

IN DEPTH

Group to fight abuse of women

The Daily Tar Heel

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Distribution: RDS Carriers.
Printing: The Village Companies.
Subscription: James Benton. Phone 962-0245, office hours will be announced later this week.
 The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar.
 Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.
 Office: Suite 104 Carolina Union

By ERIK ROGERS
Staff Writer

Profile

Members of the Committee for Justice for Women of Orange County are showing up in local courtrooms with black and blue arm bands to represent the battering and mourning of abused women in the community. Four Orange County women have been murdered by their male partners in the last five months.

Members of the committee, which includes both men and women, said they are frustrated with physical abuse against women and they want to be instrumental in bringing true justice against the offenders. And they said the local court system can expect to receive plenty of pressure in the process.

Annie McCombs, a member from Chapel Hill, said she hopes the group will receive some recognition from attending the hearings.

"We want to let the friends and survivors of the victims know that we care. We want to let the judges and officials of the court system know that they are being watched."

"We will make the battering of women an issue in the forthcoming elections, and we will address many questions to the candidates as to what they plan on doing about this problem,"

McCombs said.

McCombs said the committee was formed Feb. 6 and contains 25 members, but she expects the number of members to increase.

"Right now, we are basically trying to make ourselves known to the public, but as time goes along we feel more people will join in the cause. At this point we have more women than men, but I would like for that to change. If we get more men to join, then that would let us know the men in the community are becoming more aware of the needs of women here in the community."

Justice is not being served in the courtrooms, McCombs said. She said the group was displeased with the way the Orange-Chatham district attorney's office handled the case involving Randall Ray Jolly, who is accused of murdering his wife, Dawn Starnes Jolly.

The members of the group were also disappointed with the decision involving Willie Jo McCauley Jr. McCauley was charged with killing his girlfriend, Gwendolyn Riggsbee Bowen. The case was dismissed Friday for lack of evidence.

"The case involving McCauley was

so unfair," McCombs said. "I felt the district attorney did a super job of presenting evidence against McCauley. The judge said there was no probable cause, but that ruling seemed to be so inconsistent with the evidence which had already been presented."

As the group continues to make its presence known in court, it plans to be a force within the community. McCombs said they will try to raise public awareness in the community and stress education involving violent crimes against women.

"The people, and especially the women, in the community need to be educated more. There are times when a woman may have been put into a forceful situation to have sex, and she may not realize it can be considered as rape."

One out of two married women in America are abused in some manner, and a woman is abused every 15 seconds, McCombs said. Much of this problem stems from men's attitudes. She said men need to understand it is not okay to oppress women, especially through physical abuse.

James Wiggins, an associate professor in UNC's sociology department, said the abuse of women has always

been a major problem, but only recently have victims begun to report the crime.

"Society has had the historical concept that what happens in the family domain is private, and no outsiders should interfere. So there have been many times where the wife has been abused, but she did not report it because such things were between her husband and her," Wiggins said.

"In some cases the woman was just too scared to report the incident. Now the police and the court system are starting to become more involved within the family jurisdiction."

Wiggins said the situation could improve if laws become more aggressive toward the offender.

"There is a police policy now that allows cops to bring a suit against the abuser even if the person who has been abused has not filed a petition."

McCombs said it is a shame that an area as prominent as Orange County, in particular Chapel Hill, is having this problem.

"People sometimes refer to Chapel Hill as 'the Southern part of Heaven.' Well, right now it's not heaven to the women living in the community."

