



OSU did not tell police of assault allegations

By **SAMANTHA VICENT**
Managing Editor

Oklahoma State University's student conduct office did not notify local law enforcement of its investigation into multiple sexual assault allegations.

On Thursday, *The Daily O'Collegian* received an anonymous email claiming a former member of FarmHouse fraternity has committed more than 10

assaults on new fraternity members. On Thursday night, Stillwater Police Capt. Randy Dickerson said he was unaware of the events described in the email.

However, after speaking with university sources on Friday morning, Dickerson said he learned OSU's student conduct office knew about "several occurrences" similar to those described in the anonymous email and investigated them. Dickerson decided to open a criminal investigation later that day.

On Friday night, Dickerson said Stillwater police investigators have spoken to two men who claim to be victims of varying sexual assaults.

"We have been provided information leading the Stillwater Police Department to believe there are numerous possible victims and that many alleged assaults committed by one suspect have been perpetrated in several jurisdictions, including Stillwater," he said. "We will continue our investigation, working

with other affected jurisdictional agencies as appropriate."

When FarmHouse became aware of the allegations, chapter members immediately notified the Interfraternity Council and student conduct officials, FarmHouse president Nick Jordan said Friday. Jordan said the student accused of the assaults is no longer a member of the fraternity and that none of the alleged assaults took place inside the chapter house.

OSU Director of Communications Gary Shutt confirmed that student conduct completed an investigation into an incident on Nov. 30 but did not specify what the allegations were. The incident was reported Nov. 12, he said.

"In anything that comes to student conduct, they determine whether law enforcement needs to be contacted," Shutt said. "Police were not notified, but

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ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JACKIE DOBSON/O'COLLEGIAN

There were 916 meth labs discovered in Oklahoma in 2011. Oklahoma has no requirements that labs be cleaned properly once discovered.

Meth clean up laws nonexistent in state

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is part of a series examining the dangers of methamphetamine production in Oklahoma.

By **JONATHAN SUTTON**
Editor-In-Chief

Oklahoma's lack of clean-up regulations for discovered methamphetamine labs could be risking the health of hundreds of Oklahomans.

Nine hundred and sixteen meth labs were discovered in Oklahoma in 2011, which is the fifth highest in the country behind Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana, according to the United States Drug Enforcement

Agency. Twenty-three states, including Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana, have strict regulations as to how labs should be cleaned once discovered.

Joseph Mozzuca, operations manager for Meth Lab Cleanup, a national business based in Idaho, said he sees many problems with no oversight when it comes to decontamination of a site.

"Everything used to make methamphetamine is a hazardous material," Mozzuca said. "It's definitely a health threat to people who inhabit the area."

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Spokesman Mark Woodward said there are many short and long-term effects of living in a residence that

hasn't been decontaminated.

Difficulty breathing, itchy and runny eyes, coughing and lung irritation can set in immediately for some people, Woodward said, and risks of liver cancer and kidney disease come with prolonged exposure.

Mozzuca, whose company cleans up thousands of meth labs every year across the country, said the dangers extend beyond just people living in the residences. The decontamination process itself can be dangerous, even deadly, for those who are not properly trained for the job.

"In Oklahoma, one of the most common ways to make meth is the red phosphorus method," Mozzuca said. "Red phosphorus is a very dangerous material. If a person is

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

OBN has guidelines for cleaning up labs at:

**www.deq.state.ok.us/
lpdnew/MethLabs.
meth.htm**

not properly trained and not wearing the appropriate protection, and they come across a big stain of red phosphorus on a carpet or wall and they attempt to clean it with water, it could kill them instantly. Red phosphorus and water is reactive and it

creates phosphine gas.

"We actually have a client in Colorado who is a vegetable now because he tried to decontaminate his own property and tried to clean a carpet with a rug doctor. He was in a coma within 30 minutes."

Mozzuca said this kind of scenario is especially likely in Oklahoma because the state does not require decontamination businesses to be certified or experienced.

"About half the states (with cleaning regulations) require certification in the training of contractors," Mozzuca said. "There's a lot of small mom and pops out there advertising this service, but a lot of them have no

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Student Conduct provides assistance

By **SALLY ASHER**

General Assignment Reporter

Students can find assistance in ethical, personal and intellectual development from the staff of Student Conduct Education and Administration.

Oklahoma State University's policy on student discipline is education in nature and the university recognizes that students will make mistakes and poor choices at one point or another during their college careers, according to the SCEA website on okstate.edu.

"SCEA strives to promote the highest quality of living and learning environment at OSU," according

to the website. "SCEA tries to help students reach their potential while at OSU and to set the foundations for personal and social success and meaning throughout life."

The staff of SCEA contacts and meets with students to assess situations of possible non-academic misconduct, and offers education, challenge and support for students who may be struggling with behavioral issues. SCEA also offers mediation services and operates the Back on TRAC alcohol and drug treatment program, according to the website.

OSU students are encouraged to follow a series of behavioral standards, such as being civically responsible

and engaged to improve the campus and community; respecting OSU's commitment to academic integrity; accepting responsibility for learning and personal behavior; and helping to maintain the safety and welfare of the campus community by immediately reporting unusual or dangerous behavior, according to the website.

"OSU is committed to providing a productive living and learning community in which students can pursue their educational goals," according to the website. "Sexual misconduct undermines this commitment and affects the ability of students to focus on their educational goals."

When there is sufficient informa-

tion or evidence to claim the university's policies concerning sexual misconduct have been violated, the university pursues disciplinary action through its own student conduct system.

The website encourages victims of sexual misconduct to call a close friend or relative, or Stillwater's 24-hour Rape Crisis Line (405-624-3020), as well as preserving evidence for criminal prosecution such as clothing and any other items involved in the misconduct.

For more information about student conduct, visit studentconduct.okstate.edu or the SCEA office at 328 Student Union, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Stillwater Rape Crisis Line

Student Conduct encourages victims of sexual misconduct to call:

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For full information on sexual misconduct, visit studentconduct.okstate.edu/index.php/sexual-misconduct.

