

Ottawa assaults raise concerns

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CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—Two sexual assaults in four days have prompted an increase in orientation week security and awareness campaigns at both of Ottawa's universities.

The first incident occurred just after midnight on 1 September at Carleton University. A 23-year-old female student was beaten unconscious and sexually assaulted inside the Analytical Chemistry Research Lab in the campus's Steacie Building. The victim was working alone in the third-floor lab when the incident took place.

She was beaten and had her hands tied behind her back, and suffered a broken jaw and a dislocated shoulder that required hospitalization. She is

currently in stable condition.

Constable Isabelle Lemieux, a media relations officer for the Ottawa Police Service, added that after the assault, the suspect cleaned the woman with a wet cloth before stealing her jeans, cell phone, a running shoe, and her underwear. The suspect was seen fleeing the scene on foot.

"I don't believe anyone has been identified as a suspect," Lemieux said.

The police haven't apprehended anyone in relation to the incident, but are following up on several leads from the public, as well as examining surveillance tapes from the area.

Only three days later, on 4 September, an 18-year-old University of Ottawa student was assaulted sometime before 4:30am while she was in nearby Gatineau, Quebec. Ottawa police—who quickly confirmed that the two assaults were unrelated—arrested two suspects on the University

of Ottawa campus only hours later, at approximately 7am.

"There is no connection to the Carleton University sexual assault. And I think that was important for everyone at the University of Ottawa [to know]," Lemieux said. "We know how rumours can come very quickly, and we want to reassure people that this is not another attack from the same suspect."

At Carleton University, more than 200 posters with information about the assault and an eye-witness description of the assailant have been posted around campus. Carleton officials also discouraged students from going out alone.

Claude Giroux, the director of Protection Services at the University of Ottawa, said his team is currently using all available resources to protect the campus.

"We're being very vigilant at this point," he said.

Students want input on housing issues

HOUSING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There is more [money] coming," he said. "But this was the immediate fix up that was required."

Fourth-year elementary education student Angela Bigstone, who lived in B&B House for about a year and a half, noted that aboriginal-specific housing is an important component in helping students be successful.

"A lot of aboriginal students come from really remote communities, so when they come into a student housing ... that's set aside for aboriginal students, they at least have a sense of identity and somebody to have a sense of community with," she said.

"As a single student, I'm more mobile, and so I hope sometime in the future there is more housing available for families," she said.

Thunder added that, while ASC doesn't retain responsibility for dealing with aboriginal housing on campus, the student group is still interested in getting involved and

providing input.

"Nobody asks what the student needs are; it's interesting that even the news comes to us to ask us what we think, but the University in general doesn't ask what students need or want for student housing," Thunder said. "If the University wanted to do talks about improving aboriginal issues on campus, they need to listen to the students first."

But as far as future residence initiatives at the U of A go, Executive Director of Ancillary Services Doug Dawson explained that the University has recently commissioned a study to examine all residence housing types and locations. He said the study, entitled Residence Master Plan, is anticipated to be completed in November.

"Residence Master Plan, just like any long-range development plan, will begin to inform us how we develop our residences in the future," he said.



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