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Off-East house site of reported rape

From staff reports

Durham Police Department is investigating an alleged rape of a young woman by three males at 610 N. Buchanan Blvd. over Spring Break.

Duke recently purchased the rented residence from a local landlord.

The alleged assault was reported early in the morning of Tuesday, March 14.

The young woman arrived at the house for a party at around 11:30 p.m. Monday, March 13 and reportedly left after midnight, Sgt. M.D. Gottlieb of Durham Police District 2 Investigations wrote in an e-mail to a community list-serv.

He encouraged individuals in the area at the time to report to DPD if they "saw or heard anything unusual."

Gottlieb could not be reached for comment.

The house at 610 N. Buchanan is one of 12 in the Trinity Park neighborhood that Duke purchased from Trinity Properties, a local real estate firm, in early March.

The University bought, in total, 15 properties near East Campus for approximately \$3.7 million.

The purchased homes are mostly student-occupied, and many are the frequent subjects of noise, trash and partying complaints filed by Trinity Park residents.

Duke plans to turn the houses into single-occupancy residences.

Suspects in alleged rape unidentified

from staff reports

One week after a young woman was allegedly raped at 610 N. Buchanan Blvd., the Durham Police Department is still investigating the situation, saying "the suspects have not been clearly identified."

The house, which was recently purchased by University subsidiary Durham Realty, was the site of a party that involved both Duke students and non-students, said Sgt. M.D. Gottlieb of Durham Police District 2 Investigations.

Sue Wasiolek, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students, said the University will not take action until the police department's investigation is finished.

"From what I understand, the situation is under investigation by the Durham Police Department, and we will await their investigation," she said.

Larry Moneta, vice president for student affairs, added that the University would take appropriate measures, pending the police investigation.

Gottlieb said any man that attended the party March 13 would be a viable suspect but refused to go into further detail.

The residents of the house have been cooperative with DPD in locating any suspects, he added.

The residence was one of 15 properties—three lots and 12 houses—Duke bought from Trinity Properties, a local real estate firm, earlier this month. The University paid approximately \$3.7 million in the deal.

The houses, located in the Trinity Park neighborhood, near East Campus, have mostly been rented by students in the past, but Duke hopes to turn them into single-occupancy residences in the future.

Many local residents in the Trinity Park area have long complained about noise and litter associated with parties at several of the houses.

EXHIBIT

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DNA tests ordered for Duke athletes

Lacrosse team reports to lab in rape inquiry

SAMIHA KHANNA AND ANNE BLYTHE,
Staff Writers

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Durham police had 46 members of the Duke University lacrosse team DNA-tested Thursday in the suspected gang-rape of a woman at an off-campus party last week.

Police think at least three of the men could be responsible for the sexual assault, beating, robbery and near-strangulation of one of two women who had an appointment to dance at the party March 13, according to a search warrant.

Such a broad DNA sampling early in an investigation is unusual, several local lawyers said.

The assault allegedly happened in a house shared by three members of the men's lacrosse team, Duke officials said.

But one member of the team reported to the Durham police crime lab downtown at 4 p.m. Thursday to be photographed and "to provide identifying information," said John Burness, Duke University senior vice president for public affairs. The team member who did not report was not ordered to the screening, Burness said without explaining why.

"Duke University is monitoring the situation and cooperating with officials, as are the students," Burness said.

No one had been charged late Thursday in the incident, which police say happened close to midnight March 13 and into the early hours of the next morning. Alcohol was involved, Durham police Sgt. Mark Gottlieb said.

Joe Alleva, Duke athletics director, was in Atlanta, where the Blue Devils men's basketball team played its third game in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's just an unfortunate situation," Alleva said about the investigation of the lacrosse team. "We're just going to have to let the legal process work out."

While investigators look into the matter, Alleva said, the lacrosse team, a finalist in the NCAA Division I championship last season, will continue with its schedule. "You've got to let the facts play out," he said.

It was unclear how long it would take to process the DNA tests.

A search warrant returned Thursday details the attack the victim described to police.

