To The UVM Community:

As you are aware, an assault and sexual assault of a woman in the early morning hours occurred in the vicinity of our campus and is under investigation. In light of the circumstances, including the fact that an arrest has not yet been made, I am writing to express my profound concern and to further expand awareness of this critical situation. The full text of yesterday’s crime advisory from UVM Police Services appears below.

The woman who was attacked has been receiving ongoing professional support and services and is very much in our thoughts as she deals with this violent incident. Our community is shocked and appalled by what has happened, and we will do all we can to prevent such criminal acts from occurring in the future. Both local and UVM law enforcement agencies are effectively coordinating their resources to bring the investigation to a conclusion.

Burlington is known for its excellent quality of life and generous spirit. But sadly no community in this country is immune to this type of criminal behavior. I urge everyone, particularly our students, to be aware of their surroundings, to look out for themselves, each other and their colleagues, and to give the health, welfare, and safety of all members of our community their utmost attention.

As students return to campus, our staff will further reinforce with them the importance of personal safety and helping to build and maintain safe neighborhoods.

Tom Sullivan
President

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

Crime Advisory: Sexual Assault

An assault and sexual assault of woman is being investigated by the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI). The assault occurred on 8/20/12 between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 3:30a.m. in the area of Main St. between S. Prospect and Williams.

The lone woman was walking from the area of Willard St. east toward Prospect on the north side of Main St. when she was grabbed from behind, assaulted then sexually assaulted.

The suspect is described as a white, male, 25-30 years in age, 5’11 to 6’ tall, with a slender/ lanky build. He was described as having dark curly hair that was long in the front and back (not beyond the collar) and short on the sides. The subject was last seen wearing a dark t-shirt, tan shorts and sandals.

Anyone in the area or traveling through the area of Main St., Williams St., Prospect St., and College St. between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 4:00a.m. is asked to contact CUSI at 802-652-6800.

"Crime Awareness" is an integral component of "crime prevention." Knowledge that crimes occur encourages communities to actively participate in crime prevention efforts (e.g., locking doors, not walking alone, immediately reporting suspicious activity to police) creates a safer environment. Lack of information invites complacency. The preceding message was approved for campus-wide distribution by the Department of Police Services is to alert you to an incident, to promote safety on campus and, in part, to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1990.