

BY LIDIA NESCI

KUTZTOWN, March 13- Due to recent robberies and assaults happening on Kutztown University's campus, the students' safety was in question. Stephanie Klein, 24, the Building Director of Berks Hall of Kutztown University was asked about safety in the dorms. She sat confidently behind her desk, maintaining eye contact throughout the interview.

Current safety procedures include signing in visitors, always escorting visitors, bag checks for anything illegal, no illegal items in dorms, etc. When asked about present safety regulations, Stephanie Klein believed the university had good rules set.

Klein did explain the University's attempt at making the front desk in all dorms open 24 hours. At one point, front desks were open 24 hours.

Because of budget cuts, there wasn't a 24-hour desk system beginning in the 2010-2011 school year according to Klein. Today, the front desk hours range from Monday through Thursday, 8am until 2am. Friday through Sunday the desk is open 24 hours.

Once the desk closes at 2 am on weeknights, it makes sneaking in with residents fairly easy. That poses a threat to the residents living in dorms because there is no record of who is sneaking around the building and the intruder can cause mayhem.

If Kutztown University decides to make the front desk open 24 hours again, this could mean no more visitors sneaking in without signing in and obtaining visitor pass.

As some people may already know, there was an alleged robbery in Deatrick Hall Friday morning, as well as an alleged robbery outside Dixon Hall on Sunday, which was later found to be a simple assault. Referring to these incidents, Klein said, "I don't know if it could have been prevented". She continued by applauding the staff on handling the situation and reporting it.

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Klein said these problems didn't typically happen in Kutztown. She agreed most of the large-scale problems occur in today's society rather than past years because of the student population.

"Students are more involved in risky behaviors," said Klein sounding concerned. She was referring to the increase in violence and illegal substance use. This is one of the reasons why problems like those of Deatruck or Dixon occur.

There's the idea that people need to have at least a Bachelor's Degree in order to get a decent job according to Klein. She also believes students come to college nowadays because they feel they have to, not because they want to.

Klein clearly explained she went to college to get an education, earn a degree, get a job, and that was it. She wanted to be at college for those reasons and feared not being able to get an education. "People aren't afraid anymore," she said. That ties into problems occurring on campus; students aren't afraid to get kicked out.

The idea of what college stands for has changed in Klein's eyes. Troubled, she sees students coming to party and be wild, instead of studying to earn their education. The overall safety in Kutztown University's dorms lies with the housing staff, and students' responsibility.

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