It is The News & Observer's policy not to identify victims of reported sex crimes.

Heated atmosphere

According to the warrant, the victim told police she went to the home late March 13 with another woman to dance for a group of men. She and the other female dancer started to perform in the master bedroom of the house, and soon, the men who were watching became "excited and aggressive," the statement says.

The women stopped dancing and wanted to leave, concerned for their safety. They went outside and got into a car and were approached by one of the suspects, who apologized and asked that the women come back inside, the warrant says.

The women went back inside the house and were separated. The victim was pulled into a bathroom, and three men held her down, sexually assaulting and sodomizing her, the warrant says. She was kicked, hit, strangled and beaten, she told police.

The victim went to the Kroger grocery store on Hillsborough Road and called police at 1:22 a.m. March 14, the warrant says.

Police drove to the house that morning, but no one answered the door. They returned March 16 with the search warrant, looking for DNA evidence and the victim's belongings, including one shoe, a cellular phone and at least \$400, all in \$20 bills.

They also looked for artificial fingernails painted with red polish, apparently lost in the victim's struggle.

Police seized residents' computers, cell phones and digital cameras, looking for photos and video footage of the party, the warrant said. They took rugs, discarded paper towels, fingernails and photographs, it said.

Residents at the Buchanan Boulevard house, one of 15 properties Duke bought in February, did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

Search called unusual

Such a large DNA search seemed unusual to several Durham criminal defense lawyers.

John Fitzpatrick said searches by the police should be based on a suspicion that is directed toward an individual, not just a class of people.

"On its face, without learning more, it could be real problematic when you have some sweeping, unscrutinized searches," Fitzpatrick said.

Lawyer Alex Charns said it was difficult to decide whether a search was valid without knowing specifics or seeing written orders, but generally speaking, it would be unusual for so many people to have their DNA taken.

"I can't imagine a scenario where this would be reasonable to do this so early in the investigation," Charns said. "It seems unusual, it seems over-broad, and it seems frightening that they're invading the privacy of so many people."

Gottlieb, the supervisor in the investigation, said Thursday that he was not in a position to speak about the case. He stood inside the Durham police crime lab about 4 p.m. as carloads of young men rolled to 213 Broadway St. in downtown Durham.

Bob Ekstrand, a Durham defense lawyer who has represented Duke students, stood outside the lab holding a briefcase.


"Don't answer any questions," he told the young men as they prepared to go in the building. When asked whether he was representing any of the students, he replied, "No comment."

A woman who works in Ekstrand's office intercepted more lacrosse players as they arrived, instructing them to cover their faces, wear hats and pull their jackets up to conceal their identities. In back of one of the players' cars was a recent issue of "Inside Lacrosse" magazine.

"Everyone's talking about Duke," the front cover read.

(Staff writers Benjamin Niolet, Ned Barnett and Roger van der Horst contributed to this report.)

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Dancer gives details of ordeal

A woman hired to dance for the Duke lacrosse team describes a night of racial slurs, growing fear and, finally, sexual violence

SAMIHA KHANNA AND ANNE BLYTHE,
Staff Writers

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The woman who says she was raped last week by three members of the Duke University lacrosse team thought she would be dancing for five men at a bachelor party, she said Friday. But when she arrived that night, she found herself surrounded by more than 40.

Just moments after she and another exotic dancer started to perform, she said, men in the house started barking racial slurs. The two women, both black, stopped dancing.

"We started to cry," she said. "We were so scared."

Forty-six members of the men's lacrosse team submitted DNA samples Thursday in the unusual case. As of late Friday, there had been no arrests. Duke officials briefed university staff on the allegations, and authorities vowed to crack the team's wall of solidarity.

"We're asking someone from the lacrosse team to step forward," Durham police Cpl. David Addison said. "We will be relentless in finding out who committed this crime."

He emphasized the seriousness of the accusations — first-degree rape, kidnapping, assault by strangulation and robbery.

Details of the accusations were made public this week in a warrant authorizing a search of the three-bedroom rental house where the attack is alleged to have taken place.

