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SPECIAL REPORT

The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

LEXINGTON, VA.

MARCH 30, 1994

Woman reports rape

By Francesca Kefalas
Phi Executive Editor

A 21-year-old woman reported she was raped in Graham-Lees Dormitory Friday, police said.

Sgt. E.W. Straub of the Lexington Police and Director of Washington and Lee Security Michael Young have said the investigation is focusing on a suspect who is not a student at W&L.

"The focus is on one suspect at this time," Young said. "The focus is leading us to a non-student."

Dean of Students David Howison said the suspect was visiting the campus and staying in the dorms over the weekend. Young said he could not confirm whether the suspect was a prospective or the friend of a student. Young said the woman was in the dorms selling magazine subscriptions. The woman told police she was invited into a room by the man who raped her.

Police said they received a call reporting the rape from the University Center March 25 at 5:48 p.m. The woman told police two women, identified as W&L students, helped the woman and called the police, Young said.

The police came to the University Center to question the woman, Young said.

"When she was picked up at the [University] center she was very shaken up," Young said.

Young said after a police officer comforted the woman she was taken

to Graham-Lees to try to identify the room in which she was attacked. Young met police and the woman about 6 p.m., he said. Security and the police have been working together on the case since then, Young said.

After looking inside Graham-Lees the woman was taken to his office and then to Stonewall Jackson Hospital, Young said. After being treated at the hospital, the woman was taken back to the dormitory.

"We were looking basically for the crime scene," Young said.

Young said the investigation began broadly, looking throughout most of Graham-Lees. The woman gave a detailed description of the area of the dorm and the room she was assaulted in, he said.

"We were able to determine where she had been and where she hadn't been," Young said.

The investigation resumed on Sunday, Young said, and focused on the first floor of Graham-Lees. He said 15 to 20 rooms were examined.

"The investigation took all weekend," Young said.

Young said security and police think they have identified the crime scene and have confiscated some items that might serve as evidence. He said Straub has talked with several students about the incident, but both police and security are focusing on a non-student suspect.

The woman gave a detailed description of the man she said attacked her, Young said. He said police have

not released the description of the suspect because they do not want to jeopardize the investigation. The suspect is no longer in the state, Young said, which complicates the investigation. The suspect had not been notified of the investigation as of Tuesday at 4 p.m., Young said. He said security and the police will have to rely on help from police in other states.

Straub said the woman, who is not a Lexington resident, is no longer in Lexington but is pursuing the case.

"She wishes to press charges as soon as we arrest whoever is responsible," Straub said.

Straub said the woman examined photos in an attempt to identify the suspect. Young said the woman's description of her attacker has been important in identifying the suspect.

Young and Straub both said they do not know how long it will take them to get more information. Young said anyone who has information about the assault should call security at 463-8427 or the police at 463-2112.

"Our main focus is to make sure [the woman] is taken care of and we find this individual as soon as we can," Young said.

Editors Note: The current policy of The Ring-tum Phi when reporting rape cases is to withhold the names of both the accuser and the accused until after the trial. If the accused is found guilty the name will then be published. In the above case neither name has been released by the police or security. The Phi's policy is subject to change under each individual editorial board.

MAR 30 1994

WBRC changes approved

By THOMAS HESPOS
Phi News Editor

The Executive Committee finished its first trip through the White Book Review Committee's suggested changes to the White Book on Monday.

Some amendments were agreed upon and passed in two successive meetings — these amendments are officially ratified and will be added to next year's version of the White Book. Others must be approved at the EC's next meeting after the spring break on Monday, April 18.

Major changes to the White Book include:

- Changes to Paragraph O of the Procedure for an Executive Committee Hearing that allow for an accused student to discuss an honor situation with family members or others who can offer support.

- Changes to Paragraph F of the Procedure for a Student Body Hearing that increases the number of guilty votes needed to convict a student in an open trial from eight to nine.

- Changes to Paragraph D of the Procedure for an Executive Committee Hearing that allow the accused to request disclosure of the investigative team's report, so the accused can enter a closed trial with a better idea of why a particular witness has been called by the EC.

WBRC Chairman Ames Hutton said the changes to Paragraph O

will allow the EC to use discretion in punishing the accused for breaches of confidentiality. He said the accused should be given the right to discuss an honor matter with people who could offer advice or emotional support, such as an adviser or a parent.

"The accused could possibly be scared by talking to parents," said Hutton.

EC President Bob Tompkins said the amendment would, at the same time, allow for the punishment of anyone involved in an honor trial who breaks confidentiality in a way that harms the accuser, accused or witnesses.

"There's a lot of concern on the part of somebody who turns something in that his name is not dragged through the mud," said Tompkins.

The amendment to Paragraph O was approved 13-0 after three votes and minor changes to the language.

The EC approved unanimously an amendment that makes it tougher for juries to convict an accused student in an open trial. The number of guilty votes required for conviction was raised to nine from eight.

Hutton said the amendment would not change the application of the honor system drastically.

"There were concerns that 'why was it not unanimous?'" Hutton said.

Several EC members agreed that conviction in

an open trial should not require a unanimous vote. EC Law Rep. James Rambeau said the change to the number of guilty votes required "would be beneficial to the system as a whole."

The EC also approved a suggested change to the rules for disclosure in a closed hearing. WBRC member Mike Stakes said the proposed change would allow the investigators and advocates involved in an open trial to clear away extraneous information. Such information, according to Stakes, slows down hearing proceedings. Hutton agreed.

"There is a lot of extraneous information that the advocates try to get out," Hutton said.

The new amendment allows the accused to request the report of the investigators which explains why individual witnesses are being called to the hearing. In this way, the advocates representing the accused can avoid irrelevant lines of questioning and save time by "narrowing issues ahead of time," said Stakes.

The EC approved this amendment 11-2.

The EC also voted to

change the process of amending the White Book by requiring a "quorum present" at two meetings at least a week apart, rather than a vote of the "full committee" to make changes to the honor system. This also met with unanimous approval.

Senior EC Rep. Kenney Bullock proposed an amendment to number the pages of the White Book in order to make references to the White Book easier. The motion was approved unanimously.

The EC finalized all stylistic and

grammar changes to the White Book that were tentatively approved in previous meetings.

Tompkins said the EC will take up the controversial issue of the composition of the investigative team on April 18, its first meeting after the undergraduate Spring break. Hutton said he also plans to submit a report and present "non-White Book" concerns to the EC at some point during Spring Term. The concerns deal with honor system issues that are not codified in the White Book, Hutton said.

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