

On-campus incident

Co-ed alleges rape

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Campus Editor

A Texas A&M University sophomore told police last week she was sexually assaulted in an equipment room in Harrington Education Center last Wednesday.

Police did not learn of the alleged incident until the student, who was withdrawing from the University, told a clerk that was the reason for her departure.

In a statement made to University police last Thursday, the 18-year-old transfer student said the attack occurred at about 9:30 p.m. last Wednesday. She said she was waiting for an elevator on the first floor when a young man stepped off the elevator with a "cheap steak knife with a brown plastic handle."

She told police he held her and put the knife to her neck, then walked her to a room near the stairs, where she said he forced her to have intercourse with him.

Col. Thomas Parsons, director of security and traffic for the University, said police found no traces of

semen in the room the woman pointed out.

The woman declined to have a medical examination on Thursday, Parsons said. Police could not examine her clothes because she washed them, he said.

Parsons said she has returned to her out-of-state home and that she had told him she would not testify

against the man if he were caught.

He said the police withheld the information from news media while the investigation of the case was going on. Women police officers rode in the elevators and walked around the area. Parsons said the alleged assailant was not spotted.

He also said patrols around the area have been increased.

Parsons gives advice on rape prevention

Women on campus often present "open invitations to trouble" by jogging at 1 or 2 a.m., said Tom Parsons, director of safety and traffic at Texas A&M. He said women should be careful to lock doors, even in the residence halls, and in cars.

"I still believe that relative to other campuses, it's still a safe place," Parsons said.

The sexual assault reported to University Police last week was the first rape of an on-campus student ever reported, he said.

Parsons said students are generally trusting, which can get them into trouble. He said Texas

A&M has become a city of 30,000, with all kinds of people.

One service University Police offers to women who live on campus is a shuttle service. They can call the police for rides across campus, back to their dorms.

The force will add one squad car to the two it already has, he said, which should make it easier for police officers to respond to requests for rides.

If a female student wants to park her car across the railroad tracks but is afraid to walk home after dark, the University Police will take her home, Parsons said.

"But it does have to be after dark," he said.

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