

“UNIVERSITY POLICE ARE RESPONDING TO A REPORT OF A

shooting

~~ON THE EVANSTON~~

~~CAMPUS AT~~

Clark Street Beach.”

One dead, two injured in beach shooting

Fatal shooting exposes Northwestern, city emergency communication lapses

By JOANNA HOU
DAILY SENIOR STAFFER
@joannah_11

Content warning: This story contains mentions of gun violence and death.

An 18-year-old is dead and two 15-year-old boys are injured following a Wednesday night shooting at Clark Street Beach. One of the boys is hospitalized in critical condition, while the other suffered a graze wound and has been released from the hospital, according to an Evanston Police Department news release. All three

victims were Skokie residents.

The family of the 18-year-old is likely processing and has not made a statement, according to an individual familiar with the family.

According to the EPD release, the offenders

» See RESPONSE, page 6

AROUND TOWN

Evanston communication limited during shooting

By AVIVA BECHKY
DAILY SENIOR STAFFER
@avivabechky

Content warning: This article contains mentions of gun violence and death.

At about 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Evanston Police Department first responded to reports of shots on Clark Street Beach.

The department posted periodic updates on their Twitter account as police responded and secured the scene. But the city didn't send texts or emails to residents regarding the shooting until Thursday at 2:35 p.m., when EPD emailed an update.

Evanston is now mourning the loss of one teenager in the shooting, and the injury of two others. Ald. Clare Kelly (1st) said she wants to offer sincere condolences to those impacted by the "devastating loss" that took place Wednesday.

The family of the deceased has yet to speak publicly and are likely in shock, according to someone familiar with the family.

Kelly said she wants to focus on supporting and reaching out to youth who are most vulnerable. She also said she'd like to respond to the "handful" of residents who reached out to her on Wednesday and Thursday, regarding communications or lack thereof from the city about the shooting.

"I think we can do it a little better, make it more accessible," Kelly said.

EPD Cmdr. Ryan Glew said that EPD elected not to send a citywide alert through the Everbridge system because the shooting resulted from a personal dispute, leading the department to determine that others in the area were not at risk.

"We want to be careful that we would not use a shelter-in-place when it's not necessary and then over time, create a fatigue to shelter-in-place," Glew said. Shelters-in-place can happen in situations including emergency weather conditions and active shooter events, he said.



Seeger Gray/Daily Senior Staffer

People gather and walk on Chicago Avenue in downtown Evanston on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Restaurant owners on the block said they received limited communication regarding the nearby Clark Street Beach shooting on Wednesday.

While Evanston residents were not instructed to shelter-in-place, nearby Northwestern began communicating on their main Twitter account at 8:42 p.m. and sent out text and email alerts to University community members advising a shelter-in-place shortly thereafter.

EPD began posting information about the shooting on their Twitter account at 8:53 p.m. and added in a separate tweet that "there does not appear to be a continued threat" at 9:08 p.m., though no suspects were in custody.

But some residents said they didn't see EPD's social media notifications. Several Evanston said they learned about the shooting from NU students rather than the city.

Rachel Goldsmith, a city resident, said she thinks she saw the news from NU Students

Demand Action's Instagram account. Pono Ono Poke manager Tyler Shields said he heard about the shooting from students in his restaurant. Prairie Moon owner and operator Robert Strom said he heard from a student employee.

"We have other alert systems in place for weather and fricking snow emergencies," Goldsmith said. "At this point, it might make sense to consider how we react more quickly to keep people safe if a situation is not under control."

Shields said Pono Ono — a restaurant three minutes away by car from Clark Street Beach — was in the middle of its dinner rush, so staff weren't checking their phones. He suggested the implementation of vibrating phone alerts, similar to emergency weather notifications, though he did worry they could cause some panic.

Strom said he closed Prairie Moon's outdoor patio across the street from Pono Ono when an employee told him about the shooting. He waited for more reports to reopen the patio, but "nothing really came through."

"Being so close to it, I feel like a little bit more would have been helpful," Strom said. "In the moment, you know, you need to take care of the real emergency."

