

To prevent rape

Escorts to begin

By KEN MINGIS
DTH Staff Writer

Books in hand, a blond woman steps out of Wilson Library. It is past midnight. Thoughts of rape or assault anger her as she steps into the dark. "I'm being silly," she thinks.

She avoids the arboretum as she heads for the dorm, just to be safe. The U-bus goes by, empty. "One block ahead, turn the corner and I'm home," she tells herself. As she passes some bushes, a man steps out and watches her. She dashes through the doorway into the lighted hall. Safe.

Beginning Wednesday this type of scene need never take place. Any woman on campus who wants someone to walk with her back to her dorm will be provided a screened escort, said Steve White, director of the Rape and Assault Prevention Escort service.

R.A.P.E., which provides volunteer escorts through a phone-in system, is scheduled to operate 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, 7-11 p.m. Fridays and 7-9 p.m. Saturday. The service, which operates out of the Olde Campus office in Mangum Residence Hall, uses 933-7602 as its call-in number.

If a woman knows she will need an escort at a certain time when she will not be

near a phone, she can call the office between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to arrange for one ahead of time.

White and Ed Piskura, assistant director of R.A.P.E., stressed the safety of the program. All volunteers are carefully screened and are required to carry a UNC ID card while on duty.

"When an escort arrives, he introduces himself to the girl," Piskura said. "He should know her name, and will have his UNC ID with him. That way, if the girl still feels a little leery, she can ask him for his ID."

"We're stressing that these guys will have their ID," he said. "They won't be hurt if they're asked to show it."

After the escort finishes walking the woman home, he calls the office so the desk operator will know there have been no problems, Piskura said. "Then he's ready to go again."

More than 300 residents of Olde Campus are involved in the service, White said. "The screening process we have is pretty thorough too."

"Dorm coordinators go around to people they know in each dorm and sign up residents for one-hour time slots," he said. The list of potential escorts then goes to dorm resident assistants, who look it over. If the RAs do not see any problem people on the list, it is passed on



Steve White

to White and Piskura for a third check.

"We've never had one iota of a problem with any of the escorts," Piskura said. "We don't anticipate any this year."

Piskura said R.A.P.E. was set up in February 1980 to correct a problem that somehow needed to be addressed — assaults on campus. "The first year alone, we handled 1,000 calls. It's basically preventive medicine; it can never be used too much."

"Basically, all a girl has to do is give us a call, let us know who she is, where she is and where she wants to go," Piskura said.

Journalism admissions rules stiffened

By DAVID McHUGH
DTH Staff Writer

The School of Journalism recently tightened its admissions requirements to deal with a rising number of applicants with substandard writing skills, Dean Richard R. Cole said last week.

The new policy raises the minimum quality-point average needed for admission to the school from 1.75 to 2.0 and requires new applicants to complete English 30, Expository Writing, with a "C" or better or to pass the School of Journalism's Diagnostic Writing Exam. The new requirements take effect in January.

Cole said the DWE, which requires students to write about a familiar subject, should detect writing problems so that they could be remedied before a student takes writing courses.

"If they have a deficiency, they're just going to get further and further behind," he said, adding that more students have had problems with writing in recent years.

Cole said he felt that the problem was not confined to journalism students. "It's part of a general trend in American education. High-school English is not taught the way it used to be."

"Students are no longer taught to diagram sentences, and spelling is no longer taught phonetically. Language use has been deteriorating for a while, overall," he said.

The main difficulties students have are with grammar, spelling, usage and jargon. "They use big words that they don't understand," Cole said.

In addition to the new requirements, students in the basic newswriting course — Journalism 53 — must pass the school's Spelling and Grammar Examination, which is different from the DWE and has long been a requirement for a journalism degree. Since last spring, the school has required that students failing this test attend a weekly remedial session popularly known as the "grammar slammer" until they can pass the test.

Instructor Kathy McAdams, who teaches the remedial section, said that many problems with spelling and grammar were not serious and that most "grammar slammer" students passed the

test after about four weeks of language drill.

"Journalism students are usually better (at English) than students in other schools. Many problems are things they've just never been taught. When I explain something, they say, 'Oh, I get it,'" she said.

McAdams said she hoped that the new requirements would help correct such problems early and reduce enrollment in the "grammar slammer," though she did not foresee abolishing it entirely.

Cole said the new requirements were not an attempt to limit new admissions, although there has been an increase in the school's enrollment. An increase of about 70 undergraduates over the past year had caused some problems with crowded classrooms, he said.

Poland from page 1

and the military problems that would result from fighting a country unified in its opposition to the Soviets. The Poles would fight an invasion "to the end, even if it was a lost cause," he said.

The Lees said they were not apprehensive about living in a volatile country where food is becoming scarcer by the day.

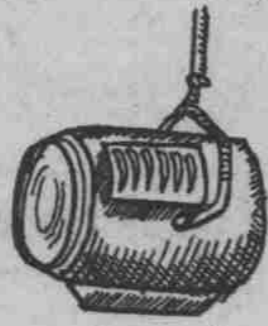
"I'm kind of stoic about it. You can get very used to deprivation," Partick Lee said with a laugh.

Ewa Lee summarized their feelings. "We will be witnessing such a frank period of Polish history that we will forget we're hungry."

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