

editorials

In Perspective

by Kevin Washington
Assistant Editor

Some days just don't seem to go right for students. Last Tuesday Percy Moorman had a bad day.

Moorman, 18, was convicted by an all white jury of raping an anonymous—at least as far as the media is concerned—white student in her dormitory room last September.

The case is unquestionably a strange one.

Moorman, a quarterback for the N.C. State football team maintains that he was invited to the white girl's room by her roommate. When he got to the room, the door was unlocked, Moorman walked in, began kissing the woman until she asked him to make love to her. Moorman then found that he had mistaken the girl for her roommate.

The white girl in the case gives an equally interesting account. She was on the bed asleep as Moorman had said. She was dreaming of having intercourse—and all of a sudden, she awoke to find the real thing going on.

Her immediate response was to try to get up, but Moorman pushed her back down—so the story goes.

Now, aren't those two of the strangest stories ever presented in a courtroom?

Here's an athlete who is so promiscuous he just walks into someone's room and begins making love to a stranger.

And on the other side is a woman who leaves her door open when she's asleep, dreams about love making and can't tell the difference between the real thing and a dream.

When given this type of evidence, a jury must decide who is telling the truth according to other evidence. There's only one problem in this case: Does the other evidence tell the story?

Probably not. First, the prosecution introduced a psychological profile of Moorman based on an examination and some background family history. The psychologists conclusion is that Moorman never learned normal sex patterns because he grew up around a whole bunch of women—then girls flocked to him as a high school athlete. Not very much to go on.

On the other hand, there is a woman who has certainly had anal sex and regular intercourse, and although she wasn't physically beaten silly—she may have been raped.

But the question remains: Did she invite Moorman to do what he did?

That question brings us right back where we started from.

Since neither story seems plausible, it doesn't seem fair that a young man with a "bad attitude" (a description given by his attorney) should spend up to 84 years in a state penitentiary. (The minimum would be 26 years prison.)

Without even touching the racial issues which Paul, newspaper columnists and college students have brought up, I wonder how does a jury convict someone on such a shaky story. The law states that a person shouldn't be convicted unless there is no doubt that the person committed the crime.

Since the crime here is rape, and the punishment is possibly the rest of a man's life in prison, there should be more evidence to convict him—or at least some reason to believe the girl's testimony over Moorman's.

But then again, racism may be the issue after all.



In Reverse, Still Two Damned Strange Stories

Apartheid: Not Ended

by Diana Lowery
Staff Writer

The latest ruling of the South African government, which has caused an uproar among Black South Africans and those anti-apartheid supporters, is a new government constitution that denies Blacks the right to vote for representatives to Parliament. At the same time the government allows Indians and other non-white races this privilege.

No matter how hard people try to put this abomination out of their minds, it still exists.

No matter how hard we try to put it at the back of our minds—while at the same time believing in its wrongness—it still exists.

It's an everyday fight for political, individual and economic freedom.

Apartheid is an injustice that cannot be ignored. Why must it continue—continue to break the spirit and will of those that are tired of fighting and just want peace. Freedom is no longer uppermost in their minds.

When I, a free Black American, reflect on the struggles that our people had to go through, it brings much closer to heart the oppression in South Africa. Many Black Americans take for granted that our people were in the same position if not worse than Black South Africans. They lay claim to prejudices against non-Blacks. But every day that a Black South African lives, he is made aware that he is not considered an individual.

Even though many have given up hope, there are still those who fight with the hope that one day soon they may be able to send their children to school and know they're getting an education that's due them as individuals or that they may vote for a president who supports their beliefs.

I have heard some people say, "Oh, I'm getting tired of hearing about that!" Those who speak out as such are ignorant of the fact that it is not going to be forgotten until all non-whites in South Africa are free of discrimination. Ignorance will get one nowhere. It surely will not bring solutions for fore.

IT'S COMING UP

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
AT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
ANNOUNCES A WORKSHOP ON
THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

STRENGTHS OF AFRICAN—AMERICAN FAMILIES

FRANK PORTER GRAHAM STUDENT UNION

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