

Court records: Teacher met student wearing pajamas, carrying tequila
By Amanda Karr The Daily Reflector
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A student who told officials he and a teacher at South Central High School had a sexual encounter took a class taught by the teacher last year, according to court documents.

Ongoing conversations and letters exchanged between the teacher and student led to a late-night encounter in the school parking lot, according to information provided by the student, which was included in an affidavit for a search warrant submitted by the Pitt County Sheriff's Office.

Katherine B. "Katy" Tew, 30, of 112 S. Baywood Lane was arrested Monday on charges of indecent liberties with a student and sex offense with a student by a teacher. State law makes it illegal for a teacher or other school personnel to have sexual contact with a student at the same school, regardless of the student's age. Tew, an English teacher and cheerleading coach, called and wrote her former student before meeting him in the parking lot near the football field in December, according to the affidavit. She was wearing pajamas and carrying a bottle of tequila, the student told the investigators.

The 17-year-old senior reported the encounter to the school's resource officer, which sparked the investigation, according to the affidavit submitted by sheriff's office investigator Lt. Karen Kilpatrick seeking approval from a judge to search Tew's home.

Officers serving the search warrant seized a pair of pajamas with cartoons of moons and stars on them and a handwritten letter that referred to the student. Investigators also are searching through files on a computer taken from the high school.

The student, who took an English class taught by Tew last year, said Tew began giving him letters this year. He gave investigators a number of those letters, according to the affidavit.

The student also told investigators he sometimes stopped by Tew's classroom at her request between his classes last semester, a practice that resulted in his being late several times to his next class, according to the affidavit. When he was late, Tew would write him an excuse note, the student told investigators.

An investigator interviewed the teacher of the class to which the student had been late, and that teacher confirmed that the student had provided excuses signed by Tew on four occasions.

The teen also showed investigators a cell phone text message, which he said Tew sent him. Sent on Dec. 15, the message said, "Can you or would you want

to see me tomorrow night? Home alone would love to see you. Call cell and leave a message. Y or N," Kilpatrick wrote in the affidavit.

Once, the student said he asked Tew, "Why would you do this to your husband?" The next day, he said Tew gave him a card thanking him for making her realize that she loved her husband. No more than a week later, however, he said Tew started contacting him again.

Tew's husband, Andy Tew, is a teacher and assistant football coach at South Central. The search warrant affidavit indicates the student decided to approach authorities about the situation because Katy Tew had said she had told her husband of the relationship.

The student decided to tell Katy Tew the relationship "could not be what she wanted," according to the affidavit.

When they met in the parking lot, Tew got into his car and offered him some tequila, the student said. He said he declined and Tew "kissed him and they started to have sex in the back seat," according to the affidavit.

Tew is on administrative leave with pay from her job. She has been in that status since Jan. 25 and will remain there until school officials are able to look over the evidence, school spokeswoman Deborah Long said.

Tew made bail after being arrested Monday. As part of the conditions of her release, she cannot have any contact with any minor younger than 18 without another adult present or go on the premises of any Pitt County public school facility.

Her next court date is scheduled for April 15.

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