

Hostage Drill Takes Place at UB

Angelica Castillo

Security and safety has always been a subject of importance to the masses. To take place for the first time in the state of Connecticut, Homeland Security and Emergency Response used the University of Bridgeport campus as its target location for their hostage drill.

On November 2nd, UB students volunteered to play hostage victims in an emergency exercise. Scheduled to be their day at about 5:45 A.M., students were picked up by bus and sent to a parking lot by Seaside Park where all emergency services of Fairfield County met. About fourteen communities including Bridgeport, Trumbull, and Fairfield participated in Saturday's drill.

After being "sterilized" and signed in, the students were shown the mock weapons that were to be used in the drill and were spoken to by security officials of what was going to take place. The scenario that was to be acted out was a convention being held at the Arnold Bernhard Center and about 25-50 spectators were taken hostage by a peaceful militant group trying to get their message out.

At about 9A.M. the drill officially started after students were dressed in fake wounds and injuries.

UB student Brittany Kartchner who participated and volunteered as a hostage victim, described that through out the drill, students were exchanged for food and water. While they sat unharmed in Merten's Theater, it was when they arrived outside when they realized how

serious the drill was being handled. SWAT teams and "bad guys" shot pellets at each other in the emergency situation yet being aware to protect and prevent any real injuries from students.

Once being rescued, the volunteer hostages were driven in ambulances, taken to the hospital for treatment, and debriefed by police as this was a drill for those departments... *continues on pg 6*



Photo courtesy of Connecticut Post / B.K. Angeletti.