Students respond to Safe Ride alternative

Brittany Pelquin

Students from Cal Poly will have a new option to fall back on for a safe ride home when they go out on the weekends. College Shuttle (CSSA) is offering its new Safe Ride program to give students a more accessible and affordable way to return home from weekend bars. The program is free for students to use and will provide safe transportation to and from six stops located on campus, including ALPS, Cal Poly Mall, and the Associated Student Body building.

A student from the CSSA executive board explains how the program works: "When a student requests a shuttle, it will be sent to the location they specify, and the shuttle will drop them off at the desired location when the ride is complete." The program is designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of their location on campus.

Woman of the Year puts a fresh face on feminism

Kristen Marschall

Becca Swanson remembers the sign that she was meant to get involved, it was hanging in a bathroom stall.

Swanson, the Associated Students ASI chief of staff, was honored at the 2006 Cal Poly Woman of the Year, a feat that would not have been possible had the Cal Poly Women's Awareness program not been advertising in local remotes. She was compelled to attend the advertised meeting and had been hounded ever since.

Though the award was bestowed to a woman who devoted countless hours and efforts toward the betterment of all women, it doesn't faze her in the least.

"I feel awkward about this whole thing," Swanson said. "I am surrounded by all these people who are doing so much more." Swanson was nominated for the award by ASI President Tyler Middlestadt, who selected her for the position of chief of staff last spring. Contrary to previous ASI presidents, he had decided to allow students to apply for the chief of staff position, rather than nominate someone he knew. "I wanted anyone who was qualified to have a chance," he said. "I was choosing the best candidate and not just picking one of my good friends."

Middlestadt had known of Swanson's work with the Women's Center and was excited when she applied. Now he is very satisfied with his decision.

"Becca has done much more than I ever expected," he said, referring to her as "an outstanding colleague to work with" who "has built a strong foundation for ASI in the future and (helped in) bringing it back to the student body." As chief of staff, Swanson manages the ASI Executive Staff, which is composed of nearly 25 volunteers; executes the ASI president's goals; and oversees the budget and different projects. While she holds her head high in an office filled with men, it wasn't always easy for her.

Assembly bill to increase financial aid opportunities

Katie Hofstetter

The California State Students Association (CSSA) continues its campaign to increase California's allotment of financial aid. Assembly Bill 2813, authored by Assembly member Hector De la Torre (D-South Gate), seeks three core modifications to the Cal Grant Program.

Despite a rough start, Cal Poly track and field is now ready to take on Big West Championships

IN SPORTS, 8

"Take it SLO' tonight at a Cal Poly concert"

IN DIVERSIONS, 5

Inspectors falsely identify mealybug

Jenny Wilson

Officials have now concluded that the mealybugs found throughout various horticulture units last month were not the rare passion-vine mealybug that they were thought to be.

"It is very, very difficult to identify these bugs and the system that they were using didn't work," professor Bob Rice said. Rice is a disease and pest management professor on campus and was heading the investigation throughout the greenhouses. Inspectors discovered that the pest was a common citrus mealybug through DNA analysis and Rice said the pests are "very similar, but not quarantinable."

Since the passion-vine mealybug had never been reported within United States borders previously, officials knew little about it, making it difficult to identify. Officials immediately quarantined several greenhouses throughout Cal Poly, including the Cal Poly Plant Shop, to take samples from plants in search of the mealybug.

Trying to protect the agriculture from imported bugs was the main goal, Rice said. Most samples were sent back to Cal Poly last Friday with negative reports; however there will remain a few samples to be analyzed, though chances are slim that they contain the passion-vine mealybug.

Environmental horticulture senior Patrick Grady had his senior project in one of the greenhouses that was closed off for almost a month and returned to find it in poor condition.

"They (inspectors) pretty much tore through everything and a lot of my sculptures have been knocked over," Grady said. Although this has set back Grady's senior project by a quarter, he is relieved that the mealybug invasion is almost over.

