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Usually when we come to college we are so excited about everything going on that we aren't concerned about safety issues. But perhaps we should start, considering the recent attacks at local campuses and all the stories we've heard of "B.O.L.O."

Many of us do not utilize the resources on this campus that are there to keep us safe, nor do we think about actions that will put us in compromising situations.

The simplest things can help us prevent attacks. For example, don't go outside alone after dark. Guys, this includes you, because unless you're Julius Peppers or Jonas Seawright, you will get snatched up just as easily as anyone else will.

Many of us probably never notice those blue light stands that we pass going back and forth everyday; but in case of an emergency, we might need them. They are call boxes that immediately alert the police/fire department/ambulance of an emergency. These calls will be responded to promptly. Please use them for emergencies only.

Perhaps the reason you did not notice the call boxes is because you were too focused on not being hit by one of those SAFE Escort golf carts. Ironically, those things are

there for your safety. They are the SAFE Escort service (962-SAFE) that will take you from mid-campus to your lovely South Campus dorm. If you don't feel comfortable walking alone, call them.

You can also catch the Point to Point (P-to-P) shuttle service. The shuttles run every 15 minutes from 7p.m. to 3 a.m.

In addition to those resources, the University also offers free self-defense classes through the Crime Prevention Office (966-3230). According to Mike Campagna, a self-defense coach and police officer in Charlotte, self-defense begins with being smart.

Don't put yourself in compromising positions, and if you're walking alone at night, carry pepper spray or a stun gun. Also, use good judgment. Know when to run, when to scream and when to fight. If something doesn't look right, or feel right, it isn't. It's that simple.

During the past 12 months, the Department of Public Safety has stepped up the awareness and security of Carolina's campus. Here are four tips from Chief Derek Poarch:

- **Be aware** -- Know your surroundings and report suspicious behavior immediately.

- **Don't advertise** -- Secure your

valuables properly. Don't leave items like book bags or laptop computers unattended and unprotected.

- **Use good judgment** -- Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel safe, it probably isn't.

- **Communicate** -- Always file a report with the Department of Public Safety when a crime has occurred. Also, let them know your safety concerns so they can take appropriate action.

In addition to this advice, Poarch also wants us to know that walking and biking along Carolina's busy roads is the biggest threat to students and employees. The police have already begun to ticket drivers who don't yield to pedestrians, but as pedestrians, we need to realize that we *will* get hit. Think before you walk, and wait for the light. In a little while UNC's Public Safety Department will be giving out jaywalking tickets like it's New York.

We need to realize the importance of using common sense and take an active part in securing safety for ourselves.

Know the resources the University offers, and use them. Be smart. Be safe.