Campus Calendar

MONDAY
 6 p.m.: Action Against Apartheid will have a meeting in 213 Union.
 6:30 p.m.: Orientation Office invites O.C. applicants and interested students in Morrison and Craigie to attend an interest session in the Craigie Green Room.
 7 p.m.: CIAAC and Action Against Apartheid present Dr. Keyan Tomaselli, visiting professor from University of Natal, South Africa, who will speak about "South Africa: War, Security and Disinformation," in 209 Manning. This is a public lecture/discussion.
 The BCC and the African American History Club present a lecture with Dr. Helen Chavis Othrow, "Research on a Black Family's Genealogy," at the BCC Reception to follow.
 The Newman Center will hold a Bible Study session in 226 Union. It's hip! It's here! Bring your friends!
 Orientation Office invites O.C. applicants and interested students in STOW Residence Area to attend an interest session in the Spencer lobby.
 Career Planning and Placement Services announce a presentation by Ralston Parina in the Carolina Room at the Carolina Inn and a presentation by Morgan Stanley in 209 Hanes.
 7:30 p.m.: The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies will debate the issue "Should the University increase its quota of out-of-state students?" at their meeting in the Dialectic Chamber, third floor, New West.
 8 p.m.: The Association of International Students presents "The Superpowers and Arms Control" featuring Igor Neverov, undersecretary for Arms Control from the Soviet Embassy.
 8:30 p.m.: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will have an all-campus meeting presenting Mark Dickerson for an evening of song, worship and spiritual growth in Kenan Field House until 9:30 p.m.
ITEMS OF INTEREST
 The Diversity of Aaron Moore: Exhibit in the Union Gallery will run through March 4. Sponsored by the Carolina Union Gallery Committee.
 The Student Government Tutoring Program offers free tutoring in Spanish, French, Econ 101, Math 22, Math 30, Math 31, Stat 11 and Stat 23 every Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come to third floor Bingham.
 Enter your work in the 1990 Juried Undergraduate Student Art Show sponsored by the Carolina Union Gallery Committee. Entry forms are available at the Union desk and Hanes Art Department Office, Room 101. Entries are due March 1.
 The UNC art department in celebration of Black History Month presents an exhibition of work by Philadelphia artist Will Stokes. The exhibition will run through March 8 at the Hanes Art Center Glass Gallery.
 Minority students interested in applying for a summer internship at MTV in New York should submit a cover letter and resume to UCPPS by Feb. 28. Further information is on file in the Career Resource Room.
 The Carolina Students' Credit Union offers career loans to seniors and graduate students traveling to interviews or visiting graduate schools. For more information visit the SCU office in 103 Union.
 UCPPS announces an internship opportunity for summer 1990 for minority students. Paid, full-time positions available with Manufacturers Hanover in New York City. See minority internship directory at UCPPS office in 211 Hanes for info and details. Deadline for applications is March 30.
 UCPPS announces a summer 1990 internship opportunity in Human Resources with Walt Disney World. Rising juniors and seniors must drop a resume to UCPPS Feb. 27 (by 3 p.m.) to be considered. Interviews will be held March 20.
 Attention juniors! If you are interested in being nominated to attend a conference on Leadership in Business, please contact Marcia Harris, director, UCPPS, at 962-6507 by Feb. 26. Prudential Foundation is sponsoring the conference and will pay all costs. Program will be held April 16 and 17 in Parsippany, N.J. To be eligible, you must be a junior and have campus leadership experience.
 Information on Academic Credit for Internships (SPCL 91P.4) is available at UCPPS. Deadline for applying is April 2.
 The Carolina Athletic Association is now taking applications for 1990-91 Cabinet Positions. Applications are available at the Union desk and are due March 1 at 5 p.m. Call 962-4300 for details.
 The Residence Hall Association announces that nomination forms are available for the Roger A. Davis award for outstanding contributions to dorm life. Forms are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 1990 and are available at the RHA office and at the Union desk. The award will be presented April 11 at the Chancellor's Award Ceremony.
 Registration for the Race Relations Week Volleyball Tournament is today from 12:00 p.m. in the Pit. The tournament will be held Friday, March 2, 3 from 3-6 p.m. in Woolen Gym.

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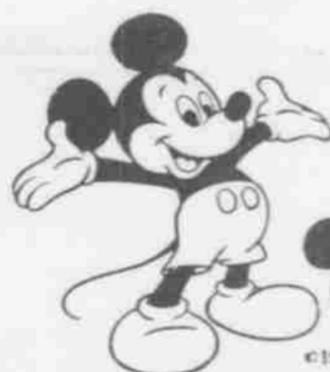
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The program is open to all Industrial Relations majors with an expected graduation date of December '90 or May '91.

For more information regarding this opportunity, please contact the office of Career Planning and Placement Services. (919) 962-6507.



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Spring Break Sunglasses Sale!



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 wide variety of name brands & styles to choose from

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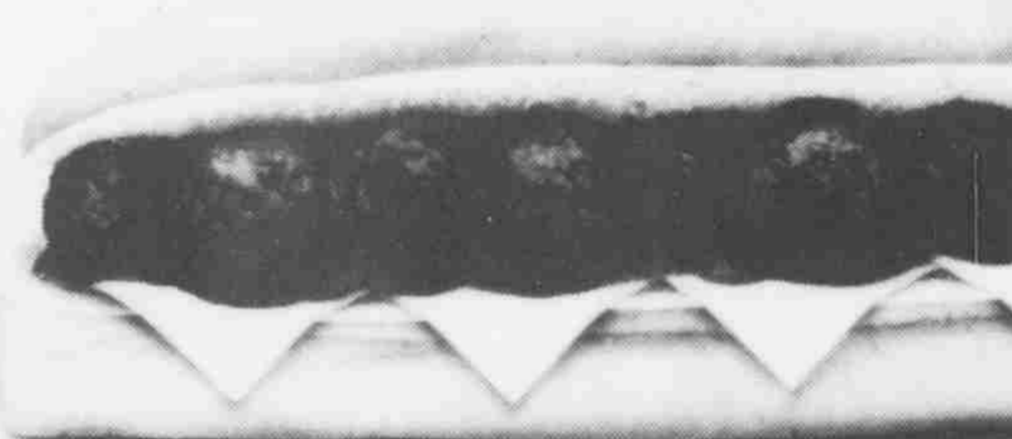
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HOT, STUFFED



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