"Hopefully things can get back to normal for my senior project now," Grady said. The mealybug invasion was almost over.
Swanson continued from page 1

"It was a challenge to sit at the table with Mike Motroni, board of directors chair; and Mike Motroni. She had been involved in ASI for years with (Middlestadt; Joe Veeanv board chair)," she said, noting that the three

"Women before us had something to fight for — now it’s almost silent," she said. "That’s scary that we’re going to live in the U.S. and have to deal with that.

"For example, many women are reluctant to call themselves feminists because they believe it has a radical connotation, but in reality, a feminist is simply a person — male or female — who wants equal rights for men and women," she said.

Not only did she seek to inform herself about the issues through women’s studies, but she went out into the community and took direct action. She volunteers at the Sexual Assault Recovery Prevention center, answering calls on the 24-hour crisis line, and lends her time and an arm to women as an escort for Planned Parenthood on the days they perform abortions.

Though Planned Parenthood always has local protests against abortions, Swanson said that "it’s not bad enough where you want to not continue." What is hard for her to witness is "all the women who drive into the clinic, only to see the protesters and turn away from help." "I really need to reach out," she said about situations like this. "That’s all it takes.”

Learn something new every day!
Keep reading the Mustang Daily

Shuttle continued from page 1

"What if you have a friend visiting from home?" he said.

Since the service is a only a short-term answer, student leaders will observe how well it works until the end of the quarter and use what they learn to develop something more permanent. The shuttle’s accessibility may be extended into the Madonna area, and that people might come to rely on it as their sole form of transportation.

Others noted that the circulation to fixed stops sounded like a good idea because of the unreliability they experienced with Saie Ride. "I think it’s awesome, instead of relying on them to come pick you up," said business sophomore Billy Johnson. "Sometimes Saie Ride wouldn’t even come, especially if you’re a guy.

Celebrate your love of bicycling!
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During that week Julian’s (located in the UU and inside Campus Market) is making a special effort to reward bicyclists for their commitment to cycling. Be sure to stop by with your helmet in hand for a FREE 16 oz. cup of coffee and Bike Month t-shirt (while supplies last).

Join us in front of the Rec Center on Thursday, May 11th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Cal Poly mini-bike fest and enter our free drawing.

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Cal Poly Mustang Daily
M o n t u s c h t o y
c

Get your Mustang Daily Friday, May 12, 2006

News editor: Caitlin Donnell • mustangdailynews@calpoly.com

www.mustangdaily.com

The Mustang Daily is now accepting applications for editorial positions for the 2006-07 school year.

Submit a cover letter, resume, proposal and clips to Pam Watson in building 26 room 226 by Monday, May 15

www.sudoiku.com

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5/12

11a-1p

5/17

11a-1p

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WHO SAID THAT?

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.

— Mark Twain

No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.

— Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

Wordly Wise

Forlorn: Sad and lonely because deserted, abandoned, or lost.

BREAKING NEWS

UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE

www.mustangdaily.net

Friday, May 12, 2006

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Lawmakers question government collection of phone call records

Katherine Shrader
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers demanded answers from the Bush administration Thursday about a spy agency secretly collecting records of millions of ordinary Americans' phone calls to build a database of all calls within the country.

Facing mounting congressional criticism, President Bush sought to assure Americans that their civil liberties were "firmly protected."

"The government does not listen to domestic phone calls without court approval," said Bush, without confirming the program of the National Security Agency. "We're not mining or trolling through the personal lives of millions of innocent Americans."

The disclosure, reported in USA Today, could complicate Bush's bid to win confirmation of former National Security Agency Director Michael Hayden as CIA director. It also reignited concerns about privacy rights and touched off questions about the legal underpinnings for the government's actions and the diligence of the Republican-controlled Congress' oversight of a GOP-appointed panel.

"Everything that NSA does is lawful and very carefully done," Hayden testified before the Senate, where he was to face a confirmation vote Monday. "The appropriate members of the Congress — the House and Senate — are briefed on all NSA activities.

The top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee said he was shocked by the reported activities.

"It's not one party's government. It's America's government. Those entrusted with great power have a duty to answer to Americans what they are doing," said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

AT&T Corp., Verizon Communications Inc., and BellSouth Corp. telephone companies began turning over records of tens of millions of their customers' phone calls to the NSA program shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, said USA Today, citing anonymous sources that said it had direct knowledge of the arrangement.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he would call the phone companies to appear before the panel in pursuit of what had transpired.