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STUDENT:

A STUDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULTS.

From Page 1

it was the students' decision not to notify them at that time." During the student conduct investigation, five students came forward with information against the former fraternity member, he said.

Shutt also said information pertaining to the incident is protected by FERPA, or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Claiming protection under the act, Shutt declined to release the names of any of the parties involved in the investigation or provide details as to the student conduct board's decision.

An amendment to the FERPA guidelines says the act shall not prohibit universities from disclosing final results of a disciplinary proceeding if the accused student is an alleged perpetrator of any crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, which includes incest and statutory rape.

Disciplinary files maintained by student conduct are otherwise protected by FERPA, according to the U.S. Department of Education's website.

OSU's student conduct website says it may disclose hearing outcomes if a student is a perpetrator of such crimes but will

not release information regarding alleged victims or witnesses.

Student conduct panel member and SGA Supreme Court Justice Ben Copelin said he did not know about the investigation or allegations until Friday. The student conduct panel is comprised of 10 faculty, 10 staff and 10 students, but only one member of each group is needed to hold disciplinary hearings, according to the student code of conduct handbook.

In light of the Penn State sexual abuse scandal, the OSU/A&M Board of Regents formed a Policies and Procedures Review Task Force earlier this year to conduct a "comprehensive review" of board and institutional policies and to recommend appropriate changes, regents chairman Andy Lester said Sunday via email.

"Although no time limit was imposed on the Task Force to complete its work, I am hopeful it will make its recommendations so that the Board of Regents will be able to consider them at the next regular meeting (January 25, in Okmulgee at OSU-IT)," Lester said.

Lester said was aware of the assault allegations but was unfamiliar with the details of the situation.

"They are serious and warrant a full investigation," he said. "It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the facts of an ongoing investigation."

The news about OSU's handling of the reports has drawn negative reactions from students.

Steven Skiba, a psychology senior, said student conduct's decision to not report the incident to authorities is disappointing and indicates a failure of the system.

"I would like to see some investigation into that and possibly a revision of the system in place," he said. "This is something that should not happen

regularly."

Bobby Mizell, a recreation management senior, said the situation has hurt OSU's Greek community.

"With the stuff that happened with Jerry Sandusky at Penn State, this was not a good idea," he said. "The situation should have been turned over to authorities and handled faster."

Mizell said he thinks not notifying police was the wrong thing to do.

"My concern is how we keep the Greek community and students safe," he said.

Dickerson has not since released additional updates about the investigation but said he would provide more information on Monday.


Dickerson requests anyone with knowledge of the allegations call Stillwater PD at 405-742-8287.

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Man accused of assaults still enrolled

By **SAMANTHA VICENT**
Managing Editor

A student under police investigation for multiple alleged sexual assaults and investigated by OSU's student conduct office is still enrolled for the fall 2012 semester.

On Monday, Stillwater police Capt.

Randy Dickerson revealed three separate jurisdictions were investigating allegations of multiple sexual assaults committed by a former member of FarmHouse fraternity.

The OSU, Stillwater and Tahlequah police departments have each opened criminal investigations, he said.

"As complaints and allegations come in, we will send those to the right ju-

risdictional agencies," he said. "We have interviewed three alleged victims so far and a fourth by phone. I have also spoken to three or four students who claim there are large numbers of victims."

Stillwater police is using the term "sexual assault" to describe acts from fondling to oral sex and possibly to rape, Dickerson said. He also said detectives believe the student is still living in Still-

water.

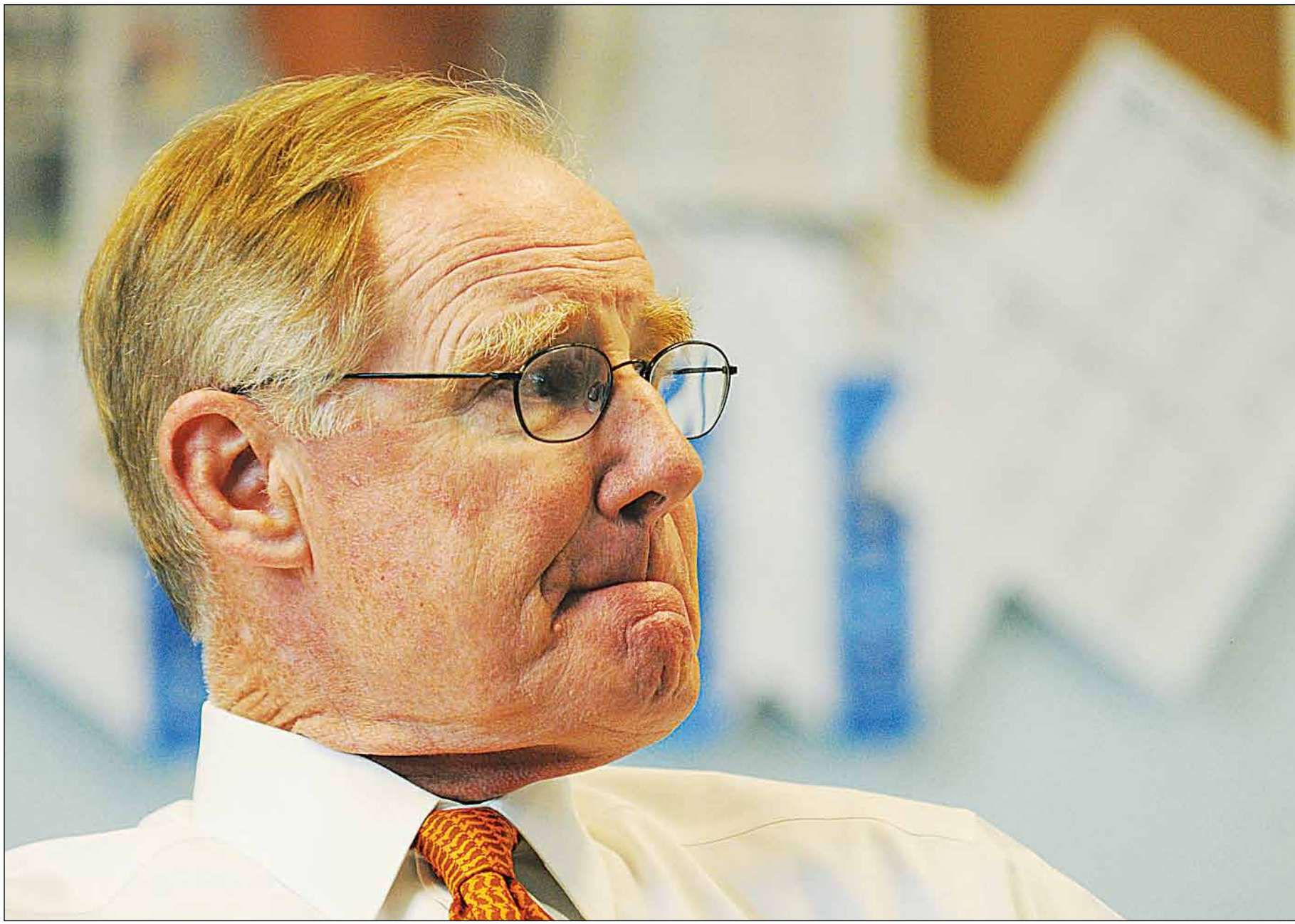
OSU Director of Communications Gary Shutt said Friday that student conduct met with the first of five alleged victims Nov. 12 and made a ruling Nov. 30. However, student conduct officials have declined to release the disciplinary ruling for the incident to either Stillwater police detectives or *The Daily O'Collegian*.

