

Rape warning sows confusion

By Bruce Robinson
Staff Writer

Durham police reports that warned of a possible gang with an initiation ceremony that included raping a white woman have scared many residents and angered local business owners.

The Durham Police Department announced at a news conference last Monday that there was a teenage gang in northern Durham that required its new members to kidnap and rape a white woman.

Liz Stewart, director of Rape Crisis of Durham, said the police reports about the gang had resulted in numerous calls and questions to the center from scared residents.

"I think people have reason to be concerned," Stewart said. "I think that it is important for people to be aware that they are at risk in this country."

Although city police have not had any reported cases of the gang following through with their initiation rites,

some merchants in northern Durham are complaining that the reports have damaged their businesses significantly.

Lester Cross, assistant manager of Starship Music and Video on Roxboro Road, said the reports have reduced business by both black and white customers at the store since Monday.

"It has really made our business slow up," he said. "(On Tuesday), we sold \$300 worth of sales ... That was the slowest in three years."

"Most of the customers are coming in the daytime and run in and run out," he said.

Cross also questioned the Durham Police Department's handling of the situation. "They should have let the stores know first," he said. "I think they need to look into it again."

After making the first announcement about the gang's existence, the Durham Police Department has declined further comment on the issue.

The police department's refusal to comment has frustrated local merchants,

Cross said. He added that some have questioned if such a gang exists.

Cross said that if the police did not receive more evidence, they should issue an apology to the community.

"I don't know if it's true or not," he said. "I haven't seen any gang ... The police should come up with some evidence so we can know for ourselves."

While some businesses have seen a drastic reduction in customers, other businesses have been unaffected by the police reports.

Alice Hines, manager of Subway at the Oxford Commons Shopping Center on Roxboro Road, said the reports had not damaged sales at the restaurant. "Our business is still the same," she said.

Although some local businesses have been hurt, Stewart praised the police department for disclosing the situation to the public. "I think that it is important for people to know."

However, Stewart questioned the singling out of white women as potential victims of rape by the gang.

"White women are not the only women that get raped," she said. "There are plenty of women in all races that get raped."

While police have not divulged the race or precise location of the gang, speculation has focused on the predominantly black Oxford Manor public housing complex.

Stewart said this focus perpetuated the myths surrounding rape.

"It perpetuates the myth that white women are raped by black men," she said. "It perpetuates racism."

Stewart added that most rapes did not occur between different races. "In actuality, most women are assaulted by people of the same race and social class."

Winds hinder oil-spill salvage efforts

The Associated Press

SUMBURGH, Shetland Islands—Winds gusting to hurricane force and huge sea swells slammed into an oil tanker wrecked on a rugged North Sea coastline Sunday, preventing salvage efforts for the sixth day.

Alaskans who had witnessed the United States' worst oil spill were in Sumburgh to offer moral support to the Shetland Islanders whose waters and shores have been tainted with crude, and whose chief livelihoods of fishing and farming are threatened.

"Because of the weather conditions it's nearly impossible to do anything," said Stan Stephens, operator of a small tour-boat business in Alaska's Prince William Sound, which was blackened with crude oil in the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill.

Gusts of up to 115 mph were forecast for early today, the strongest since the Braer ran aground Jan. 5 in the Bay

of Quendale during a hurricane. The pounding will test the strength of the 89,700-ton ship's damaged cargo hold.

"It has stood up to a great deal of punishment already. This would tax it once again, but there is no way one can speculate on the effect this is going to have on the ship," said George Sutherland, the Shetland's marine operations director.

Known wildlife deaths in the Shetland accident have reached 543 birds, three seals and one otter, according to a tally by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The government has banned all fishing in the area.

Fifteen people ventured out in Sunday's dramatic weather to pray at an 18th-century stone church a mile from the beached tanker.

"We thank God no lives were lost on this ship, that life was preserved. Help us strive to save our heritage at this

time. Help the members of our creation that have no voices of their own," said the Rev. Trevor Williams.

Salvage workers moved equipment into place onshore for pumping remaining oil from the Braer onto a barge that was expected to arrive today from Rotterdam.

The barge's arrival might be delayed, however, by extreme weather.

