

The Daily Tar Heel

90th year of editorial freedom

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Crime in the Village

Results from a recent survey of university towns have shown Chapel Hill, for the second year in a row, with the highest number of total crimes. The survey, based on figures compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigations' 1981 crime reports, again reflects the need for students and town residents to treat crime in Chapel Hill as a serious problem, not as incidents happening only in larger cities.

The survey compared crime statistics from seven university towns with comparable student and residential populations. Figures show that 2,142 crimes were committed in Chapel Hill last year, a 1.1 percent increase from 1980. Broken down into different categories, Chapel Hill had the highest number of murders, manslaughters, forcible rapes, aggravated assaults, burglaries and larcenies. The largest increase from 1980 figures was in the number of forcible rapes: 13 were committed in 1981, a 39 percent increase.

Chapel Hill police officials say they are not surprised by the high crime level and blame it on the proximity of Chapel Hill to larger cities. In most cases, students committed the misdemeanors, while residents of Durham or Raleigh committed the serious crimes. According to police officials, this happens because of a past laxity in law enforcement that has attracted crime.

No matter who commits the crimes, students and Chapel Hill residents continue to be vulnerable to crime. Caught up in the village atmosphere of Chapel Hill, they often don't take the time to lock their doors or roll up the car windows. The result has been the consistently high crime rates. For instance, on Monday, police reported that more than \$800 worth of jewelry and money had been stolen from a locker in Fetzer gym. Just two weeks ago, a man was stabbed at night on Franklin Street.

Local police have recognized the need for more stringent enforcement and have pledged to do so. However, until students and townspeople take the threat of serious crime seriously, efforts by police will be limited. Police officers can help after crimes are committed. Town residents can help prevent them from happening in the first place.

Buckle up

For several years now, consumer groups and automobile manufacturers have argued about the need for automatic seatbelts and airbags in all cars sold in the United States. The Supreme Court announced Monday that it would put an end to the dispute and decide whether all cars should be equipped with passive restraints. It would make good, common sense for the high court to require the safety equipment on all autos built after the 1987 model year.

Studies by the U.S. Department of Transportation have shown that about 90 percent of all Americans do not buckle up when driving. By requiring automatic seatbelts or airbags on all new cars, an estimated 12,000 lives would be saved annually. Passive restraints also would mean a savings of about \$4.5 billion in lost income, medical care and legal expenses.

The dispute stems from regulations drawn up in 1977 by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration requiring the equipment on all cars by 1984. The Reagan administration, however, rescinded those regulations last year, saying they were too costly. By the time a federal appeals court overturned that decision in June, auto manufacturers were balking at the idea.

Auto industry representatives have argued against the passive restraints for two reasons; they need more time to study the available options and more time to implement the changes. The auto industry, however, has had five years to study which type of passive restraints it wants to install. Any improvements in seatbelts or airbags can continue after they have become standard equipment on all cars.

The Reagan administration action has delayed introduction of the passive restraints by at least three years. If the Supreme Court orders that the safety equipment be installed it could draw up a three-year timetable to phase in the changes. All small and compact cars could be required to have the equipment by the 1985 model year. Small car passengers are more seriously injured when accidents do occur; these cars should be the first affected by the court's decision. Medium size cars would be similarly equipped in 1986 and large cars by 1987.

Adding safety belts and airbags will no doubt increase the price of new cars by an estimated \$400 to \$1,000. That price seems small when compared to the good the safety equipment would do.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Ku Klux Klan

Racism still thrives in N.C.

By LEILA DUNBAR

KKK. When I was growing up in Massachusetts, my American democracy class learned how horrible the Ku Klux Klan was, how the members burned crosses, lynched blacks and terrorized the South. I thought that whole bigoted mentality was a product of the past. It couldn't be possible in the face of the accomplishments of the past 20 years that racial hatred could still exist.