"I was told (student conduct) would not be able to do that without a court order," Dickerson said. "If and when that becomes needed, we will pursue that method."

Dickerson confirmed the alleged attacks were not the product of hazing within the fraternity.

SEE ASSAULT PAGE 3

TIGHT-LIPPED



KT KING/O'COLLEGIAN

OSU President Burns Hargis meets with The Daily O'Collegian editorial board in September. Hargis has refused a request for emails possibly related to Chesapeake Energy.

Hargis won't release emails mentioning Chesapeake

By **JONATHAN SUTTON**
Editor-in-Chief

Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis might have violated a university policy prohibiting the use of OSU email for commercial purposes by send-

ing more than 750 emails possibly related to Chesapeake Energy during the past four years.

Hargis insists he was not in violation of the policy, but his refusal to release the emails to The Daily O'Collegian and The Wall Street Journal makes verification impossible.

University officials said the emails "in no way conduct the transaction of public business" and should not be considered public records.

The emails could shed light on the recent operations of the nation's second-largest natural gas producer, which has been accused

of unethical business practices since June.

A government ethicist said Hargis' refusal to release the emails raises a "red flag" indicating a potential conflict of interest for the president, who was paid a little more than \$560,000 in 2011 as a member of the Chesapeake En-

ergy Board of Directors.

"This is what I call serving two masters," said Judy Nadler, a senior fellow in government ethics at the Markkula Center for ethics at Santa Clara University in California.

SEE HARGIS PAGE 3

Offensive coordinator to coach at Southern Miss.

By **BRENDON MORRIS**
Sports Editor

It was bound to happen eventually, but it just so happened to be this off-season.

It was announced Monday that offensive coordinator Todd Monken has decided to accept the head coaching position at Southern Mississippi, a member of Conference USA.

Monken has had a great run at Oklahoma State since his hire in spring 2011. He called plays for two of the nation's best offenses in their respective 2011 and 2012 seasons and coached two first-round draft picks in Brandon Weeden and Justin Blackmon.

This season was a bit harder for him than the previous one, but he proved his brilliance by piecing together an offense plagued by injuries, and he did

it well. He had three 1,000-yard passers, a 1,000-yard receiver, and a 1,300-yard rusher.

"I don't know what anybody thinks (about him)," coach Mike Gundy said of Monken in a press conference last month. "Do I ultimately think he'll be a head coach? Yes. But it has to be the right situation for somebody to take on an assistant. It has to be, in my opinion, a great situation for him."

It is unknown whether Monken will coach the Cowboys in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on New Years Day, and it is also unknown as to who the possible replacements will be for Gundy's team.

sports@ocolly.com



MONKEN

State's meth problem far from over

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is part of a series examining the dangers of methamphetamine production in Oklahoma.

By **BRANDON WILKEN**
Copy Chief

Sometimes, regulation causes more problems than it solves.

The methamphetamine epidemic in Oklahoma is no different.

After seeing a 12,000 percent increase in meth lab seizures from 1994-2003, Oklahoma law enforcement, prosecutors and mental health experts met in private to make a preliminary draft of HB 2176 to help curb the production of meth in the state.

The bill passed out of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry on April 6, 2004.

Although a sharp decrease in the amount of meth labs in the three years

Meth labs in Oklahoma
Since the passage of HB 2176 in 2004, the number of seized labs in the state:

2004:	465
2005:	334
2006:	194
2007:	148
2008:	213
2009:	743
2010:	818
2011:	909

that followed was seen, the number has once again grown at an alarming rate since 2008.

The bill, which restricted the sale of pseudoephedrine, a key component in the production of meth, helped resurface the shake-and-bake, or one-pot, method of methamphetamine production.

Mark Woodward, spokesman for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, said the benefits of the bill extended

The bill, which restricts the sales of pseudoephedrine, came after the state saw a 12,000 percent increase in the amount of seized labs from 1994-2003. This bill also led to the resurgence of the shake-and-bake method of meth production.

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

far beyond statistics.

"We had users say that because of that bill, they couldn't get Sudafed and it forced them to get clean and saved their life," he said. "So it's had a huge effect. Not just meth labs down by 95 percent, but meth fires, meth contaminated homes, meth exposed children that are in those environments, all of those dropped."

