

# UH karate course helped student to thwart assailant

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News Reporter

UH student Dixie Griffin has no regrets about registering for Master Kim Soo's PEB karate class. In fact, it may have saved her life.

At approximately 2:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, Griffin, who stands 5'6½" and weighs only 116 pounds, says she was forced to defend herself from a man armed with a knife.

Griffin, who lived in the vicinity of Gessner and I-10 at the time of the assault — she says she has moved since the attack — was in bed, as was her roommate, when someone entered their apartment.

"At about 2:15 a.m. I heard the door open, and the dog was growling and restless. I knew someone or something was in the (apartment). I was waiting for something to happen. In a few minutes, I saw a man with his face wrapped in white bandages walking slowly down the hall."

She shouted at him demanding

to know what he wanted. Alarmed or angered by being discovered, the man attacked immediately, Griffin said. It wasn't until he attacked that she knew he had a knife.

"I was very scared but instead of being paralyzed with fear, I was mobilized to protect myself. Through my training in karate, I had confidence to defend myself by blocking his blows and kicking him and screaming." Both she and her roommate screamed. While Griffin feels the blocks and kicks put off her attacker and saved her life, she thinks it was the screaming that finally made him leave.

Although she successfully fended off her attacker, Griffin suffered numerous superficial cuts on her legs and one on her collarbone.

The assailant, described by Griffin as a white man of average build, possibly in his late twenties, attacked her with a serrated knife and repeatedly told Griffin he was going to blind her.

"I didn't really go for vital points as much as trying to push him away from my eyes," Griffin confessed.

In the assault-turned-robbery, Griffin lost a camera and a small amount of cash, but she came away with a much more valued possession — her life.

"I'm happy to be alive and hope others will be careful and take measures to defend themselves."

How does she feel about the karate class now?

"Now I take the karate with a new sense of awareness, and I have a very vivid imaginary opponent."