

On Saturday July 11, 2015 at 11:13 a.m. a female student reported that while walking on 24th Ave South near the Free Electron Laser building and McTeire Hall she was assaulted by a man who pushed her to the ground from behind, then grabbed her buttocks and groped her and said “do not make a sound”. The student then yelled and ran from the area towards Medical Center East and entered a crowd of people.

A photograph of the suspect was identified by the victim. Description is an African American male, 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall, approximately 25-29 years of age. He has black braids or dreadlocks pulled back in a ponytail. He is wearing a bright blue T-shirt, black backpack, blue athletic shorts and gray tennis shoes. Photo below.



If you have information about this or a similar incident, please call the Vanderbilt University Police Department at (615) 322-2745.

Risk Reduction Tips

- Report any suspicious persons to VUPD. Be prepared to describe the person as best as you can.
- If a stranger does approach, maintain a distance and be observant; if they are in a vehicle, get the license plate number.
- Stay alert -- If you feel uneasy, leave the area. Go to a safe location and notify VUPD.

Vanderbilt prohibits sexual assault and other forms of power-based personal violence. The Sexual Misconduct and Other Forms of Power-Based Personal Violence Policy can be found [here](#).

If you feel uneasy about a situation, trust your instincts and attempt to interrupt the chain of events. Create a distraction and involve others. Make a commitment to ensure everyone has a safe way home. Being an active bystander doesn't require you put yourself at risk. If you believe a crime has been committed we encourage you to call [VUPD](#) . In an emergency call 911 or (615)421-1911. For non-emergencies or otherwise call (615) 322-2745.

[The Project Safe Center](#) offers a support line 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (615) 322-SAFE (7233). The [Psychological and Counseling Center](#) (PCC) offers support and resources as well; it can be reached at (615) 322-2571.