The accuser spoke Friday, struggling not to cry as she recounted the events of the early hours of March 14 at 610 N. Buchanan Blvd., next to Duke's East Campus.

It is The News & Observer's policy not to identify the victims of sex crimes.

The accuser had worked for an escort company for two months, doing one-on-one dates about three times a week.

"It wasn't the greatest job," she said, her voice trailing off. But with two children, and a full class load at N.C. Central University, it paid well and fit her schedule.

This was the first time she had been hired to dance provocatively for a group, she said. There was no security to protect her, and as the men became aggressive, the two women started to leave. After some of the men apologized for the behavior, the women went back inside, according to police. That's when the woman was pulled into a bathroom and raped and sodomized, police said.

She hesitated to tell police what happened, she said Friday. She realized she had to, for her young daughter and her father.

A hurt that would last

My father came to see me in the hospital," she said. "I knew if I didn't report it that he would have that hurt forever, knowing that someone hurt his baby and got away with it."

Jason Bissey, who was on his porch next door during the party, saw the victim that night. He said Friday that he wishes he had called police at the first sign something was wrong.

He saw at least 30 men go into the white three-bedroom house, which Duke officials say is rented by three lacrosse team captains.

Bissey saw two women arrive and, after they were in the house 20 minutes, come out. As they got into a car, men shouted, Bissey said.

"Some of them were saying things like, 'I want my money back,'" Bissey said.

He recalled the racially charged statements at least one man was yelling at the victim.

"When I was outside, one guy yelled at her, '... Thank your grandpa for my cotton shirt,'" Bissey said.

After a few minutes, everything seemed to calm down, he said. One of the women headed back into the house, saying she forgot her shoes.

Days later, Bissey learned one of the young women reported being raped.

"If I had called in the beginning, maybe the cops would have gotten there before this happened," he said.

Bissey and other neighbors are accustomed to hearing loud parties at the house. It's one of many rowdy houses near the Duke campus where police stay busy, breaking up rowdy parties and rounding up minors suspected of underage drinking.

Last fall, residents were worried about more than drunken antics and loud music. Many complained that students disregarded their neighbors and police, and were disrespectful when confronted.

Police have been called to the house at 610 N. Buchanan Blvd. four times since September, according to police records. The house is one of 15 properties the university bought in February to address neighborhood complaints. The university plans to sell the dwellings to quieter homeowners who agree not to rent them out.

After hearing about the alleged rape, residents in neighborhoods around Duke sent e-mail to one another and police, criticizing landlords for tolerating an "Animal House" atmosphere.

Residents also questioned why police waited two days to search the house after the rape was reported.

Addison, the police spokesman, said that between receiving the call and searching the house, police were interviewing the victim, residents of the house and other witnesses. He also explained that one team member was excluded from the DNA testing because he is black and therefore doesn't match the description of the suspects.

The tests are scheduled to be sent to the State Bureau of Investigation in Raleigh for testing, and Durham authorities said they are trying to have the process expedited.

All that Duke officials can do, they say, is wait for the investigation to be completed.

Art Chase, Duke sports information director, said lacrosse coach Mike Pressler and athletics department administrators had spoken with team captains about the incident. The department was not conducting an investigation of its own, Chase said.

"I think they'll let the judicial system run its course," he said.

ase said he was not sure of the occasion for the party. Players did not return phone calls, and their parents remained mum, as did Pressler. He and the team were preparing Friday for today's home game against Georgetown University.

Paul Haagen, chairman of Duke's Academic Council, was in a faculty meeting about the incident.


'This is sad'

"There was a sense of, 'This is sad, and it's terrible,' " Haagen said. "Beyond that, people don't know what's going on."

Haagen, a law professor who specializes in sports law, said studies show that violence against women is more prevalent among male athletes than among male students in general — and higher still among such "helmet sports" as football, hockey and lacrosse.

"These are sports of violence," he said. "This is clearly a concern."

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15 players had prior charges

Lacrosse team at Duke under fire

BENJAMIN NIOLET, Staff Writer

In the past three years, about a third of the members of the Duke lacrosse team, under investigation in a reported gang rape, have been charged with misdemeanors stemming from drunken and disruptive behavior, court records show.

