

# UK hate-crime spree 'deplorable'

## Four incidents in 10 days spur officials to act

By ALAN MAIMON  
The Courier-Journal

The University of Kentucky — responding to four suspected hate crimes on campus in the past 10 days — is pledging zero tolerance for xenophobia and plans to address the concerns of jittery international students at a forum tomorrow evening.

University and Lexington police believe that two males in a black pickup have tar-

**FORUM IS TOMORROW**  
The University of Kentucky plans a forum tomorrow night at 7:30 in the Student Center to address students' concerns about the recent incidents.

geted students who are foreign in appearance in a spree that has included three assaults and a case of verbal harassment.

See UK  
Page 5, col. 1, this section

## UK pledges zero tolerance for hate crimes

Continued from Page B 1

"It's deplorable that this is happening," said UK's acting provost, Mike Nietzel. "It's particularly unacceptable on a college campus."

UK President Lee Todd condemned the harassment of international students in a campus e-mail sent last week.

In the most recent attack, Ippei Inoue, 23, a senior psychology student from Tokyo, was assaulted while walking home from the William T. Young library early Friday morning.

After a black pickup stopped next to Inoue, a male in the passenger seat asked the student for directions and handed him a slip of paper, said Alan Saylor of the UK police.

Inoue approached the truck and was punched in the face before the truck sped away, Saylor said.

Two other assaults — separate incidents involving students from China and India — also occurred near the library, a pattern that has led the

university to ask Lexington police for increased monitoring of the area.

The Chinese student, who escaped harm but was harassed with racial slurs, reported the incident but has not yet filed a formal complaint.

Nietzel said the university's Office of International Affairs has urged students who have been assaulted to report the crimes, something they might not want to do because they fear retribution.

The first suspected hate crime happened Sept. 28 when a Palestinian student was beaten and barraged with disparaging epithets while delivering a pizza to a campus dormitory.

All the incidents occurred between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., and police say they think the incidents are related.

In all four cases, the two perpetrators were in or near a Ford Ranger or Chevrolet S10 with tinted windows, side steps, white taillight covers and the partial Kentucky license plate 3019.

One of the suspects is described as

a white male age 20 to 25, 5-foot-9, 150 pounds, with blond hair and unshaven. Witnesses could not describe the second suspect.

Police have received several leads but have identified no suspects, Saylor said last night.

None of the victims were seriously injured.

Tomorrow's campus forum will give UK's roughly 1,500 international students an opportunity to discuss their concerns and provide them with information about safety precautions.

Nietzel said that hate crimes on campus tend to occur only once every couple of years and that the recent series was likely caused by an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We've always had a safe campus," Nietzel said. "Since the terrorist attacks, there have been a number of incidents. I suspect it's related."