart.

Interim chief of police for campus police services Ray Craft urges students to take advantage of Tiger Escort. As long as students are on campus, they can receive help.

"Tiger Escort does not cross the railroad tracks with the golf carts," Craft said. "If someone wants an escort across the tracks, they will park the golf cart just north of Walker Avenue, and the escort will walk. The escorts are not allowed to cross Patterson Avenue unless

Important Numbers:

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Tiger Escort: 901-678-4663

Blankenship suggests parking and walking only in lit areas, having your keys ready and exhibiting a little bit of common sense.

"You should always know what you should or should not be doing," Blankenship said. "If you feel you are in a situation where something dangerous could occur, then take precaution."

It is important to know the proper protocol in case one is confronted or feels threatened, Blankenship said.

Tiger Escort – a personal escort service staffed by U of M students and police officers – is available from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week. Students can call 901-678-4663, and a

they are going to Centennial Place."

Tiger Escort also services the areas around the Holiday Inn, the Central parking lot and Carpenter's Complex. They cover the entire campus, Craft said.

"I would advise students to stay alert – cell phones are a huge distraction – walk in groups if possible, stay in well lit areas, utilize Tiger Escort and call police services for any suspicious activity," Craft said.

Campus police encourages students to utilize emergency phones scattered throughout campus and have the number to campus police, 901-678-3848 for non-emergencies and 901-678-HELP for emergencies, and Tiger Escort saved on speed dial.

Mayor and reps. show support for Muslim community

By Hira Qureshi
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Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, Rep. Dwayne Thompson, Rep. Raumesh Akbari, Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo and Shelby County Commissioner Mark Billingsley all attended a fundraiser hosted by the American Muslim Advisory Council Sunday night.

AMAC is a non-profit organization that aims to connect Tennessee Muslim communities to government officials and law enforcement. The event, AMAC's second annual fundraiser, reached its fundraising goal of about \$80,000.

"As Mayor of Memphis, I'm mayor of everyone," Strickland said. "All races, all religions, both genders, and I feel like I have to reach out ... Diversity is what makes Memphis better."

The government officials each spoke at the fundraiser about the importance of the Muslim community within Memphis. The theme of the night was "Standing up for Justice." Commissioner Billingsley expounded on the theme with words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Dr. King said that our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter," the commissioner said. "This is a time where things are very, very important at the local level, state level and at the national level."

During his speech, Mayor Strickland stressed the desire for safety, education and jobs as being something that is desired by everyone despite individual

differences. Strickland also talked about Memphis' value for everyone, regardless of religion or race.

Rep. Raumesh Akbari of Tennessee House of Representatives District 91, a child of an immigrant herself, made a promise to the audience and advised the youth to never be ashamed of their name or background.

"But I want you to know, that I in my position will do whatever I can to fight against unjust and unfair laws and ignorant rhetoric, and anything that I believe is a threat to your community and our community, Memphis as a whole," Rep. Akbari said. "And to the young people in this room, I don't want you ever to feel scared or ashamed of your background or your culture."

Rep. Dwayne Thompson of Tennessee House of Representatives District 96 attributed his win this year to the opportunity for him to support his ideals of equal opportunity for all Americans and freedom of religion.

Khalimah Azeez Rashada, project manager for AMAC and the organizer of the fundraiser, thought it went well.

"With everything going on in society and the hearts of good believers be it Christian, Muslim or Jew they saw the need for an organization to promote freedom, and what our founding fathers stood for – which is freedom for all religions," Rashada said. "And they supported it and everyone was excited to be a part of that movement that AMAC brings to Tennessee."

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Opinion

Where is Migos, Beale Street Music Fest?

By Gus Carrington
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Everyone has been dropping the ball lately. After a Change.org petition to replace Lady Gaga for the Super Bowl Halftime Show with the Atlanta hip-hop trio Migos reached a total of 69,475 signatures, guess who still played the Super Bowl Halftime Show? Lady Gaga.

She gave a tepid performance riddled with fake keytar-playing and, with the exception of

“Just Dance,” it was ... meh. Unlike what petition writer Justin G. suggested Erykah Badu join Migos and do, Gaga did not “hit Donald Trump with a FIRE 64 bars” either.

