University Police to move west

By Jason Wall
Lantern staff writer

To allow more room for their operations, University Police headquarters will move to a different building at the end of June.

University Police will relocate to 2090 Kenny Road, which formerly housed the Veterans Affairs Clinic, said Melva Williams, a University Police representative.

University police will remain in the Public Safety Building, 2043 Millikin Road, until the relocation.

Williams said the new location will provide more parking for visitors and a more accessible reception area.

University Police Chief Ron Michalec said the first floor will house police while several administrative offices will be located on the second floor.

Leaving the Public Safety Building is necessary, he said.

"We are choiceless," Michalec said. "This building has got to go."

However, the relocation away from central campus will not effect police response time, he said.

There are several area offices on campus, including Mount Hall, Baker Hall, Fry Hall and at the Ohio Union, he said. Officers cover specific geographic areas, and do not gravitate to the central office.

"This will make community policing work that much better," Michalec said.

After the relocation is complete the building will be demolished to make way for a new parking garage.

Sarah Blouch, director of transportation and parking services, said an 800-space parking garage will be built on the site.

There will be parking available for students, faculty and staff and visitors, she said.

Blouch said the exact allocation of parking spaces and the lay-out of the parking garage, has not been determined.
Students seek monumental words

Donations, quotes sought for monument honoring Officer Blankenship

By Kimberly Ball
Lantern staff writer

Students want to honor slain Ohio State police officer Michael Blankenship with a monument — and monumental words.

OSU students Bill Walker and Rebecca Marr are seeking nominations for the best original quotation or phrase for the monument.

“We want memorable quotes — a wide range of diverse quotes and themes,” Walker said.

The chosen entry will appear on the monument honoring Blankenship, who was killed Feb. 10.

Walker, a senior majoring in criminal justice, said the quotes and themes should come from students rather than from historic figures or famous writers.

He and Marr hope to raise $5,000 toward the monument, especially through student organizations and individuals.

University Police Chief Ron Michalec said he is pleased with the student involvement.

“We’re honored that they would consider erecting a monument to honor Mike,” Michalec said. “It just shows that a lot of times you have to take a look around you to find out how much you’re appreciated.”

Marr, a sophomore majoring in zoology, said her original goal was to reach out to Blankenship’s family.

“When it happened, I felt really bad and my friend said we should give money to the family,” Marr said. “Then Bill (Walker) said our (Greek) houses should give them some money.”

It was then that Walker got the idea for a memorial.

“We thought it would be fitting and proper to place a monument outside the new Blankenship Hall,” Walker said.

OSU is renovating a building at Kenny Road and Woody Hayes Boulevard, which will become the new police station and will be named Michael Blankenship Hall.

Michalec said the idea for naming the new facility in honor of Officer Blankenship came from students.

Ground breaking for the monument site is scheduled to take place on May 15, Law Enforcement Memorial Day, a national day of mourning to honor officers who passed away in the line of duty.

Marr said a design for the monument has not been chosen yet and that a contractor would probably be hired to create it.

Checks should be made payable to the Officer Blankenship Monument Fund and should be sent by June 1 to Walker at 191 E. 15th Ave., Columbus, OH, 43201.

Quotes and themes should be sent to the same address by May 12.