Of the team's 47 members, 15 faced charges including underage alcohol possession, having open containers of alcohol, loud noise and public urination.

Most of those charges were resolved in deals with prosecutors that allowed the players to escape criminal convictions.

On Monday, details continued to emerge in the March 13 incident in which a woman who was hired as an exotic dancer for a lacrosse team party said she was held down, beaten, raped and sodomized. When the man and another dancer began their routines, the woman said, one of the men watching held up a broomstick and threatened to sexually assault the women, according to court documents released Monday.

The women were told that the men at the party were members of the baseball or track teams, apparently to hide their identities, according to a document that was used to obtain a judge's order requiring each member of the team to submit to a DNA test. After the broomstick threat, the women left but were followed out by a man who persuaded them to return, the document says. That's when, the woman said, three men pushed her into a bathroom and began the assault, which she said lasted for 30 minutes. She lost four fingernails as she scratched at one of the men who was strangling her, according to the document.

After the attack, police found four red polished fingernails in the house in addition to her makeup bag, cell phone and identification, the newly released document says.

A Duke spokesman said that the team captains have denied criminal wrongdoing.

"In direct conversations with the captains, there

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Previous charges against players

The following charges against players on the Duke lacrosse team were obtained from Durham County court records. Deferred prosecution is a deal with prosecutors in which first-time offenders are placed on probation and often required to do community service. If they stay out of trouble, the charges are dismissed.

- * Edward James Crotty, 19, cited Aug. 27 for public urination. Deferred prosecution; review July 14.
- * Matthew Edward Danowski, 20, cited Sept. 3 for underage possession of malt beverage. Found not guilty by judge.
- * Kyle W. Dowd, 21, cited Aug. 21, 2004, for underage possession of malt beverage. Charge dismissed after completion of first-offenders program.
- * David Evans, 22, cited Aug. 25 for possessing a can of beer in passenger area of a car; also cited Jan. 10 for noise ordinance violation. Deferred prosecution; review in August.
- * Daniel P. Flannery, 22, cited Jan. 10 for noise violation. Court date: April 18.
- * Zachary R. Greer, 20, cited Oct. 28, 2004, for possessing a plastic cup of beer while under 19 years old. Case dismissed after completion of deferred prosecution.
- * Erik Steven Henkelman, 22, cited Aug. 24 for noise violation. Deferred prosecution; review in June.
- * Frederick B. Krom, 21, cited Aug. 22, 2003, for underage possession of beer. Dismissed after completion of deferred prosecution.
- * Kevin Michael Mayer, 19, cited Feb. 12, 2005, for obtaining property by false pretenses. Deferred prosecution; review in July.
- * Kenneth Joseph Sauer III, 22, cited Aug. 25 for

was absolute denial of the criminal allegations," John Burness, senior vice president for public affairs and government relations, said in an interview.

Burness said that Duke is not investigating the incident because university officials do not want to interfere with police.

DNA tests awaited

The incident left many in Durham angry, and protests and vigils have been held on and off campus.

Investigators are awaiting the results of the DNA tests, which will compare DNA from all but one member of the lacrosse team to samples taken from the victim. Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong said those results should be complete next week. Meanwhile, Nifong said charges are possible against those who were at the party but did nothing to stop a rape.

"We're talking about a situation where had somebody spoken up and said, 'Wait a minute, we can't do this,' this incident might not have taken place," Nifong said.

Nifong said he plans to prosecute the case himself to send a message to the community that authorities are taking the offense seriously. First-degree rape conviction requires prison time, at least 16 years in most cases for someone with no previous criminal record.

Burness said he did not know about the history of criminal charges against lacrosse players, but it was possible some violations had been forwarded to the university's student affairs office for possible disciplinary action in the past.

In many of the cases, the students were allowed a deferred prosecution, a deal with first-time offenders in which prosecutors would drop the charges if the suspect stayed out of trouble and performed community service.