SEE METH PAGE 4

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“These do not appear to be any type of hazing,” he said. “These appear to be the acts of a sexual predator who is preying on young males. If we can’t put a halt to this, it will continue.”

Shutt said in a statement Monday that information about the student conduct investigation is confidential under FERPA, or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

“Oklahoma State University took the allegations very seriously and took immediate action,” he said. “Due to federal laws (FERPA), OSU was not allowed to contact police. On numerous occasions, OSU officials encouraged the students to contact police and provided contact information. None of the students elected to contact

Stillwater PD
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police at that time.”

Shutt said the student conduct investigation is still pending because one of the parties involved has decided to appeal the panel’s decision.

“OSU proceeded swiftly with its student conduct process,” he said. “Due to FERPA, OSU cannot provide the results of those hearings until the appeal period has expired and the results become final.”

Despite the pending investigation, Shutt revealed the student was part of a level three student conduct committee hearing.

A level three hearing is used

‘If (OSU) made the judgment call not to alert the police, that’s their judgment, but they shouldn’t be hiding behind FERPA.’

FRANK LOMONTE, executive director of the Student Press Law Center

when suspension or expulsion from the university is possible or when the accused denies responsibility for a code of conduct violation, according to the student code of conduct handbook.

Frank LoMonte, the executive director of the Student Press Law Center, said he doubts FERPA prohibits institutions from notifying police in this particular case.

“There actually is quite a bit of discretion, if you determine you have a serial rapist, to tell the police so they can prevent future rapes,” he said. “If (OSU) made the judgment call not to alert the police, that’s their judgment, but they shouldn’t be hiding behind FERPA.”

LoMonte also said the university should have alerted the OSU campus community about the alleged assaults.

“If you learn that you have in your midst someone who may have committed sexual assaults, that may trigger an obligation under the Clery Act to give warning,” he said.

The Clery Act, which went into effect in 1990, requires that all institutions of higher education receiving financial aid maintain and publish information about crime at or near campuses. It also requires institutions to give timely warnings of crimes that represent a threat to students’ or employees’ safety.

FarmHouse president Nick

Jordan said Friday the student accused of the assaults is no longer a member of the fraternity and none of the alleged incidents took place inside the chapter house. The chapter immediately informed the OSU Interfraternity Council and student conduct about the reports, he said.

FarmHouse international office executive director Chad Harris commended the OSU chapter’s efforts to resolve the issue on Monday.

“The fraternity has investigated and is assured that the chapter’s response has been appropriate and accurate in following the fraternity’s policies and procedures,” he said. “It is our understanding that these allegations stem from the behavior of one individual who is no longer affiliated with FarmHouse fraternity...The alleged incidents did not occur at the chapter’s fraternity house and were in no way part of a fraternity event, nor were they part of the new member education program of FarmHouse fraternity.”

The assault reports have inspired 1 in 4, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rape prevention and programming, to take action, 1 in 4 men’s chapter president Victor Kamesar said Monday.

The men’s chapter presents to fraternities, residence halls and other campus organizations, teaching audiences how to respond when friends approach them saying they have been sexually assaulted, he said.

As a result of these assault allegations, Kamesar said he hopes to propose that IFC require its member fraternities’ pledge classes to attend 1 in 4 presentations.

“(Rape) is a very real issue and it clearly unfortunately happens on our campus,” Kamesar said. “I hope people will realize how serious of an issue this is and that people will start to talk about it more. The more educated we are about the truth about sexual assault, then the easier it will be to understand victims and prevent this in the future.”

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HARGIS:
ETHICS EXPERTS SAY
HARGIS HAS CONFLICT
OF INTEREST.

From Page 1

“On the one hand, he has an obligation to this company to advance the welfare of the company. This includes not divulging any confidential material or whatever else,” Nadler said. “On the other hand, as the president of the university, he has a responsibility to be accountable to the public.”

“And so, this is one of those things where you can’t have it both ways.”

Under OSU’s email policy, “the use of university computing systems for commercial purposes is strictly forbidden. The sending of electronic mail, which is commercial in character, is a violation of this acceptable use policy.”

During an interview in November, Hargis said he doesn’t believe he violated the policy. But he refused to disclose the content of the emails.

“If I’m not going to release the emails, I’m probably not going to talk about what they say,” Hargis said.

In September and August respectively, The Daily O’Collegian and The Wall Street Journal made an open records request for emails sent and received by Hargis on his OSU emails account containing the words “Chesapeake,” “Aubrey,” “McClendon,” and emails between Hargis and former members of the Chesapeake Board.

A 2001 Oklahoma attorney general’s opinion outlines which government emails are considered public records.

Then Attorney General Drew Edmonson wrote, “Email created or received by a public body in connection with the transaction of public business, the expenditure of public funds or the admin-

‘It is not OK to use the private sector standards when you are a public sector employee. The question is why would he want to hide anything?’

JUDY NADLER, senior fellow in government ethics at the Markkula Center for Ethics at Santa Clara University

istering of public property is a record subject to the Open Records Act.

“An email between government employees making lunch plans, if such use is permitted by the agency, generally would not be considered a public record because it would not be in connection with public business, spending public money or administering public property.”

Hargis said his emails would fall under this exemption because he sometimes receives emails and can’t control what people send to him.

Hargis said he normally conducts Chesapeake business on his home computer.

The Chesapeake Board removed CEO Aubrey McClendon as chairman of the board in June after Reuters reported he took out about \$1 billion worth of loans using his company interest in gas wells as collateral.

McClendon remains CEO of the company and continues to serve as a member of the board.

At a June meeting, Chesapeake shareholders voted to remove Hargis from the board. He submitted his resignation shortly afterward but was retained on the board to complete a review of McClendon’s financial arrangements, according to Reuters.

McClendon’s actions have prompted a federal class action lawsuit by shareholders accusing him of acting irresponsibly. The lawsuit “question(s) whether (McClendon) has (shareholder’s) interests or his own at heart.”

