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Warning sent out to students

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On Monday night, the girl's dorm and Southern Village apartments were put on alert due to suspicious activity of a man close to campus, according to Campus Safety.

A female student was walking on the Greenway when she encountered a middle-aged man who asked her to pray with him. She prayed with the man and as they were parting he made a comment that disturbed her, said Campus Safety official David Houtchens.

"He asked her to pray for him because he was struggling with the desire to kill someone," Houtchens said.

However, Houtchens does not believe that the man is a threat to students.

"He does not realize that some of these things are bad to say, he just knows he gets attention [when he says them]," Houtchens said. "He's like a little kid who says a bad word to get attention."

The Collegedale Police reported to Taylor Circle to look for the man and escort him off campus, but they did not find him.

An announcement was made over the intercom of Thatcher hall around 7 p.m. Monday. It said that the dorm was on "lock down," in other words, students could only enter and exit the building with an ID card or the authorization of a desk worker, said Lisa Hall, an associate dean at Thatcher Hall.

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"We may have overreacted, but we wanted to err on the side of safety," Hall said.

The Collegedale Police confirmed that although they have encountered the man several times in the past, he does not seem dangerous.

According to Campus Safety, the man in question is 5' 6" tall, well-dressed, Caucasian, middle-aged and of slight to medium build.

Campus Safety reiterated that they want students to feel safe on campus, and if they need an escort or feel unsafe, there is an officer on call all day every day.