On Monday, protests were on Duke's campus rather than at the house, one of 15 properties Duke bought in February in an effort to reach out to neighbors who have complained of rowdy parties at houses rented by students. Burness said the lacrosse captains who lived at the house have asked the university to relieve them of their lease.

"My speculation is that the house is such a target they're concerned about their security and safety," Burness said.

(Staff writer Jane Stancill and news researcher Brooke Cain contributed to this report.)

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possessing an open container of alcohol in a vehicle and Oct. 1 on a noise ordinance violation. Accepted into first-offenders program.

* Robert R. Schroeder, 19, cited for obtaining property by false pretenses on Feb. 11, 2005, and April 3 and 8, 2005. Deferred prosecution; review in July.

* Christopher James Tkac, 19, cited Dec. 2 for underage possession of malt beverage and public urination. Court date: July 28.

* Michael C. Ward, 20, cited Sept. 3 for underage possession of a malt beverage. Found not guilty by a judge.

* Matthew Peter Wilson, 21, cited Nov. 21, 2003, for public urination on a private residence. Dismissed; wrong city ordinance listed on citation.

* William Eldon Wolcott, 22, cited Feb. 10, 2005, for helping a 20-year-old obtain a mixed beverage. Case dismissed through deferred prosecution.

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Duke president meets with students to discuss rape allegations

By EMERY P. DALESIO, Associated Press Writer

DURHAM, N.C. -- Duke University's president had an intense exchange Wednesday with students angered by what they feel is a muted response to allegations that members of the school's highly ranked lacrosse team raped an exotic dancer.

The roughly hourlong meeting between President Richard Brodhead and a few dozen students came the day after he suspended the lacrosse team from play until the school learns more about accusations that team members brutally attacked the woman, hired to perform at an off-campus party.

"I don't want to say I'm satisfied, but I will say that what happened in there makes me feel like we're moving in a good direction," sophomore Bridgette Howard said after the meeting, which was closed to all reporters except those working for Duke's student newspaper.

The alleged victim, a student at nearby North Carolina Central University, has told police she was pulled into a bathroom, beaten, choked and raped by three men at a March 13 party, where she and another dancer were hired to perform. No one has been charged in the case, and the team's captains have said pending DNA tests will clear the players of wrongdoing.

News of the attack has sparked days of protest at Duke and in Durham, culminating Tuesday in Brodhead's decision to suspend the team from play. He stressed the suspension was not a punishment, but a response to the inappropriate nature of playing while the investigation is ongoing.

Those comments led about 100 students to approach Brodhead after Tuesday night's announcement and demand his administration deliver a stronger response.

"We understand that the legal system is that you are innocent until proven guilty," said sophomore Kristin High, of Houston. "But people are nervous and afraid that these people are going to get away with what they did because of a wealthy privilege, or male privilege, or a white privilege."

Their protests led to Wednesday's meeting inside the campus' black cultural center, where participants said Brodhead urged patience as police continue to investigate. But graduate student Michelle Christian complained Duke is continuing to downplay the alleged attack.

"They need presidents, they need administrators, they need faculty, to tell them that it was wrong behavior and that they are not going to be coddled because they are athletes, because they come from privileged backgrounds, because they have money," Christian told Durham's WTVD-TV.

The incident is expected to heighten interest in an annual campus rally against sexual violence planned for Wednesday night.

Police collected DNA samples with a cheek swab from 46 of the lacrosse team's 47 players last week. The 47th player, the only black member of the team, did not provide DNA; the victim, who is black, has said her attackers were white.

The case has exacerbated existing tensions between some residents in Durham - a town evenly split between white and black residents, many of whom are poor - and Duke, one of the most expensive


private colleges in the nation. But Brodhead has defended the university's response to the allegations, saying that "as the gravity of the allegations has grown, we have also responded at a higher level."

So far, there have been no public protests at N.C. Central, a historically black college also in Durham, since news about the incident broke last week. But students there are starting to talk about the case, student government president Renee Clark said.

"It didn't occur on our campus," Clark said. "It's not that we're not moving on it. ... We weren't the ones with first access to the information."