In response to a question from The Daily, Mayor Daniel Biss said he thought the city's communication as of Thursday afternoon was sufficient and adequate.

Kelly said she wanted to commend EPD and City Manager Luke Stowe for their response, including their communication with residents via social media.

Going forward, Kelly said she's interested in setting up new sources of information. Hypothetically, she said she'd like to create an automated response to 311 calls in crises, so everyone who calls can immediately hear a message about the current state of an emergency.

She also said the city could add a banner to the City of Evanston website in cases of emergency.

Goldsmith said the confusion she felt around the Wednesday shooting reminded her of a March incident that caused a soft lockdown in schools across the city, including her son's.

Vagueness in communications — like in March and this week — creates a "fertile ground" for people to make guesses or play telephone, Goldsmith said. When initial reports of the Wednesday shooting began circulating, Goldsmith said she initially heard it took place at a different beach nearer her home.

Going forward, she said she'd like to see residents receive enough information to make their own choices regarding safety.

"I hope that the school, I hope that the city is taking all of our safety really seriously and thinking about comprehensive ways to keep us safe," Goldsmith said.

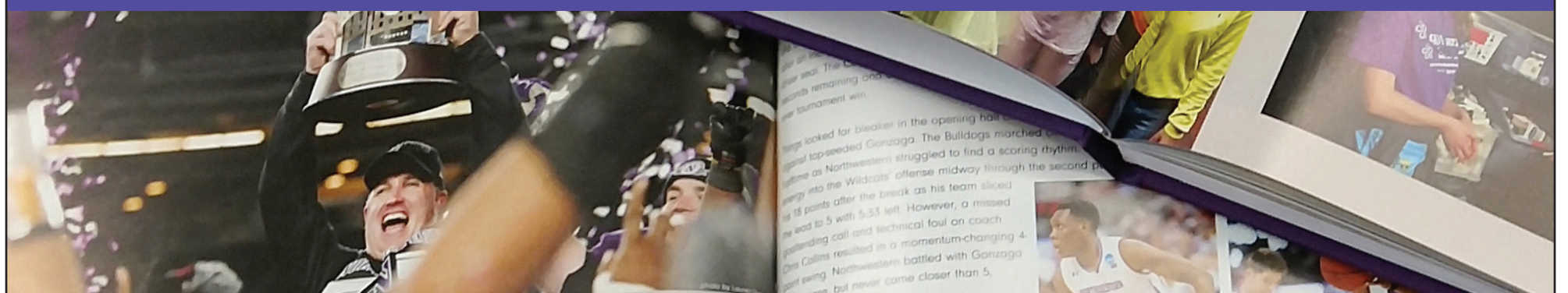
Shannon Tyler contributed reporting.

avivabechky2025@u.northwestern.edu



ORDER YOUR 2023 NU SYLLABUS YEARBOOK

SENIORS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RESERVE YOUR COPY AT nusyllabus.com/order



ON CAMPUS

Unknowns caused anxiety, students say

By AVANI KALRA
DAILY SENIOR STAFFER
@avanidkalra

Content warning: This story contains discussions of gun violence and death.

At about 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday night, Weinberg sophomore Lianna Amoruso heard gunshots. She was enjoying the sunshine on the southern tip of the Lake-fill when she heard screams and saw people running.

By 8:30 p.m., Amoruso barricaded herself into a Kellogg Global Hub room with several other students. Shortly afterwards, she called University Police.

The police officer told Amoruso the situation fell under the Evanston Police Department's responsibility, not UP's. Amoruso said the UP officer told her she could walk outside with her friends.

"He said, 'You're safe on campus,'" Amoruso said.

It wasn't until 8:43 p.m. that Amoruso received her first official communication from Northwestern, in the form of a text. It read: "EMERGENCY: SHELTER IN PLACE."

"Hearing all of the shots was really, really bad," Amoruso said. "But all the unknowns were causing so much more panic."

Students first reported shots shortly before 8:10 p.m. on Clark Street Beach, which is located just south of campus. The tragedy left one Skokie teenager dead and two others wounded.

