

# THE COLLEGIAN

SERVING THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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## NORTHWEST

# Sexual assault reported

## Victim alleges attack in north parking lot

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Police are investigating an alleged sexual assault that occurred on the second day of the semester on NW Campus.

The assault occurred Aug. 22 between 7 and 8 a.m. in the north parking lot, according to an email sent by police districtwide.

In the email, the suspect was described as a white male, blonde with blue eyes and wearing shorts. His car was described as a small blue vehicle, possibly a van.

An open records request for more information was denied by TCC Public Information Officer Keith Whetstone because the investigation is ongoing.

Some NW students are uncomfortable with a report so early in the semester, including NW student Sydney Ellis who said they were worried.

"It's kind of scary," they said.

However, Ellis was comforted by the fact that police stationed their cars outside the NW05 building, which faces the north lot. They also felt it was good to know the police academy was training across the way.

"That's kind of comforting, that they might not be police yet, but they're training," they said.

An email notifying TCC of the report was also helpful to Ellis because of the details on the suspect's appearance and what car he drove.

Another NW student, Quin Roads, said she believes it is shocking that it happened with the number of police present.

“I do have to call my friend whenever I'm walking because I don't want to get snatched,”

**Sydney Ellis**  
NW student

"With them being around, I wouldn't think that would happen," she said. "But it happens."

Despite Ellis' sentiment on the police presence, they feel more comfortable going to a staff or faculty member to report on incidents of sexual assault.

"Due to past situations, I've never really been comfortable talking to police in general," they said.

Jonnie Hazen, NW administrative assistant of mathematics and science, said she feels absolutely safe on campus and sees campus police every day.

As a faculty member, she is

required to report a sexual assault that is brought to her attention. Therefore, she always discloses to students that she must report any statement made. She has made one report in her time at TCC.

Staff members are required to take training on reporting sexual assault under Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in an educational program that receives government funding.

NW student Angel Jassl believes that though NW Campus likely has its blind spots, he feels relatively safe there.

However, with campus under construction, he does not know if there are directions stating a place to report at.

"I'm sure they have signs, but it's not like you know where to go," he said.

Ellis has classes that stretch into the evening, and they acknowledge the danger of walking alone after dark.

"I do have to call my friend whenever I'm walking because I don't want to get snatched," they said.

Campus resources like police are available to help with escorting by calling (817) 515-8911 and requesting an officer escort. Blue telephone boxes are stationed around campus accessible in case of emergencies, and anonymous reporting is available online.

## DISTRICT

# Why top students chose TCC over four-year college



Ariel DeSantiago/The Collegian

NW students visit tables during Northwest Fest, an event held in NW05. The event featured dancing, food and music.

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NE student Mimi Nguyen was poised to attend a top-ranked four year university.

In 2022, she was ranked 11th in a graduating class of 500. She participated in marching band and art, even making state two years. But Nguyen has found her community at TCC.

"I've made a lot more new friends outside my past circle," Nguyen said.

There is a stigma surrounding the type of students who attend community college, and that deters many from applying to schools like TCC. For Nguyen and NE student Amy Ponce, attending a two-year institution seemed even more unusual because they graduated top of their class. Nguyen debated on going to a four-year institution. However, TCC remained a top choice.

"TCC was always in the back of my mind," Nguyen said. "In general, I was very dismissive of going to a four year."

Nguyen applied to Ivy League schools through Quest-Bridge, a nonprofit designed to bridge the gap between low-income and first-generation students to college, but was rejected.

"I [thought] this [was] a sign that TCC is probably what I should go with," Nguyen said.

When she told people about her decision, they were confused. The most memorable reaction came from her government teacher.

"He was super surprised," Nguyen said. "He was just like, 'Why?' I don't want to pay thousands of dollars to go to school and I just think that I should slow down and start with TCC."

For many students, community college is an opportunity to pursue an education at a low cost at their own pace. This belief is not lost on Chad Wooley, department chair of history, government, philosophy and legal studies at TR.

"If I was to guess, cost is a big thing, proximity to their home, things like that," Wooley

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## Dancing with delight



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE ESL student Rocio Arnett performs on stage during NE's Club Rush. The dancer got on stage in traditional attire and performed a short routine to the applause of the room.

## DISTRICT

# Professors attempt to address issue of phones in classroom

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Professors at TCC are attempting to tackle the issue of students using phones during class lectures, some by enacting penalties and others by awarding prizes.

SE Geology Instructor Samantha Caputi said phones, or technology in general, bring a challenge to the classroom. For Caputi, there is a clear correlation between student success and phone use.

"Students who are always on their devices aren't able to fully engage in class, and tend to not do as well as the students who can ignore their device."

NE Public Speaking Instructor Jamie Kerr said when appropriately used in a class setting, phones can be an asset.

"Is there a place for them in the classroom?" she said. "Absolutely. There's all kinds of ways we can harness technology. People essentially have a little computer in their hands that can be used for researching or other helpful methods."

However, Kerr said when it comes to listening, devices can act

as a noise that not only affects the person utilizing the technology, but those around them.

"Not only is it distracting for them, but they're communicating to the teacher, group members, or whoever may be speaking that something else is more worthy of their attention, and I think that's harmful," she said.

She teaches public speaking, a class that requires students to stand in front of their peers and present. In this space, being a supportive audience member sends positive nonverbal messages to a classmate.

"Students start the semester with the full amount of 'audience etiquette' points, and lose points only when they engage in one of the behaviors that we decided was disrespectful or unsupportive," she said.

Kerr said most students want to be attentive and supportive, but aren't aware of the nonverbal messages they're sending. Deducting points for audience etiquette helps reinforce the importance.

Problems arise for Caputi when students use their phones to scroll through social media

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### WhatsApp

U.S. intelligence disbanded after WhatsApp scandal reveals spies on migrants

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### Sensationalism

Journalism is beginning to lose focus on the importance of news

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### Young adulthood

The experience of growing up as a young adult while living in your own head

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