

BROADSIDE

Volume 80 | Issue 8 | Visit us on the web at CONNECT2MASON.COM for daily Student Media content. | Monday, October 27, 2008

Afraid of the Dark

Sexual Assault on Campus

DAVID PIERCE
Staff Writer

A George Mason University student was sexually assaulted on Oct. 17 while walking near the loading dock of Student Union Building II.

According to an e-mail alert sent to the Mason community by Major George Ginovsky of the University Police Department, the assault occurred between 10:40 and 10:45 p.m. The victim, whose name has not been released, was not seriously injured, according to the e-mail alert. Ginovsky would not go into further detail in regards to the extent of injuries. The victim was reportedly assaulted by two black males. Ginovsky explained that the victim told police she observed one of the suspects having a handgun in his waistband.

"I think he took [the gun] out of the waistband and put it in his pocket," said Ginovsky, regarding the victim's statement.

The University Police would not inform *Broadside* of the exact time the victim reported the incident, but it was reported early Saturday morning. The police department did not send the e-mail alert to the Mason community until 1:59 p.m. the following Monday, almost 60 hours after it was added to its blotter. The Clery Act requires schools to immediately notify the community about "a significant emergency or dangerous situation that threatens the health or safety of people on campus." The majority of students interviewed felt the delay in sending the alert out was a problem. Recent Mason graduate John Lavoie was surprised at news of the assault.

"That is completely ridiculous," said Lavoie of the delay. Sophomore Tessa Candiff, biology major, believed the police should have taken a day, at the most, to inform the Mason community of the incident. Graduate student Matthew Moakler, concentrating in biodefense, had concern for the students living on campus.

"There was a whole weekend where [resident students] were out [and could

have been harmed]," said Moakler. Graduate student Andrew Walker, concentrating on geography and cartographic science, believed there was no wrongdoing on the part of the police.

"The victim waited a while to report the incident; the threat had passed," said Walker.

When asked why there was a delay in sending the e-mail alert, Ginovsky said the victim did not immediately report the crime, but there was room for improvement within the police department.

"[The police] have looked at our procedures and we will put future alerts out in a more timely manner," said Ginovsky. He declined to explain what the department considered a more timely manner. The date and time of the incident in the original e-mail alert was incorrect, stating it happened at 2:40 a.m. Saturday morning. Ginovsky sent a correction e-mail soon afterwards.

The alert initially described the incident as an assault, but not the general nature of it. Freshman Brittany Higgs, astronomy major and resident student, understood why the police did not initially say it was a sexual assault in the alert e-mail.

"I can understand why they would not [say it was sexual] as it is personal for the girl, but it is important for us to know," said Higgs. Moakler believed the police department should have gone into further detail.

"I wondered what the assault was; I did not know it was a sexual assault at first," said Moakler.

Ginovsky said the police investigation revealed there could possibly be witnesses to the crime. He said the police learned there were voices heard near the loading dock of SUB II.

"Please come forward if you were around [SUB II] between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. on Friday," said Ginovsky. He advised students to call the crime tip line at (703) 993-4111, or send the police an e-mail through their Web site, if they have information.

Most students interviewed were surprised the sexual

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To Vote or Not to Vote

Participatory Democracy Begins With Voting



Student Body President Zack Golden and Vice President Claire Foreman differ on whether or not to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

SONYA HUDSON
Asst. News Editor

Our elected student body president and vice president have differing opinions on the 2008 Presidential Election.

Student Body Vice President Claire Foreman decided to not vote in the presidential election while her counterpart, Student Body President Zack Golden, is an advocate for voting. Foreman has personal and economic problems with the two main candidates and the election in general.

"As far as [Barack] Obama's concerned, I think he is a Socialist," said Foreman. She cited his tax policy as the main reason for the Socialist charge. Obama's tax plan includes raising taxes for those individuals with an income level higher than \$200,000.

"Simply implementing that policy provides a disincentive for good business practice," said Foreman. "Basically what you're saying is you have succeeded, so I'm going to punish you by taxing you."

"So while his tax policy encourages people to enter the market at the lower level and start small businesses, it does not give them an incentive to

expand and actually do good business because their income is going to be taken from the government once their income actually gets to that point."

"That is Socialism plain and simple," said Foreman. Obama's tax policy is the primary reason Foreman will not vote for Barack Obama.

Foreman does not have a problem with either candidate's foreign policy plans.

"I think the international community would be fairly responsive and good-natured toward either one of them," said Foreman. "So in that since, I'm pretty happy, but the economic side of things, as far as Obama is concerned, sort of outweighs that positive aspect."

McCain is not the problem for the Republican Party, as a far as Foreman is concerned.

"I don't trust [McCain's] vice presidential candidate, I do not trust Sarah Palin," said Foreman. "I think that was possibly the worst mistake he has made in this entire election. That might have been a good move to secure the Republican vote that he already had, but I don't think that it's going to help him win over enough votes from any of the other parties to help him pull ahead."

The student body vice president shared her opinions on Palin.

