

Recent ASU Assaults Believed to Be Linked

Written by Dave Blanks
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Over the Past two months three Appalachian State University students have been grabbed by an unknown male while walking on or near campus. University Police Chief Gunther Doer believes the assaults may be related because of the assailant's method of operation. He reminds students to be aware of their surroundings and not to walk alone.

The first incident occurred Feb. 25 off campus when a student walking in a parking lot between Howard Street and King Street was grabbed by a man she did not know who attempted to pull down her pants.

The second incident occurred March 20 at approximately 8:50 p.m. when a female student was walking near Old Library Classroom Building and Smith-Wright Hall. As she passed an unknown man, he attempted to pull down her pants.

The most recent incident occurred April 14 when a female student reported to police that she was grabbed from behind by an unknown male as she walked near the Old Library Classroom Building near Plemmons Student Union around 8:30 p.m.

Doer said in all three cases, the assailant was wearing a dark, hooded sweatshirt. There were no witnesses to any of the three incidents. In all three cases, the victims were able to resist the attacker and get away. University Police believe the assailant may be hanging out and watching for a time when there are no potential witnesses in the area,

Doerr urges students to use the Mountaineer Safe Ride van service if they are unable to walk with a friend and if they are uncomfortable walking across campus alone. The service is available from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m...the number is

262-RIDE.