The lawsuit also points out that after the Reuters story, the Chesapeake Board issued a press release saying the Board of Directors was “fully aware” of McClendon’s loans. Hargis is not mentioned in the lawsuit.

Government ethics expert Kathleen Clark said she believes Hargis’ positions as president and board member presents a strong conflict of interest.

“The fact that he is serving in both capacities really calls into question anything he does at the intersection of the two,” said Clark, who is a professor of government ethics at Washington University Law School in St. Louis.

As the former mayor of Santa Clara, Calif., Nadler said she is an advocate for transparency in government.

“It is not OK to use the private sector standards when you are a public sector employee,” she said. “The question is why would he want to hide anything?”

She said in her opinion, public officials should err on the side of disclosure, especially when said figure is also an employee of a private company.

“The president refusing to release his emails when he is in fact intimately aligned with this controversy raises more questions than it answers,” she said.

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Student under investigation suspended

By **SAMANTHA VICENT**

Managing Editor

Oklahoma State University released the student conduct outcome for a student who is being investigated for multiple sexual assaults.

Nathan Cochran, 22, was found responsible for four violations of the sexual misconduct section of the OSU

Student Code of Conduct, according to the document. Cochran was suspended from the university for three years starting Friday and was ordered to have no contact with any of the complainants.

The university issued a statement offering condolences to the alleged victims and explaining its decision not to contact police.

"Oklahoma State University fol-

lowed all laws, including the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and policies while carrying out its student conduct process. The university acted responsibly and swiftly to take action on the allegations brought forward by students. The university's thoughts are with the students involved and OSU appreciates the cooperation of the students who brought allegations forward."

Stillwater police Capt. Randy Dickerson did not confirm Cochran's identity but said detectives have not interviewed the suspect as of Tuesday afternoon. As the investigation has developed, Dickerson has taken issue with outside media portrayal of the FarmHouse fraternity, of which Cochran is a former member.

"I continue to see this investigation referred to as the 'FarmHouse inves-

tigation' or the 'FarmHouse sexual assault case,'" he said. "I think this is an unfair characterization of the case and is unfair to the fraternity. The facts that are coming forward at this time are that a suspect is alleged to have committed numerous sexual assaults on an, as of yet, undetermined number of young men."

SEE ASSAULT PAGE 8

RIDING HIGH

Student finds home in graduate program

- Shane Hoffman, a graduate student, went from living off food stamps to attending Missouri and OSU by earning loans and scholarships.

By **ELIZABETH NICHOLAS**

Contributing Reporter

The average graduate student enters the working world about \$30,000 in debt, according to the US Department of Education website.

Shane Hoffman, an Oklahoma State graduate student, grew up on food stamps in a single-parent home in small town New Mexico. Hoffman will graduate in a year with zero student loan debt and a master's degree in mass communications.

Shane, a triplet, is the shortest of his three brothers, at 6-foot-3. The three boys grew about 4 inches a year for about four years straight. For a stay at home, single mother, it was hard enough to provide the shirts on their backs and food on the table. A college education was presumably out of the picture.

In seventh grade English class, though, Shane set a goal to attend the number one journalism school in the country.

"Being my nerd self, I went to the library and looked up 'top journalism schools in the United States,'" he said. "The University of Missouri came up as number one."

As a 13-year-old boy, Shane didn't consider that a mother who struggled to pay for electricity each month would be unable to pay college tuition. Five years later, Shane



COURTESY PHOTO

Shane Hoffman (middle) poses with head football coach Mike Gundy and OSU broadcaster Dave Hunziker.

applied to Missouri – and only Missouri.

"It was the only school on my radar," he said. "I got accepted, which was great, but just to step foot on campus, I'd have to take out \$16,000."

While the odds didn't appear in his favor, Shane was determined. His identical twin Dillon says this is a consistent characteristic of Shane.

"He's just very driven," Dillon said. "And very resourceful. He just has this uncanny way of navigating his way through life and just gaining this support."

Shane urged his mother to apply for a student loan, promising to pay off every penny. His guidance counselor offered to drive him to school, as he had no means of traveling the nearly 1,000 miles to Missouri.

"I'd never had access to a car," he

said.

To his surprise, the loan was approved and Shane headed to Missouri to accomplish his dream.

"I literally showed up with no license, no cell phone and no computer," he said. "It was my body, my clothes and a couple hundred bucks."

Upon arriving at Missouri, Hoffman thought he had overcome his worst potential obstacles. After meeting with his adviser, he quickly decided otherwise.

"She told me she saw my sort of situation all the time and that there was a high chance I wouldn't make it 'til Thanksgiving," he said.

The discouraging words only lit a fire under Shane. He found a work-study job tutoring kindergarteners and fifth graders. He worked hard, saved money and wound up with his

goal GPA.

"Basically, I just busted my tail and ended up with a 4.0," he said.

One day, he saw the dean after class and scheduled a meeting with him.

"He told me if I got a 3.5 from here on out, he'd give me a scholarship," Shane said. "I feel like God puts doors in front of you. You have to realize that door is there and have the faith to walk through and see what's on the other side."

The next fall, he became a Resident Assistant, receiving free housing and meal plan for compensation. His debt dropped from \$16,000 per year to \$2,000.

"Life was looking up," he said. "Then I headed home for Christmas break."

Shane arrived home to learn his mother would soon lose her job and

house. This meant he was homeless as well.

"I had nowhere to go on breaks," he said. "I knew people who would go home every weekend for laundry and a home cooked meal. I was sleeping in and trying to find ways to keep busy, which usually meant studying."

On one particular day of studying, Shane received a call from his fraternal twin Cody, who received a MySpace message from a woman claiming to be their sister.

"Shane called," Dillon said. "You know, acting like the aspiring reporter that he wants to be."

Jessica said she'd been searching for Shane, Dillon and Cody for more than 15 years.

After catching up with his newly

SEE HOFFMAN PAGE 8

Monroe Street opens back up

By **KYLE HINCHEY**

General Assignment Reporter

A sigh of relief spread across campus Friday when the word got out that Monroe Street is once again open to the public.

