

Police: Fingerprints may offer rape case lead

By Suzanne Sayed

A rape victim's information may have given Lincoln police a lead on a man who has allegedly sexually assaulted 13 women in the past year and a half, said Lincoln Police Lt. Lyle Roberts.

"We can't be positive until we get the guy, but I think we've got his fingerprints," Roberts said.

He said the police took prints of everyone who had been in or around the apartment where the latest rape occurred, and the victim was positive the man had touched certain places in the house.

The woman, who was sexually assaulted in her Lincoln apartment on Feb. 16, proved to be a "super witness," Roberts said.

"She kept her head and remembered things he did and things he touched," Roberts said.

As in past reported assaults, the man broke in through a screen window and walked into the woman's bedroom, Roberts said.

Vague silhouette

Before the assailant threw blankets over her face, the girl reportedly saw a vague silhouette, but, Roberts said, "It was not enough for a frightened, and suddenly-awakened girl to identify."

The assault took place nine weeks after the last sexual assault, instead of the usual six weeks, Roberts said, noting that the man had formed a "pretty definite pattern."

Committee applications needed by Thursday

Applications for executive officers and committee chairpersons are available in the Campus Activities and Programs Office, room 200, Nebraska Union, or UPC-East on the third floor of the East Union. They are due in those offices tomorrow.

Positions open include president, first vice-president and second vice-president spots for UPC-City, UPC-East and the Culture Center. Chairpersons are needed for various City Campus, East Campus and Culture Center committees.

The difference is one of many angles which are frustrating and confusing police.

"We just can't close the door on this new lead - this guy just doesn't leave clues in his trail."

"The men investigating the case have checked every lead," Roberts said. "There just aren't any clues - it's amazing when the men even come up with ideas to check out."

The "sad part," Roberts said, is that the attacker has always managed to break into apartments where women live alone.

"We just don't know how he does it," he said.

Carries a knife

The attacker reportedly carries a knife, which he uses to break in. In most cases, the victims have seen or felt the knife, but there have been no physical injuries, Roberts said.

The man usually breaks into ground floor apartments

and has struck, nearly every time, between 27th and 40th streets and Vine streets.

Although victims have reported various heights, the man is said to be about 5-8 to 5-10, and black, with a medium-sized afro. He reportedly has a muscular build and a raspy voice.

Roberts said protection against the attacker is becoming more and more difficult.

Investigators have looked into many angles which possibly would connect the victims or make it obvious that they live alone, Roberts said. Among these are places of employment, telephone listings, names on mailboxes, and whether or not the women regularly ride the city bus.

However, Roberts said, the investigations have left a lot of unanswered questions.

"All we can do is ask the community for help," Roberts said. "It's amazing that no one has been hurt during the assaults."

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