
From: Roy, Lucinda
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 5:45 PM
To: 'Jerry Niles'; Lewis, Mary
Subject: Student Disruption

Dear Jerry and Mary Ann:

I wanted to give you a heads-up about a student who submitted a "poem" in Nikki Giovanni's poetry class and then read it out loud today. Nikki found the work in her mailbox but hadn't realized he would read it out loud.

In the poem he castigates all of the class, accusing them of genocide and cannibalism because they joked about eating snake and other animals. He says he is disgusted with them, and tells them they will all "burn in hell." He read the poem with dark glasses on. Later, students informed Nikki that he's been taking photos of the class without their permission; I've learned he's been doing this in at least one other class he's been taking.

His name is Seung-Hui Cho, and I had him in my large lecture class last year. The students in Nikki's class have asked for assistance because they are intimidated by him. Nikki has requested security. I've been in contact with Tom Brown, Zenobia Hikes, Detective George Jackson, and Bob Miller in Counseling. Cheryl and I will be meeting with the student tomorrow to try to find out what's going on. Nikki no longer feels comfortable teaching the student, and the students have also requested relief. As I understand it from Tom Brown, I can remove Seung from Nikki's class as long as I offer him a viable alternative. I will be suggesting that he take an Independent Study in lieu of the class, and that he work with either me or Fred D'Aguiar. Nikki, who is never rattled by anything, is genuinely distressed about this student's behavior.

I wanted to inform you about this in case he lodges a complaint with the College. Please let me know if there's anything else I should do.

Lucinda

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