



Search The Site

Go

[More options](#) | [Back issues](#)

Home

News

[Today's news](#)

[Current issue](#)

[Special issues & data](#)

[The Faculty](#)

[Research & Books](#)

[Government & Politics](#)

[Money & Management](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Students](#)

[Athletics](#)

[International](#)

[Community Colleges](#)

[Short Subjects](#)

[Gazette](#)

[Corrections](#)

Opinion & Forums

Careers

Presidents Forum

Technology Forum

Sponsored Information & Solutions

Campus Viewpoints

Travel

Services

[Help](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Manage your account](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[Rights & permissions](#)



THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Today's News

Monday, March 27, 2006

Men's Lacrosse Team at Duke U. Forfeits Games Following Accusations of Rape at Party

By [BURTON BOLLAG](#)

Duke University announced on Saturday that its men's lacrosse team would forfeit two games following allegations by a woman that she had been raped at an off-campus party the team held.

Durham, N.C., police officers are investigating the accusations made by the woman, who was at the party as a professional dancer and who is thought to be a student at another North Carolina university. They have taken DNA samples from 46 team members.

On Saturday, Duke's president, Richard H. Brodhead, issued a written statement urging all concerned to cooperate fully with the police.

He stated there were "very different versions of the central events," but added that if the accusations were proved correct, they would "warrant very serious penalties."

"Physical coercion and sexual assault are unacceptable in any setting," the president wrote.

The statement indicated that the university would wait for the police to finish their initial investigation before deciding on any further action. But Mr. Brodhead added that he fully backed the decision of Duke's director of athletics, Joseph L. Alleva, to forfeit the two matches -- one that would have been held on Saturday against Georgetown University, and one scheduled for Tuesday against Mount St. Mary's University.

The decision to forfeit the games was made because of events at the party that are not disputed by team members: that they hired private dancers to perform, and that underage team members were drinking alcohol.

Meanwhile, students and community members have held rallies in front of the house where the party was held. About 100 people gathered there on Saturday in protest against the alleged assault, according to news reports, and another rally was held on Sunday.

The house, near Duke's campus, in Durham, was rented by three captains of the lacrosse team.

The woman, who was one of two dancers who were hired to perform at the party, told the police that she had been sexually assaulted there during the early hours of March 14.

The woman has not been identified in news accounts, but *The News & Observer*, a newspaper in Raleigh, N.C., reported on Saturday that she was a student at North Carolina Central University, also in Durham.

According to the newspaper, the woman told the police that she thought she had been hired to perform for five men at a bachelor's party, but instead found a crowd of about 40 young men in the house. She and the other dancer, who are both black, became frightened after the men became aggressive and started using racial slurs, she said. They left the house, but they were persuaded to return after several of the party-goers came out to apologize.

She said that shortly after she went back inside, she was pulled into a bathroom, where three men raped and sodomized her, according to the newspaper account. She said the men also strangled and beat her.

Two days later the police obtained a warrant to search the house.

"We're asking someone from the lacrosse team to step forward," David Addison, a corporal with the Durham police, told *The News & Observer*. "We will be relentless in finding out who committed this crime."

advertisement

TRAVEL

2006

SMART CHOICES FOR TRAVEL

Powered by

Fascinating destinations, travel opportunities and information for your leisure, vacation and business travel needs.

Chronicle.com/travel

Article tools



[Printer friendly](#)



[E-mail article](#)



[Subscribe](#)



[Order reprints](#)



[Discuss](#) any Chronicle article in our forums

Three most recent discussions

[Spitfire Bloggers](#)

Today at 09:27:21 AM by oldassocprof

[Re: Weigh in on GRE scoring headache?](#)

Today at 09:25:46 AM by schoolmarm

[Re: new student frustrations](#)

Today at 09:23:14 AM by histgradstudent

News Headlines From The Chronicle

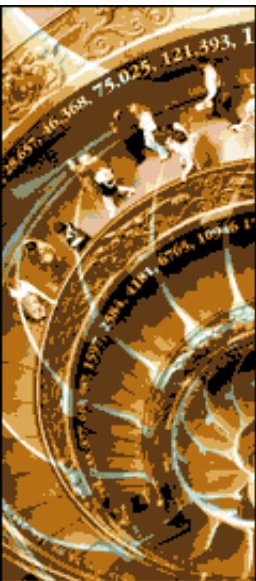
Men's lacrosse team at Duke U. forfeits games following accusations of rape at party

Faculty strike at Ontario's applied-arts colleges ends

Commencement speakers are announced by 30 colleges

Information Technology

A congressman questions the quality and rigor of online education



What if design brought clarity to a mathematical phenomenon?

Discover affordable solutions for Education.



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

A Duke official said that the police had asked 46 of the team's 47 members to provide DNA samples, and that all had complied. The official said the police did not ask the team's only black member for a sample because the alleged victim said the three men who assaulted her were white.

Until now, college lacrosse has generally not been caught up in accusations of misbehavior by team members. Members of college lacrosse teams have the highest rate of graduation of all collegiate sports teams.

Background articles from *The Chronicle*:

- [Punishing Personal Fouls](#) (1/13/2006)
- [Colorado's Coach-Cop Coalition](#) (3/5/2004)
- [When Athletes Are Accused](#) (4/19/2002)
- [Colleges Use Peer Pressure to Encourage Healthy Behavior](#) (7/28/2000)
- [Colleges Seek Tactics to Prevent Criminal Conduct by Athletes](#) (11/10/1995)
- [Study Examines Male Athletes' Role in Assaults](#) (12/7/1994)
- [Rape-Prevention Programs for Male Athletes](#) (2/10/1993)

Opinion:

- [Your Player's Keeper](#) (4/2/2004)
- [Colleges Must Act Firmly When Scholarship Athletes Break Laws](#) (5/9/1997)

[Copyright](#) © 2006 by [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) | [Contact us](#)
[User agreement](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [About The Chronicle](#) | [Site map](#) | [Help](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Press inquiries](#) | [RSS](#) | [Today's most e-mailed](#)

[Home](#) | [Chronicle Careers](#) | [The Chronicle Review](#)