On the Net

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News & Communications

March 30, 2006

Statement from Captains of Duke University Men's Lacrosse Team

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

DURHAM, N.C. — "The captains of the team met this morning with President Brodhead, and expressed sincere regret over the lapse in judgment in having the party on March 13 which has caused so much anguish for the Duke community and shame to our families and ourselves.

"We also stated unequivocally that any allegation that a sexual assault or rape occurred is totally and transparently false.

"The team has cooperated with the police in their investigation. We have provided authorities with DNA samples. The understanding is that the results of the DNA testing will be available sometime next week. The DNA results will demonstrate that these allegations are absolutely false.

"Because of the intense emotions surrounding these allegations, we feel it is in the best interest of the University, the community and our families that the team should not play competitively until the DNA results verify our unequivocal denial of these allegations."

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FAQ on Situation Involving Men's Lacrosse Team

Campus News/Working at Duke Sports and Athletics

Published: Mar 30, 2006 05:17 AM
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Lacrosse players' lawyers object

Defenders say DNA tests will clear team members, and they fire back at prosecutors

BENJAMIN NIOLET, ANNE BLYTHE AND JANE STANCILL, Staff Writers

Defense lawyers representing members of the Duke University men's lacrosse team say prosecutors are trying to convict their clients in public in a rape investigation before any charges have been filed.

As concerned students meet with university officials and the community continues to hold vigils for the woman who reported being raped by three men at a lacrosse team party two weeks ago, defense lawyers said their clients strongly deny that any assault took place.

During a "Take Back the Night" rally and march on campus Wednesday night, anonymous fliers were placed on nearby cars. They contained photos taken from Duke's Web site of all but four of the lacrosse team players, and urged the players to tell what they know about the dent.

"Each and every one of those young men who were present at this party categorically deny that any assault of any description took place," said Durham lawyer Bill Thomas, who said he represents one of the captains. "The entire Duke lacrosse team looks forward to the results of the DNA test in order to clear their names."

Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong said Wednesday that even if DNA results, which are expected as early as next week, do not match team members, no one is necessarily exonerated. The attackers could have used condoms or might not have been team members, Nifong said.

"How does DNA exonerate you? It's either a match or there's not a match," Nifong said. "... If the only thing that we ever have in this case is DNA, then we wouldn't have a case."

The lawyers criticized Nifong's frequent interviews in local and national media outlets. Nifong is running to keep his job against three candidates in May.

"The fact that the DA is out in public saying



Duke lacrosse team captains Matt Zash, left, and Dan Flannery get ready to work on drills Wednesday. The team's games have been suspended until rape allegations are resolved.

Staff Photos by Chuck Liddy

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PLAY AUDIO CLIP [1:25]

Security

guard at Kroger on Hillsborough Road calls 911 at 1:22 a.m. on March 14 about a distraught woman. This is not the voice of the alleged victim.

PLAY AUDIO CLIP [1:33]

A woman

calls 911 at 12:53 a.m. on March 14 about someone shouting a racial slur in front of 610 N. Buchanan Blvd. This is not the voice of the alleged victim.

Related Content

- More stories about the case involving the Duke men's lacrosse team.
- What is the obligation of someone not involved in a possible crime to tell what he or

These boys are guilty is just extraordinary," said Joseph B. Cheshire V, a prominent Raleigh lawyer who represents team captain Dave Evans. "I am absolutely convinced, and I think that everyone in that house will testify, that nothing like these allegations happened."

she knows?

More Duke Lacrosse

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Most of the team members have a lawyer. Durham lawyer Bob Ekstrand said he represents 35 members but wouldn't comment further.

Tension builds

The case, which erupted last week when police took DNA from all but one member of the team, heightened tensions between the city and Duke, a private university sometimes accused of walling itself off from a community with blue-collar roots.

The incident has sparked outrage on and off campus about classism, racism and sexual violence. The woman, an N.C. Central University student and employee of an escort service hired for the party, is black; she told authorities that her attackers were white. The one member of the lacrosse team not DNA tested is black.