Monroe Street, which runs through the center of the Oklahoma State University campus, has been undergoing construction all semester. The completion date for the construction was set for August 2013, so it was a surprise for many this weekend when they learned the road is accessible.

However, the road is not open 24/7. The public has full access to Monroe Street every day from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 a.m., which began last Friday, said Mike Buchert, director of Long Range Facility Planning.



EMILY NIELSEN/O'COLLEGIAN

Monroe Street will be open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the road will remain closed between the Whitehurst parking lot and West Farm Road because of ongoing construction.

These hours are expected to remain in place until construction is finished,

Buchert said.

Senior Jake Hubbard said he is glad the street reopened.

"(Monroe Street being closed) has

SEE MONROE PAGE 6

Meth labs in Stillwater cause issues for locals

- Payne County had 26 meth lab seizures in the first nine months of 2012. There were 17 in all of 2011.

By **JAMES POLING**

Senior Sports Reporter

An increase in the use of methamphetamine in Payne County is exposing Stillwater residents, including Oklahoma State students, to the drug's hazards.

The one pot and shake-n-bake methods have allowed meth makers to get by restrictions passed in 2004 against the sale of pseudoephedrine, a

key ingredient in cooking meth.

The amount of meth labs busted increased starting in 2008 when the recipe for the one pot and shake-n-bake methods originated near Tulsa, said Mark Woodward, public information director at the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. The new methods allow meth makers to use less pseudoephedrine and create the drug in small items such as bottles.

Payne County had 26 meth lab busts during the first nine months of 2012, according to OBNDD. This number is nine more than 2011 in its entirety and is a significant increase from not having any meth labs busted in 2008.

SEE METH PAGE 6



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This shouldn't be about protecting reputations; it should be about protecting students.

The Daily O'Collegian's ongoing investigation into multiple sexual assault allegations has exposed a tendency at OSU to favor secrecy over disclosure. When the safety of students is at risk, it behooves anyone with information that could ensure the well-being of a community to relay that information to the proper authorities.

It has become clear in recent days that the university failed to deliver in this respect, which we believe to be its most important responsibility. In the past, when substantiated allegations of sexual assault or any violent crime have been levied against a member of the OSU community, the administration has been swift to alert the campus of the possible danger. However, as more information comes to light in this instance, we are led to believe there was a direct intent to keep these allegations and their details from the public.

These actions cause us to wonder if more of these accusations have been handled internally without notifying local police or the public. We hope this is not the case. Furthermore, we believe the campus deserves to know the true intent behind the decisions not to notify law enforcement of this particular investigation.

Considering the initial impression of how this was handled, the university needs to take a serious look at its policies concerning the Student Conduct Education and Administration Board and determine what should be done in future cases that involve serious accusations of criminal activity.

We believe that Student Conduct exists to handle academic and behavioral complaints at the university but is not the equivalent of our state's judicial system. The members of the board are not trained as law enforcement personnel and are therefore not qualified to determine guilt or punishment in a criminal matter.

It is up to Oklahoma State University to lead the community in creating an atmosphere of transparency, honesty and safety. This can only be done by being willing to admit fault, accept criticism and change the culture of silence.

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HOFFMAN:

STUDENT WILL GRADUATE FROM OSU WITHOUT DEBT.

From Page 1

found half sister, Hoffman learned his father suffered from liver cancer and would die without a transplant.

"I had been told my whole life that (my father) wanted nothing to do with me," Shane said.

Shane received his father's number from Jessica, prayed for patience and called him.

"Two things were apparent," he said. "One, I'd never talked to someone who was so remorseful. Two, I'd never talked to someone with a thicker Texas accent."

His father's cancer derived from his years as an alcoholic.

"I told him I thought he'd actually done us a favor by leaving, because we would have grown up in a home of substance abuse,"

'I told him I thought he'd actually done us a favor by leaving, because we would have grown up in a home of substance abuse.'

stance abuse," Shane said. "He started crying because he never expected to hear those words come out of my mouth."

He received the closure he needed from his newfound relationship with his father, who is on his way to full recovery from his recent transplant.

"Literally, if you told a movie script this, they'd say it was too far fetched" Shane said.

In the summer of 2010, Shane and his brothers received back pay from when their father was declared disabled in August 2009. Shane put the \$7,000 toward the loan in his mother's name, and it was officially paid off.

"By the time I was ready to graduate in May, all \$25,000 of my debt was paid off," he said.

Shane was ready to graduate with a 3.93 – straight A's in a plus/minus grading system.

He visited OSU in March 2011 on spring break and met with Derina Holtzhausen, director of the OSU School of Media and Strategic Communications.

"She basically asked what it would take to get me here," he said. "I explained my financial needs and she graciously approved the funding."

Hoffman landed in Oklahoma in August with no plan to stay beyond his two years

of graduate school. He wasn't finished receiving surprising news, though.

"Dave Hunziker, the voice of the cowboys, heard my name from a Missouri alum and offered to show me around," he said.

Hunziker asked Shane if he'd like to work in the press box with him.

"I stopped and thought for zero seconds and said yes," Shane said.

As his two years in Stillwater are wrapping up, Shane doesn't plan on going anywhere.

"Stillwater is home," he said. "I told Dave, 'I don't care if I'm digging ditches, but I'm staying here.'"

Hoffman still doesn't have a driver's license or vehicle, but his priorities are straight.

"I figure I'm a more eligible bachelor free of debt with no car than some guy with a nice car and ton of debt," he said.

features@ocolly.com

ASSAULT:

OSU RELEASED NAME OF STUDENT UNDER INVESTIGATION.

From Page 1

Dickerson also said many of the alleged victims are not members of FarmHouse and praised the chapter's approach to the allegations.

"FarmHouse acted appropriately in reporting the matter as they did," he said. "The allegations so far indicate one suspect acting independently to commit illegal acts on a number of victims. We continue to work with OSUPD as the investigation continues."