There was also no tribute to Prince, who destroyed the Super Bowl Halftime show in 2007 by playing “Purple Rain” in the freaking rain. It was legendary, but that’s beside the point.

Enter Beale Street Music Fest 2017. There is a disturbing lack of Migos on this list. Widespread Panic? Not Migos. Death Cab for Cutie? Not Migos. Soundgarden? Definitely not Migos. And it’s not 1996 (though “Spoonman” could be fun).

Sure, in the hip-hop realm of things we have Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa and Ludacris, but come on. While Snoop is obviously awesome, Wiz

Khalifa is what 16-year-olds in Bartlett listen to after they smoke weed for the first time, and Ludacris is terrible live.

Trust me, I love Ludacris. I love him as an artist and an emcee, and I love the eccentric personality that compels him to craft so many beyond-raunchy punch lines. However, every time I’ve seen him perform, he does 30-second samples of his features on top 40 hits instead of performing his own material, and it’s lame. I’ve never seen him play anything off of the “1.21 Gigawatts” mixtape at Music Fest, and that mixtape is fire. Why not open with “Do Somethin’ Strange” this time?

We. Need. Migos.

Now more than ever, Bluff City needs to hear the rumble of “Bad and Bougie” next to the Mississippi river and in unison scream “Rain drop, drop top,” while it’s actually raining because it’s Beale Street Music Fest, and it’s going to rain. We just need Migos.

I’m not paying \$7 for a Bud Light to see Bush. Bush? At this point I would rather see George W. attempt stand-up comedy than see the band Bush perform at Beale Street Music Fest.

Last year, I wrote BSMF “abandoned butt-rock for the age of singer-songwriters.” Now, much like *Star Wars Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back*, butt-rock strikes back ... with Bush.

Last year, we got to see the wonderful Paul Simon and the only logical way to follow that up is to book Migos. Quavo, Takeoff and Offset are the songbirds of our generation, and “Versace” is basically “The Sound of Silence.” “Wishy Washy” is basically “Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard.” Actually, the amount of times they say the word “Versace” in “Versace” is equal to the amount of artists I would pick off of the 2017 Beale Street Music Fest lineup to see Migos perform.

I mean ... I’m still going, though.

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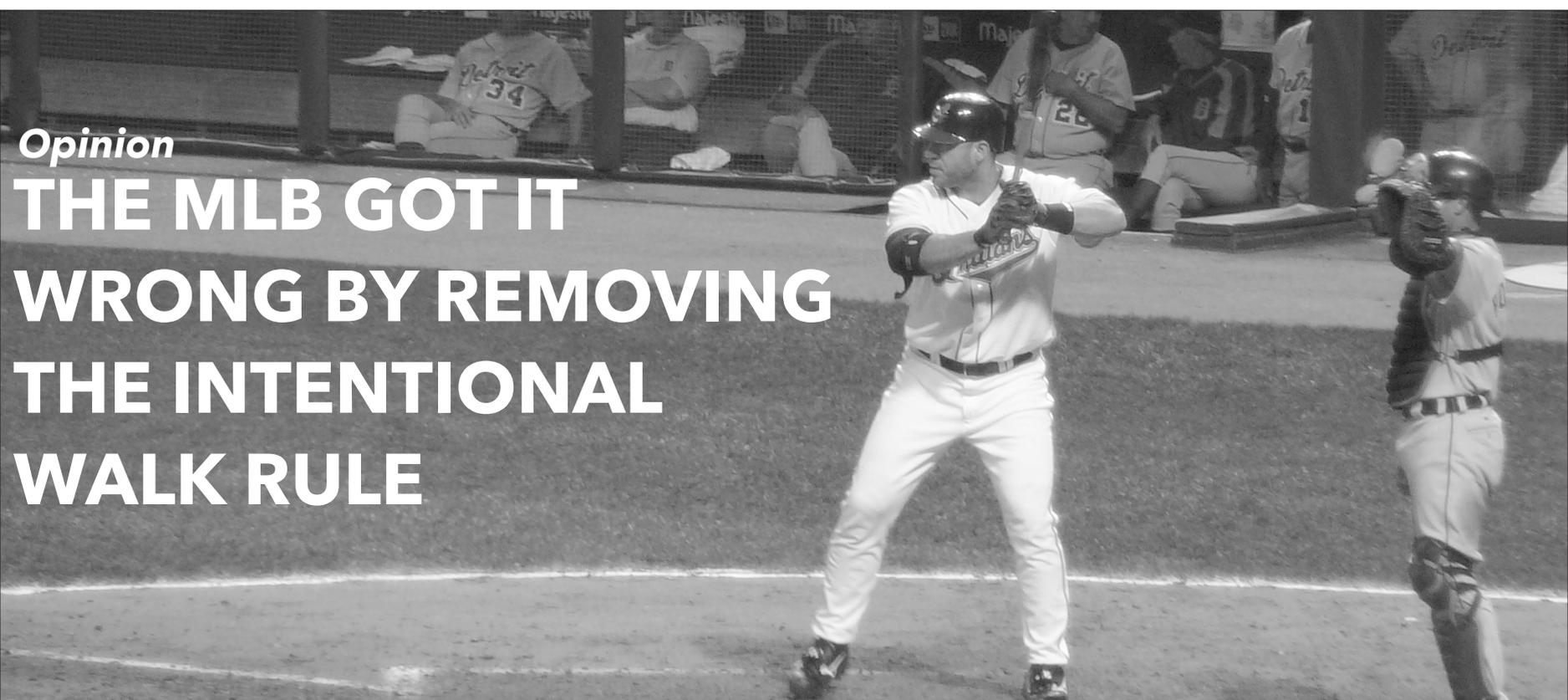


