

Texas State student robbed by clown on bicycle

By Kayla Duff

SAN MARCOS – A suspect dressed as a clown robbed a Texas State student of her backpack Tuesday as she walked through the Alkek parking garage, University police said.

Estella Garza, 20, was on her way to her dormitory after a long night of studying when an unidentified person in a clown costume approached her on a bicycle. The clown pushed Garza to the ground and grabbed her backpack, which contained her wallet, course notebooks and textbooks. Garza was too shaken to react during the robbery, but she did call 9-1-1 to report the crime and her missing items.

“This whole clowning thing is really getting creepy,” Garza said. “One minute I was walking to my dorm and the next minute I was on the ground. Mostly I’m pissed that I lost my bio book and notes. I’m just glad I didn’t have my computer with me.”

In a release from Texas State University Police, the department said that this is the fourth reported robbery this semester that has involved a clown. The release provided a description of the suspect, as described by Garza.

“All four incidents have involved a suspect dressed as a clown. Police believe the same man is responsible for all of the robberies,” the release said. “[Garza] described the suspect as tall and thin with an athletic build, wearing black and white striped pants, an Insane Clown Posse (ICP) t-shirt, with a green wig, and purple and white face paint around the eyes.”

University Police Chief Jose L. Bañales issued a statement the morning after the robbery, urging students to be cautious when walking alone, especially at night and in secluded parts of campus.

“It is best to travel in groups and to remain alert,” Bañales said. “If you must travel alone, remember that the Bobcat Bobbies service is available for your safety.”

Bañales also said that there will be additional police officers patrolling campus areas where these crimes are likely to occur. University police are asking anyone with information about these robberies to call UPD at 245-2890.