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Gunman Reported on Yale Campus; Lockdown has Been Lifted



A police sergeant stands at the intersection of Elm Street and Broadway near Yale University.

By Timothy O'Connor, Joe Jackson and Jennifer Maloney

UPDATED | Yale University students and faculty were instructed to take shelter Monday while authorities investigated [a report of a person with a gun](#). After about six hours, the campus lockdown was lifted.

After an extensive, door-to-door search of the campus, no suspect was found and no one was hurt, officials said.

"Though it is starting to tilt in the direction of an innocent mistake, it started with a purposeful and malicious call," said New Haven Police Dept Chief Dean Esserman. "

New Haven Police Officer David Hartman said an anonymous 911 call — lasting only a few seconds — was placed around 9:30 am from a payphone on the 300 block of Columbus Avenue. A male caller said a man was heading to Yale University to "shoot people," Mr. Hartman said.

“All he really said was his roommate was on his way to Yale University to shoot people,” Mr. Hartman said. “There was nothing specific about the threat.”

Not long after, Mr. Hartman said that at least one witness reported seeing someone with a “long gun” on or near campus, sparking the lockdown.

But Mr. Hartman said it’s possible that witnesses may have confused the gunman with an armed law-enforcement officer who was responding to the 911 call. Still, he said, “We’re not taking anything for chance.”

Police vowed to track down the person who made the call.

“We have tracked that phone call down, we are tracking down the person who made that phone call,” Mr. Esserman said. “We’re going to find the person who made that call and we’re going to put handcuffs on the person that made that call.”

Asked what charges the caller might face, Mr. Esserman said: “Every charge I can imagine.”

The caller, Mr. Esserman said, “used the word ‘roommate,’ but if you listen to the tape as many times as I have, you’ll walk away saying ‘that sounded like a confused gentleman.’”

Investigators and SWAT units from the university, city and state police as well as Federal Bureau of Investigation searching the campus, interviewing witnesses and reviewing security camera footage from area, Mr. Hartman said.

Most students are not on campus after leaving for the holiday break, officials said.

Police conducted a room-to-room search of the college’s residential areas, according to university officials. “When they knock on your door, a Yale Police Officer will slip their Yale ID under the door. Please cooperate. In some cases, Police may use keys, but they will identify themselves,” read a public alert issued by the university.

The campus-wide lockdown was lifted at 4:40 p.m. and businesses that closed along some main streets have reopened.

Yixiao Zou, a 26-year-old graduate student, stopped his yellow bike on the corner of Elm Street and looked at the two New Haven police officers who had blocked off the street near the Old Campus. A police helicopter circling overhead.

“I’m not worried,” said Mr. Zou, who is studying neuroscience. “I guess it’s better to be safe than sorry.”

Confirmed report of a person w/ gun on/near Old Campus.

SHELTER IN PLACE. <http://t.co/GWOeIeUZgu>

— Yale University (@Yale) [November 25, 2013](#)

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