The Braer's cargo hold separated from its rear engine section on Friday, but no new leaks were reported. More than half of the 17-year-old ship's 24.6 million gallons of crude oil is still believed to be on board, according to Geert Koffeman of the Dutch salvage company Smit Tak.

Stephens and other members of an Alaska citizens' group were on tiny Mainland island, the largest of more than 100 Shetland Islands, to offer moral support to those whose lives have been disrupted by the spill.

Economists forecast slow, weak recovery

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Economic forecasters predicted Sunday that American businesses would create 1.59 million jobs in 1993, the most in four years but still a weak showing compared to other economic recoveries.

If the forecasters are right, President-elect Clinton will enter the White House aided by the best employment performance since payrolls grew by 2.11 million during President Bush's first year.

The consensus prediction of the 50 economists surveyed by Blue Chip Economic Indicators compares to an annual 557,000 non-farm payroll growth in 1992, the final year of the Bush administration.

The economy lost 955,000 jobs in

1991 and 56,000 in 1990 as the last recession took its toll.

The number of new jobs grew by 3.5 million in 1983 and by 3.98 million in 1984, years following the previous recession.

The Blue Chip survey projects the economy will grow just 2.9 percent this year. Although it would be the fastest pace since a 3.9 percent expansion in 1988, it would be just half of the average growth after other recessions since World War II.

The government will not issue its estimate of 1992 growth until late this month, but President Bush's budget projected last week the economy expanded by 1.8 percent.

The Bush projections, based on as-

sumptions by the Blue Chip economists, call for 2.6 percent growth this year and 3.0 percent in 1994. The Blue Chip survey projects economic growth at 3.2 percent next year.

Tenure

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Hardin told the Faculty Council. "I consider (the students') interest in these matters commendable."

While Ferguson's supporters look forward to a meeting with Hardin, they still contend that Hardin could have done more.

"I've seen a whole series of things that he could have done up to this point to intervene," Strobel said. "One of his roles as chancellor is to be proactively involved within the University. We have not seen him do that."

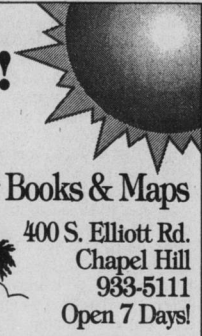
In December, Strobel and Valerie Halman, a senior from Montreal, asked Hardin to intervene in the case. Hardin said acting on Ferguson's behalf would violate University policy.

"The case in question is progressing through prescribed venues," Hardin said. "I have no authority to launch any independent administrative investigation."

In the BOT appeal process, the faculty member in question — this time Ferguson — appears before a panel of trustees and states the reasons for his or her request. The panel hears the case and then makes a recommendation to the full board, which votes on a final ruling.

Ferguson's appeal might be heard later this month, said Brenda Kirby, BOT administrative assistant.

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- 12 Union Open House — Welcome to Spring!
Fun Flicks • 2 p.m. • 8 p.m. • Great Hall • Make your own video with friends, loved ones or just by yourself. This special event is brought to you at no cost, however, be aware, first come is first served.
- Selected Hilarity • 9 p.m. • Great Hall • Laugh your way into Spring semester with an evening of chuckles, grins and downright foolishness. Free Admission.
- Bowling & Billiards 1/2 Price Specials • 2-10 p.m. • Union Underground • Practice scoring a perfect game of bowling. Bowling for fifty cents a game, per person and twenty-five cent shoe rental. **BONUS!** If you roll a strike when there is a colored head pin, you will not be charged for that game. Pool tables are only \$1 an hour.
- 22 Leronne Bennett, Jr. • 7 p.m. • Memorial Hall
- 23 "Our Young Black Men Are Dying And Nobody Seems To Care" • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall
- 28, 29, 30 Broadway Melodies III • 8 p.m. • Cabaret

FEBRUARY

- 10 Chuck D • 9 p.m. • Carmichael Auditorium
- 15 Phish • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall
- 18 George Winston • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall
- 19 George Winston • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall
- 24-28 UNC Jazz Festival

MARCH

- 29 Mahalithini and The Maholtella Queen • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall

APRIL

- 20 William F. Buckley • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall

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