As of Tuesday, Stillwater detectives have interviewed at least four possible victims, and Dickerson said there could be "dozens" more on campus, in the city of Stillwater and in Tahlequah.

OSU's Fraternity and Sorority Affairs website indicates Cochran was the secretary of the Interfraternity Council until his term ended last week. He previously served on SGA's executive branch during the 2011-2012 academic year as well as coordinated Gundyville, a program allowing students to camp outside Boone Pickens Stadium for football games.

He also served as a counselor for Camp Cowboy, which allows incoming freshmen to spend a week-end getting to know fellow new students and take part in outdoor activities like ropes courses.

Cochran has not yet been charged in Payne County or Cherokee County District Court.

Dickerson requests anyone with knowledge of the allegations to call Stillwater PD at 405-742-8287.

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UPDATE: Student arrested on sex crime complaints

by Samantha Vicent / Copy Chief | Posted: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 5:21 pm

A student found responsible for sexual misconduct by OSU's student conduct board turned himself in to the Stillwater Police Department Wednesday night.

Nathan Cochran, 22, was arrested around 10:15 p.m. Wednesday on a warrant for three counts of sexual battery, Stillwater Capt. Randy Dickerson said. Cochran was charged with the crimes around 4:30 p.m. that day. He is in custody at the Stillwater City Jail and will be transferred to the Payne County Jail before his arraignment on Thursday, Dickerson said.

Detectives contacted members of Cochran's family in northeastern Oklahoma and learned that he and one of his relatives were en route from there to the police department to facilitate his arrest, he said.

Cochran is accused of committing the acts on Nov. 3, 2011 and Aug. 15, according to the Oklahoma State Courts Network.

OSU university officials released the results of its student conduct investigation on Tuesday, revealing the board found Cochran responsible for four violations of sexual misconduct. Cochran was suspended from the university for three years, effective Friday, according to the document. He was a member of FarmHouse fraternity and served as secretary of the Interfraternity Council until last week.

On Dec. 11, Stillwater police Sgt. Jeff Watts interviewed a witness who said on the night of Nov. 3, he woke up to find Cochran's hand down his pants, where he was rubbing his genital area. The man said he pretended to be asleep in hopes Cochran would stop, according to an affidavit. Soon after, the man reported feeling Cochran's genitals on his face and around his mouth, saying Cochran tried to make him perform oral sex, the affidavit says.

During that night, the man said Cochran performed oral sex and digital anal penetration, eventually stopping when the man did not respond, according to the same affidavit.

In a separate affidavit, another man claimed Cochran groped and fondled his genital area in his on-campus dorm room around 4 a.m. on Aug. 15. The witness went into the bathroom when he woke up and realized what was happening, according to the affidavit.

Soon after, Cochran left, sending the witness several text messages apologizing for his drunken behavior, according to the affidavit.

In a conference call Wednesday, administrators Gary Shutt and Gary Clark elaborated on the university's handling of the incident.

Clark said the university first received a call Nov. 7 from FarmHouse president Nick Jordan and two advisers requesting information on how students can come forward to report sexual misconduct. The

university provided packets with information about how to contact campus and local law enforcement, as well as counseling services on and off-campus.

On Nov. 9, student conduct received a written complaint alleging Cochran committed multiple sexual assaults, Clark said. The student conduct panel met with the first of five possible victims Nov. 12 and a second complainant came forward the next day. The first victim said he did not want to notify police of the incident.

Cochran denied the allegations at the time, necessitating a level three conduct committee hearing. Level three hearings are used when suspension or expulsion from the university is possible and/or when one of the parties denies the accusations made against him or her, according to the student code of conduct handbook.

On Nov. 28, three additional possible victims approached student conduct with claims against Cochran. Clark said despite the short notice, the panel elected to hear all five incidents Nov. 30.

Cochran did not appear in front of the panel for the hearings but did not request a continuance, Clark said.

After providing a timeline of the investigation, Clark defended the university's decision not to notify police.

"Our office of student conduct did not believe, and correctly so in retrospect, that there was a threat," he said.

Some of the complainants said Cochran assaulted them between six and 18 months prior to their reports to student conduct, Clark said.

Clark also said he did not think revealing Cochran's identity would help police because the university would not be able to release the names of his accusers, citing FERPA guidelines.

"What would the police be able to do with that information?" he said. "Nothing, as far as I can tell."

Since the conclusion of student conduct's investigation, at least five alleged victims have contacted the Stillwater Police Dept., Capt. Randy Dickerson said Wednesday. Clark said detectives do not believe the people going to police are the same as those who reported the matter to student conduct.

Shutt said it was "unusual" for student conduct to handle sex crime allegations, adding that victims normally approach campus or local law enforcement.

Amid disputes over OSU's possible obligations to report the crime to police, Clark defended the university's approach to the situation.

"We provided information about counseling services for these victims," he said. "We're here to support our students and to protect their privacy rights...We haven't enjoyed being bashed in the press, and I think unfairly, for trying to follow the law."

The debate over OSU's perceived legal and ethical responsibility comes from its interpretation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA. Earlier this week, the university said it would be an invasion of the victims' privacy to notify police of the reported assaults. Clark added to this Wednesday,

saying each victim is an adult and can contact police on his own.

"It's not our place to try to force (victims) to try to do something they don't want to do," he said.

Despite this, Clark said had *The Daily O'Collegian* not questioned Stillwater police about the allegations, he was unsure if law enforcement would have ever discovered them.

Student remains in custody, bond reduction hearing set

by Samantha Vicent / Copy Chief | Posted: Thursday, December 13, 2012 2:15 pm

A former Oklahoma State University student will remain in the Payne County Jail on a \$100,000 bond for at least a week, Payne County Judge R.L. Hert decided Thursday.

Nathan Micheal Cochran, 22, appeared in court via video before Hert to receive his three sexual battery charges. He did not enter a plea.

Cochran faces up to 10 years in prison for each sexual battery charge, according to an information sheet filed in the case.

