



PAOLA CONDO

# Hate motivated stabbing

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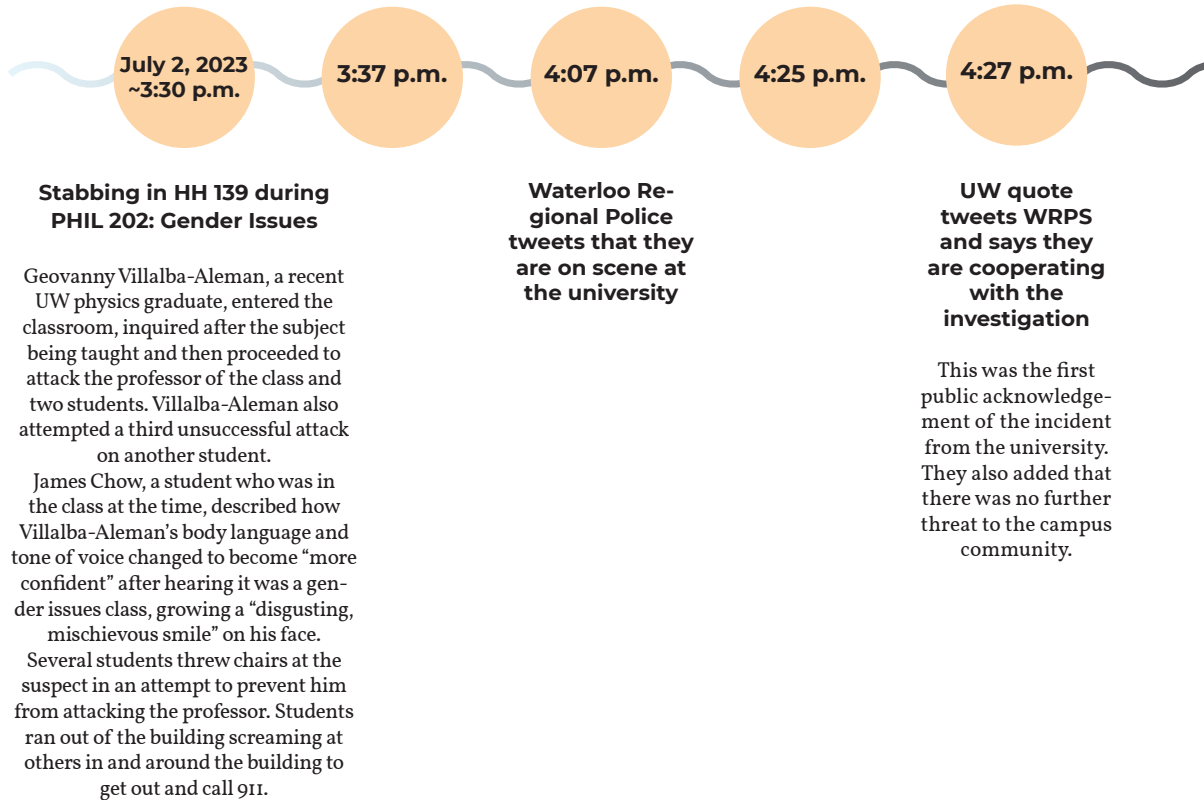
On June 28 at around 3:30 p.m. Geovanny Villalba-Aleman, a recent UW physics graduate, entered Hagey Hall (HH) 139, where a PHIL 202: Gender Issues class was happening, asked the professor of the class what the subject matter was, and then launched a stabbing attack that left the professor and two students in the class injured. The three victims were sent to the hospital, with one being sent to an out-of-region hospital, and all are in stable condition. The university's official safety app, WatSAFE, did not send out notifications until 5:24 p.m. In a press conference the day after, the Waterloo Regional Police Services (WRPS) confirmed that the attack was "a hate-motivated incident related to gender expression and gender identity."

According to WRPS, they responded to the call within minutes of receiving it. According to Rebecca Elming, director of media relations and issues management, officers from the Special Constable Services were on site alongside WRPS officers.

Villalba-Aleman attempted to blend into the crowd but was caught due to eyewitness descriptions.