"We're really flying blind on the subject and that's not a good way to approach the Fourth Amendment and the constitutional issues involving privacy," Specter said of domestic surveillance.

The companies said Thursday they were protecting customers' privacy but also had an obligation to assist law enforcement and government agencies in ensuring the nation's security.

"We price the trust our customers place in us. If and when AT&T is asked to help, we do so strictly within the law and under the most stringent conditions," the company said in a statement, echoed by the others.

Sen. Wayne Allard, R- Colo., said NSA was using the data to analyze calling patterns in order to detect and track suspected terrorist activity, according to information provided to him by the White House.

"Telephone customers' names, addresses and other personal information have not been handed over as part of this program," he said.

Rep. Edward Markey of Massachusetts, ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's telecommunications and internet panel, had a different view: "The NSA needs for Now Spying on Americans."

Claims about the existence of the program emerged earlier this year.

In January, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based group devoted to preserving privacy in digital media, alleged in a federal lawsuit that AT&T Inc. had given the NSA direct access to the records of the more than 300 million domestic and international calls and the huge volume of Internet data traffic. AT&T Inc. includes the AT&T Corp. and SBC Communications Inc.

The class-action lawsuit asked a court to halt the collection of the data as an illegal invasion of citizens' privacy.

The Justice Department told the court late last month it would seek to dismiss the case under the state secrets privilege but said that effort "should not be construed as a confirmation or denial" of the alleged surveillance activities.

The foundation's suit added that the actual evidence substantially confirmed a Dec. 25 Los Angeles Times report that since Sept. 11, 2001, "NSA has had a direct hook into the database at AT&T code-named Daytona," which "keeps track of telephone numbers on both ends of calls as well as the duration of all landline calls."

On Capitol Hill, several lawmakers expressed incredulity about the program, with some Republicans questioning the rationale and several Democrats railing about a lack of congressional oversight.

"I'm not sure why it would be necessary to keep and have that kind of evidence," said House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, who wanted more details.

**Bill**

Continued from page 1

The program currently allotted in the state are given to those who do not fit in the entitlement category, such as those who do not apply for financial aid within 18 months of high school graduation.

The program is designed to serve older returning non-traditional students," said CSA director government relations Laura Kerr.

Last year there were over 130,000 applicants for the available competitive grants, leaving over 100,000 declined, said Cal Poly AISI president Tyler Middelstadt.

By doubling the number of competitive grants, AB 2813 is aiming to accommodate the growing financial need in California.

"California has made a commitment to making higher education affordable," Kerr said. "Disappointing, there has been a trend in the last 20 years to direct in higher education.

The current Cal Grant program was implemented in 1991 and Kerr called it "an awesome foot step," but said "six years later it is clear that we can do better and really must do better."

A major goal of AB 2813 is to give Cal Grant B entitlement recipients funding for tuition and fees for all four years of their college careers, while currently the first year's tuition is excluded. As of now, only A recipients are allotted first-year tuition money, although B recipients do receive a stipend not given to A recipients.

Kerr said that the Cal Grant program established in 2000 was created to fight the assumption that the majority of B recipients would not attend a CSU or UC, instead opting to obtain a degree at a community college.

The final aim of AB 2813 is boosting the age of Cal Grant eligibility, which is currently at 27.

"One of the things we're being fighting for a long time is ending age discrimination," Middelstadt said.

Kelly said at Cal Poly she has seen "a few who have exceeded that age limit, particularly if they transferred," adding "It's really tough to say there's the arbitrary age cut-off, I have a real hard time with that."

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) estimated the cost of the three-year age increase to be $1.6 million, Middlestadt said, making it by far the least expensive of the three proposed changes of AB 2813.

Middelstadt said the LAO estimated that doubling the number of competitive grants would cost $49 million, although after first-year grants for Cal Grant B entitlement recipients would cost $77 million.