I was wrong. This past Saturday my roommate, Lucy Hood, three friends and I went to a Klan arms demonstration at the state headquarters of one KKK faction in Benson. Hood was working on an article about the Klan and had called Glenn Miller, the Grand Dragon of the Carolina Knights of the KKK, for permission to attend the demonstration.

We stopped at a supermarket in Angier to call Miller for directions to his house. When Hood came back to the car, we received our first hint of what was to come. She said Miller had given us the directions but had asked, "How many friends do you have with you?"

She had said "four." "All of them white?" "Yes," she replied. "OK, come on down."

The ride, which began with us drinking and joking, now turned somber. Hood, Gigi Branch, from Greenville, Cynthia Marshall, from Connecticut, and I are all Episcopalian. But our friend Janet Cataldo, from Brooklyn, who had come for the weekend to visit, is Catholic and Italian. Did the Klan like Catholics? At this point, we weren't sure what they accepted. We made up a last name to give instead of Cataldo. The best was Janet Leigh Worthington.

Once we arrived in Benson, we couldn't miss the house. There were about 10 Confederate flags in the front yard. When we pulled in, the front door opened. Three men in army fatigues with "CKKKK" over their shirt pockets came out, guns in hand. Children ran out behind them. I thought, "Could they take us hostage?" And then I thought, "What for?"

"Hello, I'm Glenn Miller," said the one wearing a green beret. "Are any of you Jewish?"

We said no. But he stared at Hood a long time, not believing us.

"Take off your glasses," he told her. "I want to see your profile."

She turned and he looked at her nose. He frowned and said, "OK."

Then he looked at Cataldo, gazing at her red boots, tight jeans and Latin face. "You're not Jewish?"

We all said, "She's Catholic."



A member of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan practices his target shooting ... groups like the one in Benson seek the return of what they call "white supremacy"

He glared at us skeptically, then motioned us into the house; two men followed us.

The interior looked like any Southern home, with the exception of the white Klan robe hanging on a bedroom door, and the Confederate flag next to two dolls dressed in identical robes on the mantelpiece, beside his children's school portraits.

We sat down in the living room, forming a semi-circle around Miller in his easy chair and the men beside him. I got the feeling that he thrived on the times he could get publicity. He introduced the men as a chaplain and a security officer. "Well, let's start this press conference," he said, lightly tapping the armrest of his chair. "Do you want to ask questions or do you want me to give a speech?"

For the next hour we heard much rhetoric, backed up by few statistics. Miller said the purpose of the Klan was to restore white supremacy to the United States, which it had lost because of government programs to help minorities. "Blacks aren't being discriminated against," he said. "Whites are."

He defined "white." "Whites are those who identify with the white race," he said. "They are defined in the Bible. Jews are not white."

I wanted to say Jesus was a Jew, but I didn't.

He told us that Jews were trying to rule the country and wanted to rule the world.

"We can't trust the media because the Jews run it," he said. He added that Jews, such as Henry Kissinger, had destroyed Richard Nixon's presidency, and Hitler had not ordered the massacre of Jews in World War II.

I could feel myself getting angrier, wanting to shake these thoughts out of them. But I could only listen helplessly, intimidated by the guns and awed by how convinced they were. They believed what they were saying. I started to ready myself for the last tirade.

"Blacks are inferior. It's a fact," he said. "Their brains weigh less. I wish they had equality, because then they'd be back out in the fields picking cotton."

We said nothing. More members arrived. He introduced us before we went out to the firing range behind the house. Kids and women joined us. Walking down, surrounded by shotguns and revolvers, I thought, "What if they're taking us down to shoot us?" At that same instant, I knew how silly it was. I also realized what paranoia could do to a person.

At the firing range, the chaplain took over. He showed us how to fire a variety of shotguns, rifles and pistols. I shot a .22 caliber rifle at one of the black-figured targets. Afterward, I showed it to some of the kids. They said it was pretty good, and asked me to take photos of them with their guns. One said if he was ever somewhere and shooting started, the first thing he'd

do would be to grab a gun and shoot. "I wouldn't think twice," he added.

