

EDITORIAL

Is campus safe?

Last week's murder of Chapel Hill co-ed Sharon Stewart is a chilling reminder of past crimes on our own campus.

It was 12 years ago that Craig dorm resident Virginia Olsen, a drama student from Lexington, was raped and murdered while studying one April afternoon in the Botanical Gardens. Authorities never found her assailant.

And Olsen was not a freak accident from the past.

In February 1984 another Craig dorm resident was raped in her room after she fell asleep studying.

Another student narrowly missed being raped last October, but that time the assailant broke into the wrong room. The Swain co-ed's visiting boyfriend foiled the attacker's attempt.

That man, 24-year-old Johnny Ray, was caught and recently sentenced to a jail-term. Police caught Stewart's slayer also; he will, no doubt, receive life imprisonment.

Have campuses become open targets for sick people who like to prey on young women? And if they have, can we prevent further incidents?

UNCA has taken some preventative action. The lighting has improved in the past two years, especially in the Village. But it could still be better, especially near the library, Zageir, Owen Arts and Carmichael buildings where students frequently walk to night classes.

The primary responsibility, however; lies not with housing or campus police, but with the students.

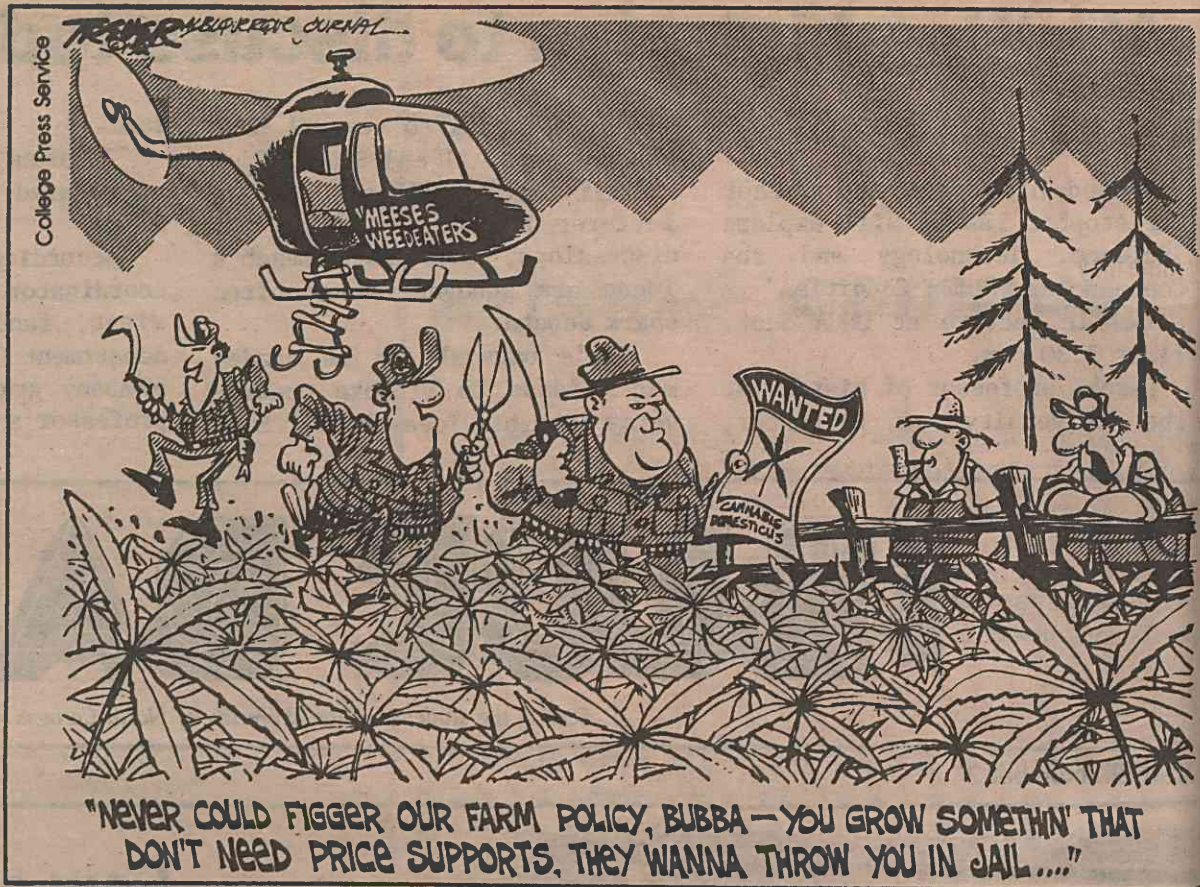
After last spring's rape, the Student Government Association announced they would begin an escort service. The service never seemed to materialize, but we have a feeling few co-eds called to request the service either.

Housing then gave the Village an option of locking up 24-hours a day. Although the university purchased and installed heavy-duty steel doors, only one dorm, Swain, tried the full-time lock up.

The reason for their reluctance? The majority of residents wanted their buddies to have free access to visit them.

And this year the Village has reverted to its old hours: 12:30 a.m. on week-nights and a 2 a.m. lock on weekends.

We at **The Blue Banner** just hope it doesn't take another attack on a student before co-eds realize their lives outweigh the inconvenience of living behind locked doors.



IN YOUR OPINION

Donkey ball denounced

Dear Editor:

It has come to our attention that the Donkey Softball Game on Sept. 15 is being run for the financial benefit of the UNCA and is being backed by the Optimist Club.

Perhaps the sponsoring organization and the university are not aware that the Humane Society of the United States has condemned any games using animals in this fashion as cruelty.

They told us that the animals are "coaxed" with electric cattle prods and if they do not react as expected,

a stick with a nail on the end, wrapped in tape for concealment, is used.

It is a sad commentary that a fine institution of higher learning and a club like the Optimists, devoted to civic virtue, feel there is not a less painful way to raise funds.

George Bernard Shaw said, "As long as we abuse animals we are barbarians." We must speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

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Nothing in the editorial or opinion sections necessarily represents the position of the entire BANNER staff, the staff advisor, or UNCA's Student Government Association, administration or faculty. Editorials represent the opinion of a majority of the editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the views of their authors. The editorial board makes the final decision about what the BANNER prints. This newspaper represents a public forum for debate at UNCA.

The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name, followed by year in school, major, or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

All submitted articles are subject to editing. The BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted. Deadline for submissions is Friday noon.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

