



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

December 1, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Armed Home Invasion of University of Delaware Students

A home invasion style robbery occurred on Monday November 30, around 1:20 a.m. in an apartment in the 500 building of University Courtyard apartments, Scholar Drive, Newark. The four suspects made noises in the hallway, which prompted a resident of the apartment to slightly open the door. Upon the door being ajar, the suspects pushed it open and entered the apartment. The four residents and two guests were gathered in the living room, where their hands were bound and their mouths covered with duct tape. Two of the assailants were armed with black pistols, and another had a knife. The suspects searched the apartment and repeatedly asked questions about the location of illegal drugs and cash within the residence.

The suspects removed a safe and other personal items from the apartment. They fled carrying two dark colored back packs, one camouflage backpack, and a pillowcase. They are believed to have gotten into a silver four door, newer model car with dark windows that was parked south of the complex. After the suspects left, one of the victims was able to free himself and call for help.

There is no indication that illegal drugs are sold from the apartment. However, it is now known that marijuana is openly used within the apartment. Based on the suspects demand for drugs and money, two investigative scenarios are developing: 1) the suspects are aware of the drug use and assumed drug sales were occurring, or 2) the suspects intended to rob an apartment other than the victims', but got the wrong location.

The same apartment was burglarized between Wednesday November 25 and Saturday November 28 while none of the residents were at home. During that crime, the apartment appeared to have been searched for specific items. Nothing of great value was taken, and property that is typically stolen during burglaries was left behind. A relation between the two incidents is being investigated.



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The suspects in the robbery are described as three white males and one black male, all 20 to 25 years of age, 5' 10" to 6' tall, average build, wearing baggy blue jeans. One was wearing a Phillies hat; one had a bandana covering the lower portion of his face. There are no known suspects in the burglary.

All six victims are students at the University of Delaware. Four are males who reside at the apartment; three are 19 years of age, the other is 20. The two other victims were 18 year old female guests of the residents who do not live in the complex. One female was struck with the door when it was pushed open, causing bruising near the eye. No other injuries occurred during the incident.

Information about these crimes should be reported to Det. Michael Watson at 302-366-7110 ext 133 or Michael.Watson@cj.state.de.us. Information can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 800-TIP-3333, where a reward may be available.

Text 302NPD and your tip to TIP411 (847411)

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or brian.henry@cj.state.de.us.



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