Students Robbed at Gunpoint

By Brian Rosenberg

Four people were robbed at gunpoint Wednesday night in two closely related incidents near the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory (NW12), the Campus Police announced yesterday.

Cambridge police records, however, show that there were only three victims.

None of the victims, one of whom was a student's wife, was injured. The other victims were students.

The assailants, identified as three black men in their early 20s, were between 6 feet and 6 feet 6 inches tall. Two were described as wearing sweatshirts or dark baggy clothing, while the third had a yellow jacket on, according to Frank T. Pasquarollo, a public information officer with the Cambridge Police.

Pasquarollo said the case was under investigation and that there were no suspects as yet.

The first robbery took place at approximately 9:10 p.m. Wednesday night. Yifang Gong and his wife were walking down Albany St. on the way to their Main St. home when they noticed three black men standing in front of Edgerton House.

"They started following us, and we thought they looked suspicious, so we speeded up," he said. "There were two other students near (Massachusetts Ave.) Ave., and I think [the suspects] saw us and sped up to catch us as well.

"One of them pointed a gun at my head and said I should give up my money," the second victim, Gorg Gong, said. "He handed over his wallet, which contained five dollars in cash and a few credit cards. "My wife didn't have any money, so they took my wallet and watch," he said. "I was sure that the value of the watch and wallet which had been purchased in China some time ago.

Gong said that the robbers saw the other two students and moved away from them and us.

"When they turned away, we walked to the police station. When we got there (police knew) about it already," he added.

A Safe Ride Circuit Reviewed

By Eva Moy

[First of two stories]

In response to the murder of Yifang Gong, the Institute has sped up its review process of several safety programs. For example, there has been an increase in the number of patrols on campus and in the parking areas. Other issues, such as lighting and emergency telephone locations, are currently under review, according to Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin.

The Safe Ride program is one of several programs under critical analysis by many different groups. The primary purpose of a Safe Ride is "to provide students with a safe ride after hours when they cross campus or [travel] around the perimeter areas," according to Glavin.

It routes both Safe Ride services from 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday. The following is an account of my experiences with information about the Safe Ride system.

8 p.m.: I arrived at 77 Mass. Ave. on the way to a "Page 7 of 3" for a ride. There were only a few people already waiting. According to police, there have already been more than 200 riders.

In its first year of operation, about 25,000 people used A Safe Ride, according to Glavin. From January to August 1992, there have already been more than 31,000 riders, she estimated. That total ridership will exceed 50,000 by the end of the year.

"It's been a big success, but the present Safe Ride isn't a victim of its own success," Glavin said. "This suggests that we would have needed to do something anyway to expand capacity," said Director of Special Services, Jeffrey Glavin.

John Rauschenberg '94, the Institute's Safe Ride program manager, said that the program had already been there for about 20 minutes.

The Student Authority decided that the ridership system is a victim of its own success," Glavin said. "The Raustein murder was a catalyst for many, and to avoid the visibility of the issue."