**WRPS updates via Twitter that the suspect has been taken into custody**

**Waterloo Regional Police receives 911 calls regarding the incident**



## Breaking down the charges

### Aggravated assault (three counts)

Aggravated assault is an attack in which the perpetrator has the intention to wound, maim or disfigure the victim, or to endanger the victim's life. It is classed as an indictable offense – the most serious classification for a crime. Indictable offenses usually involve violent crime and are most commonly punished through imprisonment. Those who are arrested for committing an indictable offense must appear in court, with the option of representing themselves or requesting a lawyer.

The maximum punishment for a charge of aggravated assault is 14 years in prison. The sentence is determined by the harm caused, the intent, and the circumstances of the assault. This charge is often paired with other assault charges.

### Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose (two counts)

This charge is laid when an individual carries a weapon (or imitation of a weapon) without a license or permit, and has the intention to use the weapon for dangerous purposes or to commit a crime. "Weapons" include items that are prohibited under Canadian law, such as knives and guns.

The punishment for this charge depends on whether it is prosecuted as an indictable offense. If it is, the offender can be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

# at Hagey Hall: Timeline of events

They also reshared this tweet on their Instagram story.

**UW tweets asking students in HH to “VACATE IMMEDIATELY and leave all doors open”**

This update was not shared on their Instagram account, where the “VACATE IMMEDIATELY” post remained up.

**UW tweets update asking students in HH to “shelter in place” until police escorts them out**

This was Goel’s first public acknowledgement of the incident.

**UW president Vivek Goel tweets about the incident**

Goel, dean of arts Sheila Ager, and WUSA president Rory Norris gave speeches at the gathering addressing the incident.

**UW holds gathering “in recognition of” the violence in Arts Quad**

**A justice of the peace remands Villalba-Aleman to custody in Milton at Maplehurst jail. Villalba-Aleman’s bail hearing is set for July 11.**

4:49 p.m.

5:31 p.m.

5:56 p.m.

July 3, 2023  
~9:00 a.m.

10:48 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

July 4, 2023

**UW announces that all classes in HH are canceled for the remainder of the day**

All other classes and campus events continued as scheduled.

**Email “acknowledging the trauma of Hagey Hall incident” sent out to all UW students and employees**

UW provost James W.E. Rush sent a memo to all students and employees sharing information about the incident. Rush did not share any motive for the attack and instead asked the community to “be patient and have confidence in the judicial process.”

This was the first email communication from the university regarding this incident. Rush’s statement was also published in the UW daily bulletin.

**WRPS holds press conference to provide updates regarding the incident**

Chief of Police Mark Crowell shared that investigators believed that the attack was a “hate-motivated incident related to gender expression and gender identity.”

Villalba-Aleman was charged with three counts of aggravated assault, four counts of assault with a weapon, two counts of possession of a weapon for dangerous purposes, and mischief under \$5,000.

**Community led rally organized by GroundUpWR held near HH**

Local grassroots activist organization GroundUpWR organized a rally to “stand against transphobia, queerphobia and misogyny.” Speeches were given by students as well as members of the larger KW community including Laura Mae Lindo, the MPP representing Kitchener Centre. Rally attendees expressed their frustration with what they felt were lacking security measures and emergency response times.

**Andie Kaiser, Staff Writer:** Several charges have been laid against Geovanny Villalba-Aleman following his arrest on June 28 after his attack on the professor of the class and two students during PHIL 202: Gender Studies. The following is a comprehensive explanation of the charges laid against him.

## Assault with a weapon (four counts)

This type of assault refers to when an individual — while committing an assault — carries, uses, or threatens to use a weapon or an imitation of one. This crime is prosecuted based on the severity of harm that was caused. It can be prosecuted as an indictable offense if the offender causes bodily harm using a weapon, and the maximum punishment for this charge is 10 years in prison.

## Mischief under \$5,000

According to police, this charge was laid in relation to a ripped Pride flag. This charge falls under the larger umbrella of “mischief” charges. According to the Criminal Code of Canada, mischief occurs when an individual wilfully destroys or damages property, or interferes with the lawful operation of property. Mischief charges are divided into sections depending on the financial damage caused.



SHARANYA KARKERA