AB 2813 proposes allocating financial support to Cal Grant B recipients to cover first-year tuition, increasing the number of competitive Cal Grants from 22,500 to 45,000 and raising Cal Grant age eligibility from 24 to 27.

**Mustang Daily**

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News editor: Caitlin Donnell • mustangdailynews@gmail.com
Assistant news editor: Erin Smith
Friday, May 12, 2006
Experience Palestine through the eyes of ‘Arna’s Children’

Christina Casci
MUSTANG DIVER

Israel versus Palestine.

A war that has been going on for years. People are dying every day in both countries, but both think they are right. Who is right? Or more importantly, whose right is it to determine the answer?

“Arna’s Children,” a documentary by Juliano Mer Khamis, tells the story of Arna Mer Khamis.

From the beginning to the end, the movie catches every audience member’s attention. The film starts with a woman, Arna, who looks about 90 years old, while the audience is filled with horns honking and drivers yelling in response. She wants a change and she wants it fast.

The film is more about the group of children and what their experiences growing up in the area of Palestine. Arna’s effect on the children changed their attitude about the situation and how to handle it. You can see the adoring look in their eyes when she talks. People listen to her.

From the first scene, anyone can tell the woman has spirit. She may look frail, but she has more to her than what is physically apparent. When she gets in a room of children, her mannerisms stay the same but she refers to some as “love” and tells everyone that all the other kids in the world get to be children in the refugee camp are singing a song about freedom and revenge. They sing that all the other kids in the world get to be free, so why can’t they? The filmmaker ends it with the same thing. However, in the beginning, the children are in shelter. At the end, they are walking around outside with almost nothing to wear. It is very symbolic of the whole film and puts a wonderful touch that gives the viewer closure. Arna acknowledges something early in the film that rings true for everyone. She says, “There is no freedom without knowledge.” What is more perfect to freedom than knowledge?

‘Arna’s Children,’ a documentary shown during Palestine Awareness Week, features the life of young Palestinian boys.

The focus was especially on the group of boys that went to the theater. The director watches them learn specifically through group exercises. He directs them to act like their English schoolteacher. All but one of the boys sit down in a row on the bench and wait. The one other boy comes out saying things in English. When the other boys don’t stand up as he enters, the teacher smack all of them with a ruler. He does the same when they can’t name a letter of the alphabet. Flashbacks bring the viewer back to this childhood when the boys are interviewed as young adults later in life. When talking to one boy, Ali, about the possibility of his house getting destroyed, a clip appears of him as a boy sitting on the ruins of his other house that had been attacked by the Israeli army. Behind this clip is the sound of Ali talking and the subtitles run across the bottom of the screen. To realize what this man has been through adds sadness to the film that was also done on numerous other occasions.

I recommend seeing this film; it is all real footage and people. The sequence of events is enough to make you as a viewer bite your nails in nervousness the whole movie. When something disastrous happens to one of the boys from the theater, a little piece of your heart will go with them. It will make you understand why Palestinians want to be free.

In a very early part of the film, all the children in the refugee camp are singing a song about freedom and revenge. They sing that all the other kids in the world get to be free, so why can’t they? The filmmaker ends it with the same thing. However, in the beginning, the children are in shelter. At the end, they are walking around outside with almost nothing to wear. It is very symbolic of the whole film and puts a wonderful touch that gives the viewer closure. Arna acknowledges something early in the film that rings true for everyone. She says, “There is no freedom without knowledge.” What is more perfect to freedom than knowledge?

A night to ‘Take it SLO’

Take It SLO (above) will perform tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center.

Kelly Cope
MUSTANG DIVER

It’s Friday, so sit back, relax and take it SLO — or listen to them. Tonight, Cal Poly’s a cappella group, Take It SLO, will be making its solo concert debut with some of its unique repertoire of well-known pop songs.

The group has enjoyed much success in its tenure at Cal Poly and has made a name for itself all over the state through competitions such as the California A Cappella Festival.

The group will perform songs originally made famous by artists such as Kelly Clarkson, “Because of You,” and the Black Eyed Peas’ hit “Don’t Lie.”