Assistant District Attorney Jill Tontz requested a bond reduction hearing next week, as Associate District Judge Katherine Thomas would be unable to hear Cochran's case Friday. Thomas signed the warrant requesting the \$100,000 bond, court records show.

Cochran will next appear in court at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

The OSU student conduct board found Cochran responsible for four violations of sexual misconduct on Nov. 30 after five students came forward with complaints against him. The first complaint came Nov. 11, with the second Nov. 13 and the final three Nov. 28, OSU vice president and general counsel Gary Clark said Wednesday. Cochran is suspended from the university for three years beginning on Friday. The university released the student conduct board's decision Tuesday, as the appeal period for the case expired at 5:01 p.m. that day.

Cochran is accused of sexually assaulting two males on Nov. 3, 2011 and Aug. 15. The first incident happened at a residence in Stillwater, with the witness alleging Cochran attempted to force him to perform oral sex while he was sleeping, according to the affidavit. He also reportedly performed oral sex on the witness, among other sex acts. Two of the sexual battery charges stem from that altercation.

In the second affidavit, another witness told OSU investigators Cochran assaulted him in his on-campus residence. He woke up around 4 a.m. that day to see Cochran trying to put his hands down his gym shorts. He went to the bathroom and remained there until Cochran left, he said. The witness in that case also showed investigators text messages Cochran sent him, which ask the witness "not to ruin his life" because he was "blackout" drunk when the incident occurred, court records show. He also allegedly expressed suicidal thoughts in the messages.

Stillwater police Capt. Randy Dickerson said Wednesday that detectives have spoken to at least six possible victims, with possibly "dozens" more who have not yet come forward. OSUPD and SPD are working together on the case, with Tahlequah police officers beginning their own investigation after local law

enforcement finish, Tahlequah public information officer Brad Robertson said Wednesday.

Stillwater police: "stunned" by comments from university

by Samantha Vicent / Copy Chief | Posted: Thursday, December 13, 2012 3:46 pm

Amid debate over whether Oklahoma State University had a legal or moral obligation to notify police about multiple reported sexual misconduct violations, Stillwater police Capt. Randy Dickerson said he was "stunned" at administrator Gary Clark's comments during a Wednesday conference call with media.

Clark said student conduct correctly determined former student Nathan Cochran, 22, was not a safety threat. Cochran was found responsible for four violations of sexual misconduct by the student conduct panel on Nov. 30 and was arrested Wednesday night on a warrant for three sexual battery charges. He was involved in several leadership positions on campus and was a member of FarmHouse fraternity until earlier this year.

"It is my understanding that two students came forward initially with sexual assault claims against one suspect," Dickerson said. "Before the case was even heard by student conduct three more victims came forward to be heard by the board. I would certainly draw the conclusion that one suspect who had sexually assaulted five young men might be considered a threat to other students."

Dickerson also refuted the university's defense of its decision not to notify police of its findings. University officials said they could not tell law enforcement because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA. Clark said he would not be able to provide the names of victims in the case and without those names, revealing Cochran's identity would not be beneficial to them.

"The decision to notify law enforcement at that time was certainly available to Oklahoma State University through exceptions in FERPA," Dickerson said. "They made the decision not to notify police, which is their call to make however; to attempt to justify this by saying this man is not a threat to other students is quite honestly, a huge misunderstanding of this case."

The captain also said he believes there a "significant number" of victims who have not come forward to authorities.

"We have been in contact with numerous victims in this case; some are willing to make police reports while some are not," he said. "The five or six victims we have worked with to initiate formal criminal investigations are not the same five who reported to student conduct...Obviously Mr. Clark and I have a difference of opinion on some aspects of this investigation."

Dickerson further disputed Clark's assertion that Cochran's name would not help the police in their investigation.

"OSU has never released any information to us in this case," he said. "Our case was generated after I learned of the sexual assaults Thursday night-Friday morning through a reporter from the campus newspaper. We

generated a case by talking to members and officers within varying fraternity houses and other students, just by putting out the word we were looking into it...Our department did not directly contact any victims; we waited for them to contact us if they wished. We opened a case Friday at noon and had already been contacted by three victims by that evening."

He also said assistance from the university would have been appreciated.

"I cannot determine a level of importance on specific pieces of information but any kind of timely notification by the University would have instigated this investigation weeks earlier than how it occurred," he said. "We verified credible information that crimes might have taken place in or around Stillwater on Friday, December 7 and as of that night had three victims contact our department."

The university first became aware of possible sexual misconduct violations Nov. 9, Clark said Wednesday.

On Thursday, OSU Director of Communications Gary Shutt sent out a news release saying President Burns Hargis ordered a task force review into the university's handling of the situation.

"The seriousness of this matter warrants a focused and full investigation into how it was handled by the University," Hargis said. "We treat sexual misconduct incidents among students at OSU as a violation of the student code of conduct, involving confidential on-campus hearings...I cannot say enough about the students who came forward to participate in the hearings. They did the right thing and I personally commend them. And I am also appreciative that University officials involved in the hearings repeatedly urged the students to contact the police."

Hargis also said the university must answer any remaining questions.

"...we have an obligation to clear up any ambiguity, and if warranted, amend and strengthen our policies and procedures while abiding by federal laws," he said. "In that regard, the task force set up by the OSU/A&M Board of Regents affords us a timely opportunity to take a deliberate and comprehensive review of the handling of this specific incident. We cannot leave any doubt that we are indeed properly and appropriately handling sexual misconduct allegations, and we must determine if we need to amend our policies and procedures to more effectively and efficiently handle these types of matters in the future."

The task force will be led by regents member Andy Lester, who said the university has a responsibility to review its policies, especially in the aftermath of the Penn State sexual abuse scandal.

"We will do so in a constructive manner, ever mindful of the sensitivities and concerns of victims; but, it is also our obligation to expeditiously protect our students and community from those who are found to threaten our society with sexual misconduct," Lester said.

As of Friday, Cochran was released from the Payne County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.