Police Arrest Sexual Assault Suspect

Working with several other law enforcement agencies, detectives get their man.

It was the most shocking crime to occur on campus in Cypress College’s nearly 35-year history: On September 12 – in bright daylight – a man abducted a student at knife point, drove her off campus in her own car, and sexually assaulted her for more than an hour.

Now, police believe they have captured the perpetrator, who is also suspected in three other similar crimes.

In a November 17 news conference, those involved in the investigation described solid evidence that they believe will produce a conviction in the case. “He gave us some pretty good information on his involvement in the crimes,” Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Capt. Ted Siara said of an interview with the suspect. Siara also said investigators recovered items in the suspect’s car and home linking him to all four crimes. Because one of the victims was a minor, the suspect was booked on $1.5 million bail into the Twin Towers jail facility in L.A.

Detectives from the Cypress Police Department worked on a daily basis as part of a cooperative effort with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the Department of Justice and the Whittier Police Department to close in on the suspect. The task force effort began on November 1, following a similar attack in Cerritos.

“It is especially gratifying to know that so many law enforcement personnel participated in the arrests. In addition to detectives Durham and McShane, our thanks go to Sgt. Gordon Re, Lt. Mike Idom, Capt. Bob Krauss and Chief John Hensley. All of these officers – and others, who we don’t know by name – demonstrated a commitment to solving this terrible crime,” Dr. Lewis said in the letter.

“While the harm caused by the person who committed the attack on our student can’t be undone, the fine work by the Cypress Police Department, and the other agencies, helps to bring closure for the victim and our campus community. We are truly grateful for their fine work.”

Cypress police kept college officials updated on the investigation; they also passed along well wishes, prayers and offers of counseling services from the college community to the victim, whose identity was not revealed by police in order to protect her privacy.
**Partnership for Excellence Funds Allocated by PAC**

The President’s Advisory Cabinet has finalized allocation of $3.23 million in Partnership for Excellence funds for the campus this fiscal year.

PFE is a statewide program designed to promote success in five specific areas (see PFE Goals at right).

The first goal – university and college transfer – will receive $525,312.

To meet our state goal, we must increase the number of students transferring to universities by nearly 6% per year between now and the 2005-06 academic year.

The effort to increase the number of degrees and certificates granted is receiving $266,359.

To meet the goals, Cypress College will need to grant 36.9% more degrees and 54.8% more certificates by 2005-06.

Goal 3, which received a $533,971 allocation, is expected to generate a 3.66% boost in successful completion of transfer, vocational and basic skills courses by 2005-06.

Workforce development, Goal 4, received a $197,000 allocation. The college’s goal calls for a 35.7% increase in both introductory and advanced vocational courses.

Basic skills improvement, the final goal, is defined as those students who enroll in a basic skills math or English course and within three years enroll in the next higher level course. Each discipline is targeted for a 33% improvement. The goal has been granted a $267,608 allocation.

In addition, $1,440,074 has been allocated to campus-wide support and includes $300,000 for project proposal requests.

**Employee Tickets for Americana Offered at Half Off**

Employees and their spouses who plan to attend the Americana Awards on March 3, 2001 at Disney’s new Grand Californian hotel will pay $100 per plate – half the going rate. Americana – the college’s major fund raiser – is one of the first events in the new hotel. Invitations will be distributed in campus mailboxes in February; however, tickets may be purchased now by calling the Foundation at ext. 48126.

Anaheim’s Citizen of the Year recipient, Vince Taormina, is also a one-time Cypress College football star. Other Citizens of the Year are: Bea De Armond, Stanton; Dixie Fried, Los Alamitos; Brian O’Neal, La Palma; Gary Tekely, Cypress; Jack Wallin, Garden Grove; and Ruth Walp, Buena Park.

Bishop Jaime Soto is the Man of the Year and Forest Lawn has been selected as the Distinguished Business Partner.

Net proceeds from the event support scholarships and various campus projects.

**6 Online Classes Offered in Spring 2001 Schedule**

Cypress College’s Spring 2001 schedule features six online courses: Art 110; Economics 105; English 102; Geography 140; Psychology 101; and Theater 100.

Two sections of Art 110, Introduction to Art, are being taught by Betty Disney. Disney, the college’s online education coordinator, recently used her sabbatical to study the emerging field of Web-based instruction. Last week, she presented her sabbatical report to the Board. “I am invigorated and challenged, stimulated and awestruck by what I have learned about online technology as well as what remains to be learned. I am convinced more than ever that online courses have the potential to create unique student-centered learning environments that can address the needs of our students in ways never before possible,” she said.

The online course she’s currently teaching filled during the first week of registration with an additional 30 students requesting to add the class.