According to the EPD, there was never an active shooting threat to the University. The incident was a personal dispute located off campus, and the department determined that others in the area were not at risk.

The family of the deceased are likely keeping private for the time being, according to someone familiar with the family.

EPD and UP arrived at the scene within minutes, but students didn't receive official confirmation or instruction from NU for more than 30 minutes.

EPD and the University said suspects fled on foot and then headed north — toward NU's Evanston Campus — in a vehicle.

Communication freshman Emerson Steady said he was in Kresge Hall when he heard about the shots. Kresge does not require Wildcard access to enter



Seeger Gray/Daily Senior Staffer

Northwestern's Evanston Campus. Students took shelter across the University as they heard about a shooting at nearby Clark Street Beach on Wednesday.

the building.

Steady said they and their friends hunkered in the corner of a classroom and called UP.

UP said a shooting took place at South Beach, but told him the responsible parties had been taken into custody, he said. At 8:30 p.m., he said UP said it was safe to leave the building.

As of Wednesday night, the suspects are still unaccounted for. NU's first shelter-in-place order was sent out to students at 8:42 p.m. An update at 8:47 p.m. told students to continue sheltering.

"I was grateful for the people I was with, that we still took precautions, but I was just so angry at the school," Steady said. "They put our lives fully at risk and could have gotten us killed. Which is a crazy thing for your school to do."

Norris University Center's front doors are also usually unlocked. Communication senior Jonathan Van De Loo is a Norris manager. He was working Wednesday night when his coworker called and said she thought she had heard shots at Clark Street Beach.

Van De Loo rolled out the protocol he'd been taught as a Norris employee: He told events in Norris to halt their proceedings and gathered students into locked rooms.

"The only thing that was concrete was that there

were gunshots," he said. "So in my mind, I was like, 'I know that I can tell people quickly where to go, and I know that there are multiple places in this building where people can be safe.'"

University spokesperson Jon Yates did not respond to The Daily's questions about flawed communication with Norris staff. University President Michael Schill said in a statement Thursday morning that the administration has asked for a review of NU facilities after concerns that some buildings were difficult to lock.

Administrators lifted the lockdown and gave students the all-clear at 9:57 p.m.

On Thursday morning, many students shuffled into classes, took quizzes and completed their homework assignments. Amoruso said she barely heard from her professors about the shooting and campus-wide lockdown.

Amoruso said she had difficulty sleeping Wednesday night, because she kept tossing and turning.

"This morning, I woke up and laid in bed and couldn't move," she said. "I just felt really numb and I didn't know how to go back to normal. It was so weird, that after all that, we were just expected to return to normalcy."

avanikalra2025@u.northwestern.edu

The Daily Northwestern
www.dailynorthwestern.com

Editor in Chief
Alex Perry
eic@dailynorthwestern.com

General Manager
Stacia Campbell
stacia@dailynorthwestern.com

Holly and John Madigan Newsroom

Phone | 847.491.3222

Campus desk
campus@dailynorthwestern.com

City desk
city@dailynorthwestern.com

Sports desk
sports@dailynorthwestern.com

Ad Office | 847.491.7206
spc-compshop@northwestern.edu

THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN is published Monday and Thursday during the academic year, except vacation periods and two weeks preceding them and once during August, by Students Publishing Co., Inc. of Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208; 847-491-7206.

First copy of THE DAILY is free, additional copies are 50 cents. All material published herein, except advertising or where indicated otherwise, is Copyright 2020 THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN and protected under the "work made for hire" and "periodical publication" clauses of copyright law.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208. Subscriptions are \$175 for the academic year. THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN is not responsible for more than one incorrect ad insertion. All display ad corrections must be received by 3 p.m. one day prior to when the ad is run.