The men practiced for a while and we had to leave. We thanked everyone for the demonstration. Miller told Hood, "Now if you don't write an article and send it to me, I'm gonna come after you. Maybe if you do, I'll come after you." We knew he was joking, but it still unnerved us.

In the car headed for Chapel Hill, we were exhausted from the tension, but couldn't sleep. All we could say was, "I can't believe they think that way."

Seeing actual open racism was a shock, but I can see how they rationalize their hatred. Klan members are basically lower middle-class people going nowhere. They feel helpless. They're scared of being below minorities economically or politically. They refuse to acknowledge the simple respect of human beings that people are, regardless of religion or skin color. It sounds childishly simple, but it isn't. Racial hatred exists, and no laws will change some persons' minds. The struggle for freedom and equality in this country is far from over for minorities, particularly blacks. As long as groups like the Klan are around, it may never be over.

Leila Dunbar, a senior journalism and Spanish major from Milford, Mass., is an assistant managing editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student feels ripped off

To the editor:

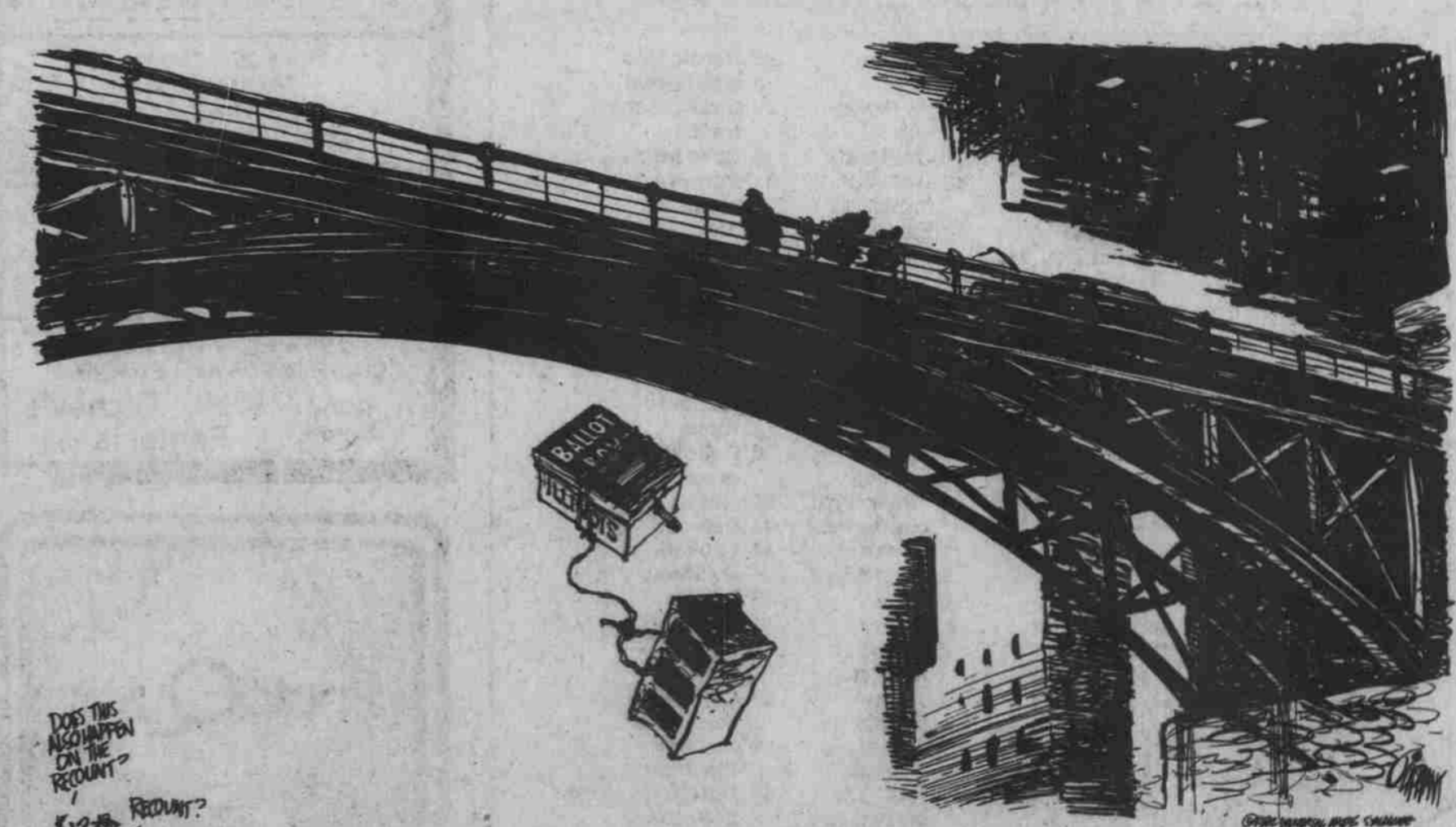
Once again I have discovered why everyone says the town of Chapel Hill tries to rip off students. After hearing a strange noise coming from my car, I went to the Gulf station on the corner of East Franklin Street and Estes Drive to have it checked out. After looking at it, they told me the alternator belt would have to be replaced.