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Opinion
THE MLB GOT IT WRONG BY REMOVING THE INTENTIONAL WALK RULE

By Jon Bell
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It was Game 3 of the 1972 World Series. The A's Rollie Fingers had a full count on the National League MVP, Johnny Bench. The manager comes out and motions for the intentional walk.

Gene Tenace, the A's catcher, stood as if he was about to receive ball four of the at-bat, but, when Bench relaxed, Tenace jumped behind the plate and Fingers hit the outside corner for strike three.

We will likely never see anything like this again.

The MLB and players' association approved new rule changes Tuesday. Baseball put a two-minute limit on replay reviews and added pace of game warnings and fines. But the rule change that actually matters is taking away the intentional walk.

The intentional walk traditionally consisted of the catcher standing up and standing off the plate for the pitcher to throw four balls in a row. The new rule now requires a signal for the dugout then the batter will take first base without a pitch being thrown.

Most of all the recent rule changes in baseball have been made to shorten the length of the games. The average MLB game is about three hours long, which is more than 20 minutes

more than a NHL game and 40 minutes longer than an NBA game.

The game needs to be shortened, but taking away the intentional walk is not the way to do it. Let's do the math on all the time it will save baseball.

Last season, there were 932 intentional walks. Let's assume that all the walks were on four pitches, so that takes the total number of pitches in intentional walks to 3,738. Take that and spread it across 2,428 regular season games, and it comes out to 1.54 pitches per game.

So the MLB is changing the intentional walk rule for 1.5 percent of pitches that saves about 30 seconds per game. I think fans are willing to stick around the extra 30 seconds.

The intentional walk is also something that can affect the game in ways other than just putting a man on first. Pitchers can get nervous and out of their comfort zone having to slow their motion down and intentionally throwing a few feet outside the strike zone.

Having a professional pitcher, likely being paid millions of dollars, throw the ball 60 feet, six inches four times seems easy, but mistakes happen. Maybe the opposite of the 1972 World Series happens and the pitcher messes up and sends the ball to

the backstop or the batter reaches out and hits the ball.

There have been times that mistakes have happened, and it impacted games. One of the more famous mishaps with the intentional walk happened in 2006. Miguel Cabrera drove in the go-ahead run for the Marlins against the Orioles.

The pitcher left the ball towards the plate, and Cabrera was able to slap the

ball to center field in the top of the 10. Hanley Ramirez scored from second base, and the Marlins won.

Not only does this rule hurt the game this season, but it also could lead to more rule changes that baseball does not need. The MLB and players' association are debating rule changes such as shrinking the strike zone and placing runners at second base once a game goes into extra innings.

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