Check out
DAILYNORTHWESTERN.COM
for breaking news

Get the latest news
in your inbox, *on the daily.*



The Daily's Email Newsletter
Sign up at: dailynorthwestern.com/email

CoZY 
Noodles & Rice

Lunch, Dinner, Carry Out, Delivery
LUNCH SPECIALS STARTING AT \$10.95
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

1018 Davis St., Evanston 847-733-0101
www.cozyevanston.com

ORDER ONLINE SPECIALS
FREE APPETIZER

On Any Order \$30+ from 3-8:30 P.M. Cannot combine with lunch menu.

FREE DELIVERY

Minimum \$25 or more. Only select campus location are included.

10% OFF DELIVERY

On Any Order \$10+. Valid until June 4, 2023.

www.cozyevanston.com

Press play on The Daily's video
coverage of Northwestern
and Evanston.

**daily
north
western
com
video**

OPINION

Join the online conversation at www.dailynorthwestern.com

Hanrahan: Do not distance yourself from Evanston.

NATE HANRAHAN
OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Content warning: This article contains mentions of gun violence and death.

The backlash faced by Northwestern's administration in light of recent events is not without its consequences and has forced the University body to consider its role within the city of Evanston. I am deeply disappointed by the administration's response to the shooting that unfolded on Clark Street Beach on Wednesday evening. I'm clearly not the only one who feels this way; in the wake of such an event, the campus has erupted with demands to guarantee students' safety in the future. This sense of anger is a reasonable reaction, especially given that the University's response was severely lacking.

However, I write not to outline these shortcomings, but instead to call attention to the consequences of the student safety demands in the context of the Evanston community. Simply put, our disappointment with Northwestern's "response" cannot be limited to the administration alone. That burden must fall onto the student body as well, particularly when demands for increased safety measures overshadow grief, solace

and healing practices vital to the Evanston community.

The night of the shooting, messages — some addressed to the administration — circulated throughout the student body and emphasized the importance of the NU community's safety.

”

Despite Clark Street Beach's immediate proximity to both campus and even my own dorm room, this is first and foremost an Evanston tragedy.

- NATE HANRAHAN, Op-Ed Contributor

Many of these messages, specifically those geared toward NU administrators, failed to mention the death of an 18-year-old boy or the two injured 15-year-old boys.

I recognize that a letter to the administration, by definition, seeks to demand change on functions directly within the University's control. However, I have seen more grievances

aired over the lack of a timely response than mention of a death in the neighborhood surrounding our campus. To me, this discrepancy speaks to a larger trend of the student body distancing itself from the Evanston community. When difficult moments like these call for unity, there is something troubling about students demanding improved safety measures with little to no recognition of the night's terrible consequences.

This dichotomy places NU in an admittedly difficult position. I understand the immediate desire for change within the bounds of campus given how horrifying the lockdown period was for many students. This, however, is not a moment when the University community should attempt to isolate or distance itself from Evanston. Despite Clark Street Beach's immediate proximity to both campus and even my own dorm room, this is first and foremost an Evanston tragedy. The burden of this tragedy is shared by the University since it is located in Evanston, but to imply this tragedy was born from anything related to this school feels inherently co-optive and inaccurate. When students ask for the implementation of future safety measures at NU before they consider their role and ability to evoke change in the community at large, no steps are taken to prevent more of these incidents. The question of how to improve safety in our community is far more difficult to address than the mere recognition of the problem. Nevertheless, identifying

the most pertinent problem is a necessary step, and emphasis placed on the failures of the administration detracts from addressing more fundamental issues of Evanston safety and unity.

For the record, I do not believe these sentiments are mutually exclusive. However, the framing of this issue cannot solely stem from some sense of pragmatism or semantics. A teenager is dead and, in the past 24 hours, I have seen more statements regarding an admittedly terrible robocall than a simple recognition or mourning of this loss of life. This piece is by no means a condemnation of anyone who signed or propagated messages demanding immediate change. However, we are not a solitary institution. We are not distinct from this community, and we cannot pretend to be. I understand a desire for productivity and change in moments of grief and hardship, but the nature of the student body's response leaves much to be desired. I hope we have the capacity to demand safety in this community as we do safety at our school. We should not have to choose.