In reply to the question of cost, the attendant said the part would be about \$10 and due to the difficulty in getting to that particular belt, labor would be at least \$20. I decided that the noise did not really bother me, so I would wait until I went home.

I had a chance to go home a few days later and went to an Exxon station while there. While getting the car filled up, I asked about getting the belt replaced. The attendant said it would take a couple minutes. Before the car had been filled up, the belt had been replaced at a total cost of \$10.50, \$8.50 for the part and \$2 for the labor.

I hardly think that employees of Exxon stations are more advanced than those of Gulf, so I can only assume that the Chapel Hill location of the Gulf station was a factor in determining the cost. Upon seeing that I am a student, they apparently thought they could easily take advantage of me. It is too bad that places such as this have to resort to such methods to make money and it is even more unfortunate that students are usually the ones hurt.

Julia Pearlman
327 Winston



LAST COUNT IN COOK COUNTY

For the record

Because of an editing error in the letter, "Bids don't hinge on race," (DTH, Nov. 9), a part of a phrase was omitted. The sentence should have read: "For an exam-

ple, I want to point out that four sororities out of the 11 participating in rush were not even able to discuss offering this rushee a bid because she did not meet their mini-

mum grade requirement because of having incompletes."

The DTH regrets the error.



Don't be left with the bill

Editor's Note: This advice is prepared by Student Legal Services which maintains an office in room 222 of the Carolina Union. All UNC students may obtain free legal advice at this office.

Many student tenants in Chapel Hill are only slightly acquainted before they sign a lease together. Most apartments in the area require a joint lease which makes anyone who signs the lease liable to the landlord for the entire amount of the rent in the event a roommate skips out. If a roommate squabbles occurs, and both roommates have signed the lease but one wrongfully departs, the landlord need not chase after the departing tenant. Instead, he may legally require that you, the remaining tenant, pay all the rent.

Another typical student situation occurs each summer in Chapel Hill. The student tenant wants to leave for a three-month vacation and moves a friend in the apartment. Some leases allow this subletting arrangement but others forbid it. Student tenants should know that they remain liable to the landlord for any rent or damages done by the sub-tenant, and that often such an arrangement may give rise to an eviction action by the landlord.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY: 1) Make arrangements with your roommate (preferably in writing) about any early departures from the lease, and 2) Know your sub-tenant and your lease. Do not sublet to someone who is irresponsible and make certain that your landlord approves of the arrangement.