Purdue experiences two sexual assaults in one week

By JAKE GERKEN City Editor
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On Thursday, police arrested James Rendon, 20, a student in the College of Technology, for rape and possession of paraphernalia. On Saturday, police responded to a reported sexual assault outside of Wiley Dining Court.

Suspect out on bond; Acacia Executive Director responds

Rendon was bonded out of the Tippecanoe jail Thursday at 3:35 p.m. on a split bond of $1500 cash and a $15,000 surety bond. He is charged with possession of paraphernalia and the alleged rape of a visiting female from Iowa on Jan. 18.

Executive director of Acacia, Patrick McGovern, stated in an email to the Exponent that, “The chapter has been suspended by the University pending further investigation while the member in question has been arrested on rape charges, suspended by the University, and he
has been suspended by the chapter. The chapter has and continues to fully cooperate with the investigation.

“Acacia International Fraternity and the Purdue Chapter condemn sexual assault in the strongest possible terms and are treating this investigation seriously. The alleged actions of this individual do not reflect a problem with this chapter; however, the entire chapter now bears responsibility for taking corrective actions and standing as a voice against sexual assault in the community.

“We have no additional comments pending further investigation.”

The police response time, from the time the call was received to the time police arrived at the Acacia fraternity, was 15 seconds, with approximately eight hours elapsing from the time of the initial report to the time of local police response.

**Sexual Assault reported outside of Wiley Dining Court**

Saturday night, Purdue police responded to a report of sexual assault outside of Wiley Dining Court. The caller advised police that “she was on the phone with her friend and that she heard a male voice before the phone went dead. There was no answer on call back for about 10 minutes,” according to the police log of events that night.

The caller advised police that she knew the area her friend was in and upon searching, found her friend with “her pants down, hysterical, and scratches all over her chest by Wiley Dining Court.” The victim refused medical attention.

Later that night, a resident assistant notified police that “a couple of her girls had observed a suspicious white male in a black hoodie out behind Wiley Dining Court.”

Police later determined that Kappa Kappa Gamma’s Gamma Delta chapter has cameras that face north, which is the direction that leads to the walkway of Wiley Dining Court.

Police are still investigating the incident, with the suspect still at large.

https://www.purdueexponent.org/city_state/article_be84e73e-c053-5bd3-a19a-1c6131ca1ed4.html
Purdue student retracts sexual assault report

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WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The Purdue University student who reported being sexually assaulted on campus Saturday (Jan. 24) has retracted her account of the incident, according to Purdue University police.

Purdue police chief John Cox on Tuesday (Jan. 27) said the department’s investigation concluded the initial report was untrue. It was initially alleged that the student was sexually assaulted late Saturday night in the 400 block of North Martin Jischke Drive in the area of Wiley Dining Court.

“This is an unfortunate case, but we wanted to make sure the campus community was aware that there is no ongoing threat and allay any concerns the initial report might have caused. This case is now considered closed by the Purdue University Police Department,” Cox said. “At the same time, it’s important to reiterate that, as a community, we need to remain vigilant and continue to report any suspicious activity to police. Especially in the case of crimes of a physical nature against another person, the sooner we are notified, the sooner we can provide aid to the victim, make the campus community aware and begin our investigation.”

Source: John Cox, Purdue University police chief, jkcox@purdue.edu