Nate Hanrahan is a Weinberg sophomore. He can be contacted at natehanrahan2025@u.northwestern.edu. If you would like to respond publicly to this op-ed, send a Letter to the Editor to opinion@dailynorthwestern.com. The views expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of all staff members of The Daily Northwestern.

Dawodu: NU failed us. Now, students want accountability.

ZAI DAWODU
OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Content warning: This article contains mentions of gun violence and death.

The rise of mass shootings in the U.S. has shown us they are a consistent threat, and Wednesday night, we as a community were reminded of that. In the utmost honesty, we were in no way prepared.

At around 8 p.m. on Wednesday, I decided to walk near the Lakefill and South Beach to take advantage of the warm weather like many other students. On my walk to campus from my apartment, I began to feel uneasy at the sudden emptiness of the sidewalks and police cars zooming back and forth on Sheridan Road. I walked into Main Library to grab my backpack that I had left there, and seeing the number of students with worried faces told me something was wrong.

Upon checking my phone, I was met with hundreds of texts from my roommate, friends and Northwestern group chats asking where I was and telling me to stay safe. Among those texts, not a single word from the NU administration, the official source we were looking to. It was only students telling other students about a shooter and sending live updates they found online.

A lot of harm and pain can happen within 30 minutes. People keep saying, "Thank goodness, no Northwestern students were harmed." But an 18-year-old, someone the

same age as many NU students, lost their life, and two more people were injured. No NU students were physically hurt, but it's terrifying to see how things could have been different. Even though Clark Street Beach is technically not a part of campus, its close proximity, and with students regularly going there, say otherwise.

When I was walking, I heard multiple loud bangs that I later realized were gunshots. With no official information, I was only able to assume that I should just quickly continue toward the library. Reading through multiple group chats and Instagram posts, I know this was the case for many students. For the students with limited information from texts and Twitter, it still wasn't much better since we've never gone over an active shooter protocol at NU. My roommate was in a room that was unable to lock with 20 other students in Kresge Hall, and many were unsure if it was necessary to barricade the door. When they finally decided to use Kresge's purple and gray desks with wheels in such a manner, they proved to be useless when other students were able to effortlessly walk in and ask to shelter with them. All of these events happened before any official NU communication about the shooting.

Most of the official NU emails later sent out had minimal information compared to what student group chats, the student-run Northwestern News Network and my mom living in a different state were all consistently providing me with. The first email that only instructed us to "shelter in place" was extremely disappointing because for the students who have no active shooter training, it meant nothing. Nowhere did the University

include its active violence procedure from its website — which my mom sent to me within five minutes of talking to her — that states "run, hide, fight." Students were scared, and leaving them so unprepared with a lack of information just caused more fear, worry and frustration regarding their safety and that of their peers.

”

Seeing students more stressed about their classes than their personal safety shows a widely accepted misprioritization. What kind of school is this if we put exams over lives?

- ZAI DAWODU, Op-Ed Contributor

The later robocall saying, "Blank on the Evanston campus at blank," felt like a form of mocking us. So many students waited together hoping to finally get some information or a guarantee of their safety, only to be met with that. It further highlights the lack of preparedness of NU during such a crucial time.

Another thing that was so disheartening about the experience was also the general lack of care about students' mental health. We know how big of an issue this is on

campus, yet the administration didn't send an email with resources for students until noon Thursday. Having to go to class after a taxing day like Wednesday, especially for people with midterms, is draining.

A number of students yesterday told me that they have to keep focusing on school since they know their professors will not care and give them no leniency. Students who reported having to take exams with the knowledge of a shooter in the area are clear proof of this. I am already aware of how toxic NU's work culture can be, but seeing students more stressed about their classes than their personal safety shows a widely accepted misprioritization. What kind of school is this if we put exams over lives?

For the NU administration: Listen to student demands on how to best provide them safety while taking into consideration how an increased police force on campus might be harmful for POC students. Work on improving and publicizing the active shooter protocol so we never have a repeat of yesterday, and prioritize the well-being of students as number one always when making key decisions. For my NU peers: Stay safe and take care of yourselves. Support your community and let your community support you. Hold the administration accountable.

