

CRIME ALERT

July 1, 2009

Two Reported Sexual Assaults Under Investigation

Police are investigating two unrelated reports of sexual assaults brought to their attention this week, one that occurred off campus Thursday, June 25, and the other in a residence hall in April 2009.

A student reported she was sexually assaulted by a taxi cab driver about 2:15 a.m. Thursday near University Boulevard and Boedeker Street.

The student said she was picked up at a Dallas club by a cab driver who was supposed to take her to her apartment in University Park near the SMU campus. Near her apartment the cab driver stopped the cab and sexually assaulted her. She said she ran from the cab and called University Park police, who are investigating.

The student described the cab driver as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s with a medium build. She said the taxi cab was white but could not recall the cab company's name.

A second student reported she was sexually assaulted in her room in McElvaney Hall on April 22, 2009, by a student she knew. She described him as a white male with brown hair, about 19 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighing 165 pounds.

Anyone with information about these matters is asked to contact the SMU Police Department at 214-768-3388. Information also may be reported anonymously through the Silent Witness Program by calling 214-SMU-2TIP or online at <http://www.smu.edu/2tip>

Protecting Yourself

- Avoid secluded places (this may even mean your room or your partner's) until you trust your partner.
- Don't spend time alone with someone who makes you feel uneasy or uncomfortable. This means following your instincts.
- Stay sober and aware. If you're with someone you don't know very well, be aware of what's going on around you and try to stay in control. Also, be aware of your date's ability to consent to sexual activity — you may become guilty of committing rape if the other person is not in a condition to respond or react.
- Know what you want. Be clear about what kind of relationship you want with another person.
- Take self-defense courses. These can build confidence and teach valuable physical techniques a person can use to get away from an attacker.