

# STATE & LOCAL

## Duke Lacrosse Accuser Arrested

Anna Turner, Staff Writer

On February 18, police arrested Crystal Mangum, the woman who, four years ago, accused three Duke University lacrosse players of raping her. According to WRAL, Mangum was arrested for assaulting her boyfriend and setting fire to a bathtub full of clothes. Police were alerted of her behavior by, who they believe to be, one of her three children. As WRAL reported, at 11:00 pm, a 911 call was made reporting a domestic dispute. Authorities found Mangum fighting with her boyfriend, Milton Walker. Police reported that Mangum continued to fight after their arrival and attempted to stab Walker and tried to set another fire in the apartment.

This is not Mangum's first run-in with Durham police. In March of 2006, Crystal Mangum fired a loaded accusation at three members of Duke University's lacrosse team. Mangum, who at the time worked as an exotic dancer and escort, accused three of the lacrosse players of raping her at a house party she was hired to attend. After a trial that was monitored nationwide, the three players were declared innocent as a result of inconsistencies in Mangum's testimony. According to the Duke Chronicle, former Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong acted

inappropriately in accusing the three players of rape, and when all charges against the players were ultimately dropped, Nifong was disbarred and jailed briefly for the way he handled the case.

Mangum was being held under a \$1 million bond. The Duke Chronicle reports that on February 23, the judge reduced her bond to \$250,000. The News and Observer reports, even if Mangum posts bail, she will be put under electronic house arrest and prohibited from contacting Milton Walker. According to the News and Observer, she has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, five counts of arson, assault and battery, communicating threats, three counts of misdemeanor child abuse, injury to personal property, identity theft and resisting a public officer. According to police documents, Mangum was intensely fighting with her boyfriend, scratching, punching, and throwing objects.

According to the News and Observer, Mangum gave police officers the fake name "Marella Mangum," which led to her identity theft charge. Mangum also set a bathtub filled with clothes on fire. Police called the fire department and no one was injured.



Crystal Mangum, photo courtesy of The News and Observer

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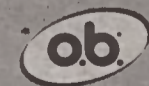
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