Zai Dawodu is a Communication junior. She can be contacted at zaidawodu2024@u.northwestern.edu. If you would like to respond publicly to this op-ed, send a Letter to the Editor to opinion@dailynorthwestern.com. The views expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of all staff members of The Daily Northwestern.

The Daily Northwestern

Volume 146, Issue 4

Editor in Chief
Alex Perry

Managing Editors
Pavan Acharya
Aviva Bechky
Avani Kalra

Russell Leung
Ava Mandoli
Erica Schmitt
Wendy Zhu

Opinion Editor
Micah Sandy

Assistant Opinion Editor
Grant Li

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent to 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208, via fax at 847-491-9905, via e-mail to opinion@dailynorthwestern.com or by dropping a letter in the box outside THE DAILY office.

Letters have the following requirements:

- Should be typed
- Should be double-spaced
- Should include the author's name, signature, school, class and phone number.
- Should be fewer than 300 words

They will be checked for authenticity and may be edited for length, clarity, style and grammar.

Letters, columns and cartoons contain the opinion of the authors, not Students Publishing Co. Inc. Submissions signed by more than three people must include at least one and no more than three names designated to represent the group.

Editorials reflect the majority opinion of THE DAILY's student editorial board and not the opinions of either Northwestern University or Students Publishing Co. Inc.

Petition to NU admin gathers hundreds of signatures

By PAVAN ACHARYA and RUSSELL LEUNG
DAILY SENIOR STAFFERS
@pavanacharya02 / @rjleung7

Content warning: This story contains mentions of gun violence and death.

About an hour after the first unofficial reports of gunshots came out on Wednesday, Weinberg junior and Northwestern Students Demand Action co-lead Lily Cohen drafted and released a petition calling on the University to reevaluate its emergency alert system.

The Evanston Police Department responded to shots fired at Clark Street Beach, just south of NU's Evanston campus, at about 8:10 p.m. Wednesday. More than 30 minutes later, NU released its first statement about the shooting on Twitter at 8:42 p.m., ordering community members to shelter in place.

Two 15-year-old boys were injured in the shooting, and an 18-year-old died.

"I wrote the letter to express my frustration that it took the university 35 minutes to alert students in the first place," Cohen said in a text to *The Daily*. "It was scary not having any information and we didn't understand why so many students seemed to know about it for over a half hour before the school sent the first shelter-in-place alert."

She sent the petition to the NU administration around 1:45 a.m. Thursday morning. More than 900 students have signed the petition as of early Friday morning. However, some students have criticized the petition for failing to mention the victims of the shooting.

Cohen said she wants to see the University implement an action plan detailing how NU will increase the speed of alerts sent to students in emergency situations. She also wants the plan to outline how the University will advise faculty and staff to handle future lockdowns.

SDA is hosting a rally Friday at 11 a.m. at The Rock. According to an SDA poster, attendees will rally for gun violence prevention and call for reforms to NU's security response measures.

In a statement sent to members of the NU community Thursday, University President Michael Schill said he has received messages "expressing frustration" with the amount of time NU took to inform community members about the shooting.

He said members of NU's leadership team will review the University's Wednesday night response and phone communication error. NU sent out an



Daily file photo by Kimberly Espinosa

The petition, which was sent to NU's administration about 1:45 a.m. Thursday, criticizes the lack of University communication with the student body within the first hour after shots were fired Wednesday night at Clark Street Beach.

automated phone message to community members during the shelter-in-place period that said, "University Police are responding to a report of a blank on the Evanston Campus at blank."

SESP junior Donovan Cusick and McCormick junior Molly Whalen, co-presidential candidates for Associated Student Government, said in a joint text to *The Daily* that they plan to help the administration implement feedback about its response to the shooting. Whalen signed the petition.

"(The letter) was very effective as the admin emails sent today show they agree with the petition's message," the two said. "The response time was unacceptable and needs to be improved."

Weinberg sophomore Lauren Escudero, who also signed the petition, said Schill's statement felt like a "PR-generated response."