Take It SLO’s concept was formed in spring 2003. In the beginning, UCLA’s a cappella group, Awaken, lost the group a few pieces, and after a few rehearsals, Take It SLO was on its way. Many of the 12 members this year have done their own arrangements for the group.

Drew Roban, a physics senior and baritone for Take It SLO, described the group’s sound as “dramatically different” compared to other groups on campus.

“I get a lot of really great feedback after concerts about how our songs and our overall set was really awesome and totally different from the standard classical or more typical-sounding a cappella sound,” Roban said. “This was one of the main reasons I originally wanted to be a part of the group.”

Tonight’s performance is meant to raise money to pay for an opportunity to record a CD that Take It SLO director and music senior Kimberly Nicola hopes to create in a few months.

“Right now we are still in the preliminary stages, just trying to raise the money,” Nicola said. “But hopefully by June we can make a studio recording.”

Tickets for the concert are $3 at the door.

Diversions editor: Maricar Mendore • mustangdailydiversions@gmail.com
Friday, May 12, 2006

HUMOR COLUMN

We parked in the ASI president's parking spot

MUSTANG DAILY

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Mike Matzke

Doug Bruzzzone

The Mustang Daily is a "designated public forum." Student editors and staff will authorize to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

When I talk to my friends back home, the conversation often turns to how Cal Poly is a party school. After all, there aren't enough parking spots in Sun Luis Obispo, right? This in itself seems strange to me, considering how often I was pointed out as some kind of genius by friends back home, which isn't the lifestyle you prefer, then we'll tell you. But you have to promise not to tell anyone. Promise? K. It's behind building 45 and.

We also voted against brushing your teeth, but the dentists won that time too. But that's only because we're British.

We heard that Tylor was mad about the situation, but then we thought "Hey, that name sure is spelled weird." So overall, we didn't care.

So here's the deal. If you think you're badasses like us, and you can handle the fuzz comin' down hard on you, then we'll tell you. But we have to promise not to tell anyone. Promise? K. It's behind building 45 and.

Uncouth: Sniping people. Think about the Golden Rule: Would you want to be snubbed? If so, you are weird.

Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzzzone are two classy guys and Mustang Daily columnists.

COMMENTARY

More to do in SLO than drink

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Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzzzone are two classy guys and Mustang Daily columnists.
**Softball**

Big West for stolen base attempts with 8-6-9 Wedell also had two hitless doubles during streaks to double-

**Track**

continued from page 8

dance in the triple jump at 39
feet 9.75 inches.

There will attempt to double-

up in the 800m and her top event, the 400m, while Cisco will run in the 100m and 100m hurdles. Both are regional qualifiers.

Despite several top performers, athletes and coaches still wonder what might have been if not for 

weather and a slough of injuries.

"We just hit some bad luck this 

year with all the injuries and day 

after day of bad weather," pole 

vaulter Adrian Kurak said. "All of 

our top seniors this year were rains 

or cold and cloudy."

In addition to gloomy skies, injury plagued several competitors 

this year.

"I would like to some individuals healthier because I know they could have con-

tributed to our team effort, but as 

a staff we made decisions on some individuals that will impact the program well for next year," Crawford said.

However, Crawford remains 

upbeat about a potential upset team performance this weekend.

"I am really excited and optim-

istic that the individuals we are taking (to the Big West Championships) are ready for 

their seasonal best performance," Crawford said. "We feel the unusually cold and rainy spring has helped us back from producing quality marks, so good weather and good competition this com-

ing weekend should produce our 

best team effort of the year."

For more information and 

updated reports on the track and 

field team's performance in the 

championships, visit www.go apoptosis.com or the Big West Conference Web site at www.big-West.

org.
Track ready to race at Big West

Jennifer Boidevin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Despite a season complicated by injuries, red-shirts and rain, the Cal Poly track and field team is ready for the Big West Championships today and Saturday at Cal State Northridge.

As was the men’s team placed a close second behind Northridge at the championships and the women’s team came in fifth. For the men to match that result, it will take some monumental performances.

"Due to injuries and the red-shirt situation, we are going into the conference with some major holes in quite a few events," coach Terry Cawford said. "The group knows there is a necessity to really pull together and maximize our individual points for our best team showing."

