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San Francisco Chronicle

Rape victim sets up arrest of alleged attacker

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

Wednesday, August 29, 2007



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An Alameda County rape victim pretended to befriend her attacker - going so far as to set up a job interview for him - as part of a ploy to seek revenge, but later decided against vigilante justice and settled for arranging his arrest, authorities said Tuesday.

When the 47-year-old woman's alleged assailant showed up at a coffee shop the day after the attack for his job interview, sheriff's deputies took him into custody.

Howard Moore, 24, of San Leandro was arrested on suspicion of rape, sheriff's Sgt. J.D. Nelson said.

The woman, who works as a real estate agent, was showing a home in Alameda County on Aug. 16 when the prospective buyer attacked her, Nelson said. He declined to say where the incident happened, because that could identify the victim.

The assailant choked the woman, raped and robbed her, Nelson said.

During the attack, the woman started to befriend him "in an attempt to gain his trust," Nelson said.

The woman told him she wasn't going to call the police and would try to help him, Nelson said. She even went as far as to promise to arrange a job interview for a security or bodyguard position the following day.

The woman later told investigators that she had set up the interview so "she could exact vigilante justice on him," Nelson said. "The victim was afraid the suspect would not be sent to prison for the crime."

She ultimately decided to call the sheriff at the urging of a relative who had worked as a police officer, Nelson said.

When Moore showed up for the supposed job interview at a Starbucks in Hayward, he was met by sheriff's deputies, Nelson said.

Moore was recently released from state prison after serving 18 months for robbery, Nelson said.

E-mail Henry K. Lee at hlee@sfgate.com.

This article appeared on page B - 3 of the San Francisco Chronicle



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