"I think she is a disgrace to the female gender," said Foreman. "She is not representative of the fight for gender equality in this country. It may not be to the degree it was 50 or 60 years ago, but there is still definitely a separation, especially in politics, as far as female representation is concerned."

"I do not think that she is representative of the majority of the women in this country. I would hate to think that women would find that the example that she sets is one that they need to aspire to."

"I don't have a problem with McCain, I have a problem with his vice presidential candidate," said Foreman. "I think in this past administration we have seen how powerful the voice of the vice president is. Dick Cheney was one of the primary proponents for going into Iraq."

"I think sometimes people really underestimate the power of the vice president," said Foreman, careful to clarify the position of vice president in Washington, not at Mason.

Zack Golden, student body president, is an advocate for

voting.

"I think that it is your responsibility to your community to vote and have your voice heard," said Golden. "Also I don't think that you can complain about what happens if you don't [vote]."

Despite Golden's advocacy, his vice president is adamant about not voting, citing economic arguments against voting.

Foreman noted the Median Voter Theorem as a legitimate reason for not voting in such a large election.

The Median Voter Theorem explains why political candidates tend to have similar policies that appeal to the median voter in an election process. After the primaries the candidates from both parties tend to rein their policy proposals in toward the middle in order to appeal to a broader voter range.

Foreman cited a commercial in which Obama had seemed to employ this theory. "So basically what [Obama's] admitting to is that in order to get a majority vote in a two-candidate election, his policies have to reflect elements of both

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This Year, Forget the Trick-or-Treating

On- and Off-Campus Events Provide Students the Perfect Place to spend Halloween

MONIKA JOSHI
Broadside Correspondent

Even though we all love free candy, most college students would rather go out with friends than go trick-or-treating nowadays and for those living on-campus, spending the evening giving out Halloween candy to cute children isn't an option, either.

So if you are looking for a way to take advantage of the fact that Halloween is on a Friday this year, there's a lot out there for you to do on- and off-campus.

On-Campus Events

There will be a Halloween Dodgeball Tournament. This event is open to all George Mason University students as well as faculty and staff.

The tournament champions and the team or individual that is best-dressed will win a prize. It will be held in the SUB II Ballroom on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

To register a team, one person must submit a completed "team registration" form to the intramural sports office, located in the Aquatic Fitness Center. If

you don't have a team, there might still be a spot open for you on the free agent team. Forms and details about the event can be found on recreports.gmu.edu.

Halloween Bash will take place on Thursday night from 8 to 11 p.m. This is the perfect way to kick off the Halloween weekend.

At this event, sponsored by the Mason Cable Network, there will be scary movies playing, Halloween music and free food.

The event is free and there's also a possibility that you'll be on TV. It will take place in the Student Video Center, located on the bottom floor of the David King Hall.

Halloween Ball is another event being sponsored by the Mason Cable Network and another chance to be on TV.

It will be held at the same time as the Halloween Bash, but in Dewberry Hall in the Johnson Center. Music will be provided by WGMU.

Witch Watch is for anyone interested in ensuring the safety of trick-or-treaters in the area. Participants will meet on Halloween evening at 4:30 p.m. at the News Center in the Johnson Center.



The Burke Nursery & Garden Centre had their 14th Annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground where there were several activities and performances for families to watch and participate in.

To take part, just fill out a liability form which can be found at the Student Government office. Forms are due by Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Off-Campus Events

Markoff's Haunted Forest is the place for you if you're looking for a good scare in the middle of a pitch-black forest.

This haunted forest takes

"victims" through a dark trail in the woods full of scary surprises. Though it is a bit pricey at \$25, it is one of the most popular attractions in the area.

It opens on both weekdays and weeknights at dusk.

It is located at 19120 Martinsburg Rd., Dickerson, MD 20842. For event details go to web.mac.com/markoff/mhf/2008_info.html.

Cox Farms offers a variety of activities for all age groups. Some popular attractions include a large pumpkin patch, corn maze and haunted hayride.

It's a perfect day-time trip to get into the Halloween spirit. Cox Farms is located at 15621 Braddock Rd., Centreville 20120. For additional information, visit www.coxfarms.com.

Fright Fest at Kings Dominion is another popular choice, with a long list of things to do.

Attractions include several mazes and "scarezones." Three spine-chilling shows will also be featured.

Tickets are \$31.99 per person on Fridays and after 4 p.m. on weekends. All-day

tickets on weekends cost \$54.99.

Hours of operation are 7 to 12 p.m. on Fridays and 10:30 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays. The last day is November 1.

For more information, go to haunt.kingsdominion.com.

Three notable concerts are taking place on Halloween night. Panic at the Disco, featuring Dashboard Confessional, Plain White T's and The Cab, will be held at the Patriot Center. The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$30-\$40.

Coldplay will be performing at the Verizon Center, starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost between \$50 and \$98.

Jammin' Java will host Mambo Sauce, Future, Flex Mathews and Jon Braman. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

Still deciding on what to do? Don't forget about Chipotle's free burrito deal.

Certain Chipotle restaurants are giving out free burritos on Halloween night to patrons that show up with dressed as a burrito or with aluminum foil somehow incorporated into their attire.