

# Part-time instructor at Clark College charged with third-degree rape of student

By BRUCE WESTFALL  
*Columbian staff writer*

A part-time Clark College instructor has been charged with third-degree rape for allegedly assaulting one of his students while on a date.

David Leo Cairns, 35, 11301 N.E. Seventh St., was charged by Clark County prosecutors last week. He has been suspended from his teaching duties at the college pending the outcome of the case, college officials said.

According to an affidavit filed by prosecutors, the part-time martial arts and scuba-diving instructor took a 20-year-old female student on a dinner date Feb. 10.

The student had taken several classes from Cairns over the past couple of years. This was

their first date, however, according to a Clark County Sheriff's Office report.

They had dinner at Beaches restaurant, and, at about 9:30 p.m., they returned to Cairns' east Vancouver apartment, the affidavit said. They went into his bedroom to watch television when Cairns started to kiss her, the woman told Clark County sheriff's deputy Shaun Robertson.

The woman said she pushed him away and told him, "no." She said Cairns then went to sleep. She remained in the room and fell asleep in her clothing. She told the deputy that she awoke to Cairns trying to pull her clothing off and attempting to force her to have oral sex, according to the prosecutor's affidavit.

Prosecutors allege that Cairns raped her in

the course of the incident. He ultimately allowed the woman to leave, the affidavit said.

Cairns told deputies that the woman returned to the apartment with him after dinner but simply gathered some belongings and left. An acquaintance of Cairns who was staying at the defendant's apartment submitted a written statement to Clark College saying that the woman left the residence without incident.

The acquaintance later told a deputy it was Cairns who authored the statement and the acquaintance didn't read the document before signing it. The man told the deputy he slept through the entire evening on the apartment's living room floor.

Cairns is scheduled to enter a plea to the charge April 23.

4/1/97