

Attorney: Photos will show dancer was injured, impaired

Samuel Spies
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C. — Time-stamped photographs will show an exotic dancer was already injured and "very impaired" when she arrived at a party where she claims she was raped by members of Duke University's men's lacrosse team, an attorney for one of the players said Sunday.

Durham attorney Bill Thomas said some of the photographs, taken when she arrived at the house, indicate the woman was injured before getting to the party March 13. They show extensive bruises and scrapes

on her legs, especially around the knees, he said.

"This young lady was substantially impaired. She had fallen several times during the course of the evening," Thomas said.

He declined to identify the player he represents and said he would not release the photos, taken by at least two cameras, until pending DNA tests are completed.

He also wouldn't say whether the photos were taken by a lacrosse team member or someone else; court documents have indicated that only team members were present at the party.

No one has been

charged in the case, but the allegations that members of the nearly all-white team raped the woman, a black student at a nearby university, have rocked both Duke and Durham.

The allegations have led to the resignation of coach Mike Pressler, the cancellation of the lacrosse season and the suspension of one player from school.

Several dozen people gathered Sunday outside the house where the party took place, and pledged to return each Sunday until the case is resolved.

"Whether I want to believe it, or whether you want to believe it, something

took place in there," said Johnny Williamson, 36, of Durham. "Something indecent took place."

District Attorney Mike Nifong, who was expected to return this week from an out-of-town conference and has not commented on the case in the past several days, has said previously he is confident a rape occurred. Court documents said a medical exam of the alleged victim found injuries consistent with sexual assault.

The victim has not returned repeated messages seeking comment, but her father said Sunday she hasn't changed her story.

"I expect them to say that," he said of the lawyers' contentions his daughter is lying.

The woman and the other dancer arrived separately, Thomas said, and performed briefly before leaving. The victim told police she and the other dancer left because they feared for their safety, but were later convinced to come back inside.

Thomas said the photos contradict the alleged victim's assertion she was scared, as they show her standing at the door of the off-campus house with "a major grin on her face" as she tried to get back inside.

"People inside the house

have stated she was banging on the door, attempting to regain entry," Thomas said.

The woman told police she was pulled into a bathroom and assaulted after coming back into the house. But Thomas said the woman locked herself in the bathroom, where police later found her purse, cell phone, and several artificial fingernails she claimed to have lost during a struggle with her attackers.

Thomas said one of the attorneys representing team members had interviewed the other dancer extensively, and she said the alleged victim never told her about a rape.

Partygoers dance night away at RHA's Spring Charity Ball

Event raises \$4,000
for Camp Hope,
Camp Seratoma

Hatie Boucher
THE GAMECOCK

Mix together a few disco lights, a dance floor and music with tuxedos, suits and evening gowns, and you'll get what might seem to be a description of the perfect prom.

But this scene did not take place in a high school gym — it was straight out of the Residence Hall Association Spring Charity Ball held at the Columbia Conference Center on Friday night.

Of the more than 180 tickets sold, only about 120 students attended.

Decorations and floral arrangements adorned the ballroom, and chairs and tables were set up for people to enjoy the food and rest from dancing. The music was a mix of rap, pop and

swing and seemed to cover all genres.

Randall Phillips, a third-year criminal justice student and charity ball planner, said he was pleased with the turnout.

"We raised just shy of \$4,000 for Camp Seratoma and Camp Hope," Phillips said. "We are hoping that this will grow in the years to come."

Sarah Rogers, a second-year English student, said she enjoyed the food, which included a chocolate fondue

fountain with fruit.

"I've been eating chocolate-covered strawberries all night," she said.

Deirdre Martin, a second-year international studies student, said she had a great time.

Rogers and Martin came with a group of girls. They said it was fun to get dressed up, go out and have fun with their friends.

"Laffy Taffy" by D4L got everyone on the dance floor. Groups of friends danced

together, and a few ball-goers attempted to break dance.

Rogers said even though not too many people showed up, it was a lot easier to dance with a smaller crowd.

Phillips said the ball was a chance for students not involved in the Greek scene to go to a social.

"If you are not in a fraternity or a sorority, there are not many opportunities to dress up, dance and have fun, but this gave everyone on campus an opportunity

to do that," Phillips said.

RHA Vice President Jonathan Ross, a second-year political science student, said, "We are very pleased in how we were able to engage the residents in this event."

During the festivities, a 15-minute film was shown on the two charities that the donations were going to.

Phillips said despite the controversy over ticket sales, the ball turned out well.

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PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM 1

said. "They're working for sub-minimum wages (that are) costing jobs for white people and black people that are U.S. citizens that should have the right to first crack at those jobs."

Many protesters were waving Confederate flags.

Kyle Rogers, president of the group's Francis Marion chapter, said the flags undermined the protests message.

"(The Confederate flag) mixes the message," Rogers said. "We should save the Confederate flags for something else."

Protesters used signs to broadcast their message, saying, "Remember the Alamo," "Protect Our Economy, Save Our Standard of Living," and "The Penalty for Illegal Immigration is Deportation — Anything Less is Amnesty."

Nelson Waller said his sign — "We Are Under Enemy Occupation" — accurately described the siege on America by illegal aliens.

"They are coming here to take this country over," Waller said. "They have no intention of adapting themselves to our system

and our way of life. They are at war with us."

Daggett said it was time for Americans to protest the amnesty bill.

"Well, certainly illegal immigrants have held demonstrations all over this country, and we thought it's time for Americans to stand up and do the same," Daggett said.

Cars passing the protest at the corner of Gervais and Main streets honked in support or ignored it.

One woman yelled, "Vive la Mexico," while another motorist argued that the land belonged to neither group but to the Native American people.

CofCC member Robert Lampley said immigrants would want more than amnesty.

"All of these immigrants are going to want free college scholarships and free affirmative action," Lampley said. "What kind of nation has no border? A nation without a border is not a nation."

Carter said he was in favor of securing the northern and southern border, citing that many of the Sept. 11 hijackers entered the United States through Canada.

"I think we need to put the National Guard (on

the border)," Carter said. "When they do their annual two weeks, they need to go on the northern and the southern border and secure them. That would be in the best interest of America."

Robert Foster, a British man visiting the State House on vacation, said the protesters had spirit but no message.

"I think it's rather genuine, but it's (not informational)," Foster said, adding the protesters were saying, "We're here, pull up the drawbridges and don't

let anyone else in.' That's silly."

Other members of Foster's group said England was facing the same problem.

"It seems to be quite a war for the United States," Foster said. "I think (the protesters) are being a little bit selfish perhaps."

Carter said he would like to extend a warning to Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

"I would tell Sen. Lindsey Graham to enjoy the rest of his term in the senate because he's not going to get re-elected," Carter said.

Graham supported a bill by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., allowing illegal immigrants to stay in the country for six years after paying a \$1,000 fine, paying back taxes, learning English and staying employed.

Carter said Americans must look after their jobs.

"We've got to look after South Carolina textile jobs," he said. "We've got to look after ourselves."

The event, organized over two weeks, experienced heavy rains, declining the

number of supporters, Rogers said, adding that he expected four times as many supporters if the weather had been pleasant.

Josh Allen of Anderson, a motorist who took literature from a protester, said he agreed with the general sentiment of the protesters.

"I think the borders should be secured," Allen said. "I'm not exactly sure what their message is, but I think the border should be

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