Frustration over Duke's response continued Wednesday.

Wednesday's Take Back the Night rally, planned months ago, drew nearly a thousand people. Students and residents walked nearly a mile from East Campus to the landmark chapel on West Campus, chanting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, all rape has got to go."

Ignacio Adriasola, an art history graduate student, had a sign taped to his shirt: "It isn't what Duke has, but what it lax," using the shorthand word for lacrosse.

Jean Leonard, Duke's sexual assault support services coordinator, welcomed rally participants from Duke, NCCU and Durham Technical Community College. TV trucks from national media outlets rumbled nearby. "Tonight is about more than a great media story that the nation has great interest in," Leonard said. "Tonight is more about healing."

Malbert Smith, a Duke alumnus and a Chapel Hill resident, went to the rally because he is unhappy with the way his alma mater has handled the situation. He said he had hoped Coach Mike Pressler and athletics department officials would have taken action against players for having the party and for racial slurs that allegedly were made there.

"For us to say it's basically boorish behavior, I'm offended by that," Smith said. "I'm offended by the fact that the lacrosse team is still practicing."

The community outrage to a case that has yet to produce criminal charges bothered the lawyers.

Durham lawyer Butch Williams represents captain Daniel Flannery. "Once these young men are vindicated, I feel that a big apology from the community is in order," Williams said.

Durham lawyer Kerry Sutton declined to say which player she represents, but she said she expects him not to have DNA trouble.

"If it comes out that all 46 are exonerated, they've still been tagged as rapists," Sutton said.

The incident began March 13 when the team gathered at a home on North Buchanan Boulevard shared by three captains. A woman called 911 just after midnight on March 14 to say that someone outside the house had shouted a racial slur, according to a tape of the call.

Police responded minutes later but took no report. An hour later, authorities received a call reporting

a rape.

Medical records

At Duke Hospital, a nurse trained in sexual assault forensics and a doctor examined the woman, court documents say. "Medical records and interviews showed that the woman had signs, symptoms and injuries consistent with being raped and sexually assaulted vaginally and anally," according to the order a judge signed that required the team to submit DNA.

Community groups have criticized the police for a slow response. In a news release Wednesday, authorities explained what investigators were doing in the days after the attack.

They interviewed the woman -- when was unclear -- and developed probable cause for a search warrant, which was served at the house March 18. The residents volunteered to come to a substation for interviews. They then agreed to provide DNA.

Police investigators later spoke with the players' coach and asked him to set up a meeting with the players and investigators March 22, at which the players were to voluntarily answer questions and possibly submit to identification procedures, the release said.

A few hours before the meeting was to take place, a lawyer called investigators and told them that the players would not attend and that legal counsel would be representing them. The District Attorney's Office then obtained an order from a judge that required 46 members of the team to provide DNA samples. The players did so March 23 at a police lab.

Since the incident was reported, details of the case have sometimes emerged faster than Duke officials have been prepared.

President Richard Brodhead was at a news conference Tuesday with Athletics Director Joe Alleva when he learned about the 911 call about the racial slur.

"I have now had the opportunity to listen to the tape," Brodhead said in a statement released Wednesday. "It is disgusting. Racism and its hateful language have no place in this community. I am sorry the woman and her friend were subjected to such abuse."

Early Wednesday, Brodhead met with concerned students, many of whom protested outside his news conference Tuesday.

Other than student media, no reporters were allowed in the meeting, which lasted about an hour.

The students worked on a list of questions for Brodhead and distributed a statement that said: "The university is cultivating and sustaining a culture of privilege and silence that allows inappropriate behavior to plague the campus."

Sonia Dolutskaya, a graduate student, said the meeting was desperately needed after two weeks of silence by the university.

"This is a conversation we need to continue," she said.

Students said some of Brodhead's answers were vague because the officials must wait until the police investigation is done.

"I think people might be looking for answers that aren't available yet," said Wintta Woldemariam, a senior. But the university must condemn the poor behavior and racial epithets, she said.

(Staff writer Samiha Khanna contributed to this report.)

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