

NEWS

Seatbelt Usage Down in N.C.

Rae Stephens
Staff Reporter

An automobile accident took place August 24 on Merrimon Avenue that left one driver in critical condition and the other walking away with barely more than a scratch.

At approximately 2 p.m. a young male driving a red Chevrolet Cavalier turned left without yielding to an oncoming silver Honda Accord. The young man driving the Cavalier walked away unscathed. The Accord driver was rushed to the hospital and is listed in serious condition. The Accord driver suffered from chest injuries from his steering wheel and head trauma as his head broke his windshield.

"If the driver of the Accord had been wearing his seatbelt, he probably would have walked away," said Asheville police officer Robin P. Lyles. "The young man driving the Cavalier walked away with only a little burn on his arm from his air bag, because he was wearing his seatbelt."

"I always wear my seatbelt," said Terrence Jacobson, a junior Multimedia major. "It's a habit. I make sure everyone in my car wears their seatbelts, too."

"I don't want to be responsible for someone flying through my windshield," said Jacobson. "I don't want my family or friends to get hurt while riding in my car, if I can prevent it."

Seatbelt usage in Western North Carolina is lower than in any other part of the state, according to the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program survey. The survey showed that only 77.6% of the drivers in the mountain region of Western North Carolina wear



RAE STEPHENS/STAFF REPORTER

As a result of Safety Belts, serious injury was avoided in this Accident on Merrimon Avenue. As a Whole, Safety Belt Usage has Gone Down in Western North Carolina.

their seatbelts while driving.

That percentage is low compared to the 87.2% of drivers that wear their belts within the coastal region.

"There's more of an independent bent in the mountains," said Don Nail, acting Highway Director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "The tendency is to be a little more independent and they don't want to be told what to do."

Sometimes telling people what to do is best if it is for their own safety and the safety of others, according to Lyles, a 19-year veteran of the Asheville Police Department. People need to be reminded how important seatbelts are before a tragedy convinces them.

"People say that you can't tell driv-

ers in Western North Carolina what to do," said Lyles. "Yes, you can and we do it everyday. Seatbelts protect and save lives. I will continue to tell people that they need to be worn."

Across the state, one type of person wears seatbelts less than the rest of the population: Young, white males driving a van or pickup in the mountain region are the least likely people to be buckled in across the state of North Carolina, according to the Governor's survey.

"Seatbelt usage is a habit that is done everyday," said Lyles. "When a person first starts to wear a seatbelt, complaints about comfort are typical and expected."

Once a person makes wearing a

belt a habit, it doesn't get noticed. Once it's a habit, people aren't even sure why they didn't wear it in the past."

Seatbelt usage in North Carolina has dramatically increased since 1993 with the beginning of the "Click it or Ticket" Program. This program was launched by former Governor Jim Hunt to increase seatbelt and child safety use rates through stepped-up enforcement of the state's seat belt law. In 1993, only 65% of North

Carolinians wore their seatbelts when driving compared to the 84% overall that now wears them. As a

See SAFETY Page 12

'Hook-up' Study Reveals University Campus Culture

Amanda Heyman
University of Wisconsin
University Wire Service

In Madison, Wisconsin, on State Street, Saturday night. Drunk boy meets drunk girl. At bar time, they head back to her apartment for some post-party action. It's a "hook up," a commonplace college campus phenomenon.

Further down the street, a sickeningly cute couple strolls along discussing plans for the week ahead. Every day's plans include each other. It has been like this for every day of their two-month relationship. This pair embodies another campus cliché—the "joined at the hip" couple.

These two familiar scenarios are often the only relationship options open to college women today, according to a study conducted by the Institute for American Values. The institute, a non-profit group that promotes the importance of families and fatherhood, surveyed 1,000 college women nationwide who told researchers what many University of Wisconsin-Madison students know all too well—traditional dating has disappeared.

"People are either hooking up or in joined-at-the-hip relationships," said Elizabeth Marquardt, co-author of the study. "Traditional dating required a man to form a plan, pick a woman and pursue the woman, we didn't find any rituals [like this] on campuses today."

Although Marquardt acknowledged that the social roles of past generations should not be resurrected, she said today's women could benefit from clear relationship milestones.

"Rituals like a guy giving a girl his class ring, or even his asking her on a date, clearly signaled interest, and she could accept or refuse," Marquardt said. "It helped women know where they stood. They could gradually build an early relationship together without having to



LENA BURNS/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A Recent Survey Shows Traditional Dating has Disappeared.

immediately be sexually active or have to immediately commit to that person."

Adding to the ambiguity, the study reported that the term "hook up" lacks a clear definition.

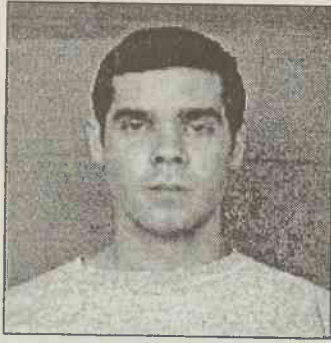
"People usually said a hook up meant anything from kissing to having sex," Marquardt said. "Some people thought it definitely meant intercourse; some thought it meant everything but intercourse. Three-fourths of women in our national survey agreed a hook up is when a girl and a guy get together for a physical encounter and don't necessarily expect anything further."

While the terminology may be new and confusing, sociology professor Myra Marx Ferree said some unwritten rules remain the same. The stud/slut double standard remains prevalent, and men still do most of the choosing.

"If being chosen, selected and sought after by guys is still the standard by which women's desirability, importance and sexual significance is evaluated, then it's real dangerous for women to say no, and it's dangerous to say yes," she said. "There's risks in both; you say yes, you become the slut. You say no, you become the ice queen."

Former UNCA Student Charged With Robbery

Rae Stephens
Staff Reporter



James Richard Foster.

A former UNCA student was charged with attempted common law robbery at an Asheville drug store on the morning of August 30.

James Richard Foster, of 100 Coleman Avenue, walked into Lord's Drug Store at 660 B Merrimon Avenue expecting to hold-up the store and walk out with liquid morphine.

The pharmacy owner had other ideas.

According to the police report, 26-year-old Foster came into the store shortly before 11 a.m. and walked up to the counter with a note. Foster handed the note to an employee, Cynthia Farthing, behind the counter and told her not to signal any alarms. The note read, "One liquid bottle of morphine or everyone gets the sever consequence."

Farthing read and took the note

to Michael Overman, the owner of Lord's Drug Store. Overman looked at the Foster and saw he had no visible weapon and grabbed his gun from below the counter.

Pointing it at Foster, Overman told Foster to sit down and wait for police.

Police arrested Foster without further incident. Overman declined to make any comment on the matter. Foster was being held at the Buncombe County jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Study Abroad

UNCA's Study Abroad Program will hold an open house for information on the program. The meeting will take place in Thursday, September 13, 2001 from 3:00PM to 5:00PM in the Highsmith Center Lounge

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Equal Access: Disabilities Film Festival 2001-02

Sunday, September 9 at 4 P.M., "In the Land of the Deaf," will be shown in the Whitman Room of the UNCA library.

Sunday, October 7 at 4 P.M., "Stairway to Heaven," will be shown in the Whitman Room of the UNCA Library.