"It doesn't sound like they really actually care about the students," Escudero said. "It's more like, 'What can

we write here that doesn't get us in trouble?'"

Some students have criticized the petition for failing to make realistic demands of the University. Weinberg freshman Ciera Cravens said though she agreed with "the sentiment" of the petition, she believes Schill's Thursday email addressed many of its concerns.

Weinberg sophomore Tara Chen had signed and reposted the petition on social media shortly after they heard about the shooting on Wednesday. However, upon rereading the petition Thursday morning, they said they realized the petition did not make specific enough demands of the University.

"It can't just be like, 'Northwestern, you need to do better,'" they said.

Chen said they plan to remove their name from the petition.

They added on-campus reactions to the shooting were emblematic of the divide that exists between NU and Evanston, and criticized the petition for not

mentioning the victims of the shooting.

"Gun violence in (Evanston) matters just as much as if a shooting occurred within our campus," Chen said.

Cohen said the victims should "absolutely" be recognized, but said the primary purpose of her letter was to condemn NU's "broken" reaction to the incident.

"I really didn't expect the letter to get as many signatures as it did," Cohen said. "While I completely understand concerns about the contents of it, it was fully intended to reflect my personal frustrations with the university response specifically and maybe the frustrations of other students around campus as well."

Alex Perry contributed reporting.

pavanacharya2025@u.northwestern.edu
russellelung2024@u.northwestern.edu

For news, updates and campus photography, follow **The Daily** on Instagram:

@thedailyynu

follow
The
Daily
on
twitter
twitter.com/thedailyynu

EPD's Glew speaks on police response to shooting

By SHANNON TYLER
DAILY SENIOR STAFFER
@shannonmtyler

Content warning: This story contains mentions of gun violence.

Evanston Police Department Cmdr. Ryan Glew spoke with The Daily on Thursday about EPD's response to the Wednesday shooting at Clark Street Beach and the communication to residents that followed.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

The Daily: When did EPD start communicating with Northwestern and University Police after responding to the incident?

Glew: There would have been communication on some level very early on as officers responded to that area and to the scene, and then as time went on, that communication would have been more between command staff of the two agencies. I think there were officers from Evanston and Northwestern University Police on the scene shortly after the incident.

The Daily: What does the communication between EPD and UP look like?

Glew: We'll communicate with them what we're doing and how we perceive things. But they're going to have to make their own independent decision. So I know that I don't know exactly when the conversation started, but I was present for a conversation between our two agencies — probably by about 9 o'clock at night — talking about how we were messaging and what we were ordering, and they made an independent determination on how to proceed.

The Daily: Why was the Evanston alert system Everbridge not deployed when the police responded to the incident?

Glew: The primary reason is the fact that (the shooting involved) a group of people that knew each other, not a random act. Their paths happened to cross at Clark Street Beach, and there was no indication of an active shooter. So that would have been the primary rationale for not issuing a shelter-in-place and not issuing an alert through the Everbridge system.

The Daily: In what kind of situation would the



Daily file photo by Colin Boyle

Evanston Police Department Cmdr. Ryan Glew told The Daily the department would like to see the time between police response to an incident and the release of public information on the incident shrink.

Everbridge system be employed?

Glew: When it is apparent that there is a situation where there is an active shooter or an immediate danger. It could be a weather event, or it could be a natural disaster or something where people need immediate direction, shelter-in-place or evacuation order for the preservation of their safety.

The Daily: How was the nearby community notified about the situation happening?

Glew: It was just through Twitter, and then our engagement with Northwestern media and the Chicagoland media for the 10 o'clock news cycle.

The Daily: How early should an alert go out to the public after police respond to an incident?

Glew: Talking about last night, it was about 35 or 40 minutes, I think, between the incident and the first Twitter post. We would ideally like that time to be a little bit tighter, getting credible information that's thoughtful and gives the people the information that they need. We have to have the people here in place, and they have to be informed with the correct information

to push that out. So that's kind of what fills that time gap. So let's say for instance, if there was an active shooter, you would get that early shelter-in-place active shooter, but then there would still probably be maybe a 20- or 30-minute gap before you start getting additional (information) like offender description or last direction of travel. For Twitter updates, we want to tighten up a little bit, maybe shave 10 or 15 minutes off a response like last night or maybe even a little bit more.