The men’s team expects to pick up big points in the distance events as well as pole vault and javelin. The Mustangs have the top three seeds in the 1500 meter with freshmen Joe Gatel and Evan Anderson as well as Philip Reid. Luke Llamas goes into the 3000 steeplechase finals with the top seed, as well as one of the top times in the nation at 8:45.34.

In the pole vault, Adrian Ruiz tops the list of Cal Poly qualifiers with a best of 16 feet 7.25 inches. Mike King and James Nimmo have each cleared 15 feet and could score as well.

And, in the javelin, Alex Borjas is seeded second at 218 feet 2 inches, while teammates Jason Holmes and Jeremy Vokanovic could make the top eight as well.

One of the women’s sides, Dendre Bermeo, 1500m and Williamena Cisco, 100m hurdles, top the list of Cal Poly qualifiers. In the 800, sophomore Cassie Atkinson is seeded second with a best of 2:11.75. Freshman Caitlin Schields is ranked third in the conference.

Cal Poly pole vaulter Adrian Ruiz has already qualified for the West Regionals, but seeks to improve his seeding with a big jump at the Big West Championships on Friday.

**Big West winner comes down to final weekend of games; two tied for first**

Kim Owsson
SPORTS REPORTER

LONG BEACH, Calif. — After taking two out of three games at UC Davis last weekend, the 49ers are tied for first with 11-4 conference records while Cal Poly sits in third at 9-6.

This weekend marks a turning point for the Big West Conference Title because the Cal State Fullerton Titans hold the same conference record and could tie Long Beach State for the title. The Titans play UC Riverside this weekend and if LBSU and CSUF both win all its games, they will be named Co-Big West Champions. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is not far behind the two teams at only two games back with a record of 26-22 and 9-6 in conference.

The three-game series for LBSU begins Friday against the Gauchos who swept UC-Riverside last weekend.

The 49ers have been productive this season by putting up numbers when the team needed it the most. The 49ers are 17-2 when leading after four innings thanks to timely pitching and offensive rallies.

LBSU star Michelle Turner is a candidate for Big West Pitcher of the Year and has been the Big West Pitcher of the Week six times this season. Turner leads the 49ers with four home runs and 24 RBIs with a collective 246 batting average and 13 doubles. Turner has walked only 17 batters this season with 170 strikeouts in the circle and holds a 2.399 record, rounding off an 1.50 ERA. Turner has dominated in league play with a record of 10-1 and kept opposing batters to only a .188 average.

Senior Tiffany Wedell has been an offensive force with a .259 batting average and 17 RBIs. She is ranked No. 10 in the nation in runs scored.

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The Mustangs and Aggies play today at 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Cal Poly and UC Davis, rivals in many other sports, have met just nine times on the baseball field. The Mustangs have a 7-2 advantage over the Aggies, winning two of three games last year at Aggie Stadium. Cal Poly won the first two games 7-4 and 2-0 (Jimmie Shull five-hit shutout) before the Aggies outlasted the Mustangs 13-10 in 13 innings in the finale. Last year’s meeting was the first between the two programs since 1996 and Cal Poly is making its first trip to UC Davis for baseball this weekend.

All three games will be broadcast on the Internet at www.GoPoly.com.

**LACROSSE**

**POLICE QUESTION CREDIBILITY OF RAPE ACCUSER**

A campus police officer overheard city police discussing the credibility of the accuser in the Duke University rape case, including their judgment that the accuser “kept changing her story,” officials said.

Those remarks by police were cited in an independent university report released earlier this week as a reason school officials underestimated the seriousness of the woman’s allegations and responded slowly.

The report did not say how school officials learned about the police comments. Duke Police Chief Robert Dran offered details, explaining that the campus officer who overheard the conversation also did not ask Durham police any follow-up questions.

Aaron Graves, Duke’s associate vice president for campus safety and security, said the campus officer did nothing wrong as he “documented what took place” in the hours after the rape was reported, including “what he felt or perceived he heard” from Durham police. - The Associated Press