The Daily: Has EPD communicated with surrounding high schools?

Glew: We do have school liaison officers and resource officers at Evanston Township High School. They will engage with the ETHS staff directly to communicate appropriate information. We also have a good relationship with (Evanston/Skokie School) District 65 and try to disseminate the appropriate information to all the schools, especially when you have people that are victims (that) potentially have been students in the school system.

The Daily: Are there any initiatives EPD should

take to make emergency alerts more accessible?

Glew: When it comes to messaging, we're always going to have to improve that. I mean, every instance is going to be an opportunity for us to look at it, see what works when and what didn't work. I think it's important for the community to understand that, the community should know that. We always look at what information we can release and in a thoughtful manner, and we try to make every effort to get that information out to as many people as we can as quickly as possible. But we will always be searching for the next way to shrink the amount of people that we're not reaching and tighten up those time frames to get the information out.


The Daily: What is EPD doing now to locate the suspects?

Glew: We are investigating and the North Regional (Major) Crimes Task Force is also assisting. So we are working diligently to identify the offenders, but we do not have any information released at this time and nobody's in custody.

shannonmtyler2025@u.northwestern.edu

Like
The Daily
on
facebook.com/thedailynorthwestern

/audio
Listen to
The Daily Northwestern's
podcasts and audio
coverage of Evanston,
Northwestern,
mental health, culture,
politics and more.
Available on Apple Podcasts and at:
dailynorthwestern.com/audio



Students barricaded themselves
in classrooms in Kresge Hall.
Photo courtesy of a Northwestern junior

The Daily: Where were you when you first learned about the emergency?

Weinberg sophomore

Olivia Sotos: I was in Kresge.

The Daily: Who did you learn about it from?

Sotos: A bunch of my friends started texting and asking if everyone was safe and inside a building. I at first didn't know what they were talking about. Then, they texted that they had heard there was a shooting on (Clark Street Beach).

Some of my friends were outside and heard gunshots and ran away and they texted about that.


The Daily: How did you feel?

Sotos: My initial response was kind of numbness, I didn't feel scared . . . just concerned that not all of my friends were safely inside. As we started the actual lockdown, I started to feel scared and a little panicked, even once I'd learned that it wasn't an active shooter and it wasn't targeted at Northwestern.

The Daily: Who told you to go into lockdown and what were you feeling?

Sotos: The (student) leader of the meeting (I was in) initiated the lockdown, but everyone agreed and had the same idea to stay inside the room, shut the door, barricade it and turn the lights off, etc. I was scared because I've never gone into an actual lockdown before, only drills.

— Avani Kalra



Students barricaded themselves
in classrooms in Kresge Hall.
Photo courtesy of Northwestern junior

The Daily: Where were you when you first learned about the emergency?

Weinberg sophomore

Olivia Sotos: I was in Kresge.

The Daily: Who did you learn about it from?

Sotos: A bunch of my friends started texting and asking if everyone was safe and inside a building. I at first didn't know what they were talking about. Then, they texted that they had heard there was a shooting on (Clark Street Beach).

Some of my friends were outside and heard gunshots and ran away and they texted about that.

The Daily: How did you feel?

Sotos: My initial response was kind of numbness, I didn't feel scared . . . just concerned that not all of my friends were safely inside. As we started the actual lockdown, I started to feel scared and a little panicked, even once I'd learned that it wasn't an active shooter and it wasn't targeted at Northwestern.

The Daily: Who told you to go into lockdown and what were you feeling?

Sotos: The (student) leader of the meeting (I was in) initiated the lockdown, but everyone agreed and had the same idea to stay inside the room, shut the door, barricade it and turn the lights off, etc. I was scared because I've never gone into an actual lockdown before, only drills.

— Avani Kalra