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the Seahawk

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AWARENESS PROSPECTS TO REDUCE SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Many sexual assaults are never reported to the police.

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

Experts hope that raising awareness about sexual assault will help cut down on rape and sex offense crimes in North Carolina this year.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Rape or sexual assault was the violent crime least often reported to law enforcement in the year 2000." In light of this statistic, Governor Michael Easley has proclaimed April to be sexual assault awareness month.

North Carolina currently has 7,177 registered sex offenders and predators. Last year there were 115 convictions for first-degree rape or sex offense and 160 second-degree convictions, according to Easley's press release.

Tarsha Brown, a graduate intern at Coastal Horizons Center, said "This is such a problem

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Surfing within 500 feet of the piers at Wrightsville Beach is not allowed. Jeff Wunsch/the Seahawk

No surfing near the pier

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

Attempts to increase surf zones failed at last Thursday's Wrightsville Beach town meeting when several local fishermen spoke up about the risks of surfing near the pier.

The town currently bans surfing within 500 feet of the piers, as opposed to 200 feet in such other area beaches as Surf City and Kure Beach. The Wrightsville Beach Board of Aldermen was

scheduled to decide if surfers would be allowed to surf within 150 feet of the piers instead.

Alderman Trey Jordan urged the board to decrease the surfing boundaries. He said that "there are too many surfers and the restrictions are too great. Five-hundred feet is almost two football fields."

Opposed to Jordan were two local fishermen who said that 150 feet was too close to the pier and the surfers could be in the way of the fishermen.

"The distance they have now is

sufficient," said James Neil an avid fisherman and surfer for the past 40 years. "I can hit them with a plug in 50 yards, not to mention a four or six-ounce sinker, and that can be just as deadly as a bullet."

These fishermen have paid to have the privilege of fishing on that pier, and that structure doesn't move. Surf does."

Jordan argued that if surfers should not be allowed within 500 feet of the piers, than neither

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GRADUATION APPLICATIONS FOR DECEMBER DUE IN APRIL

New deadlines are encouraged.

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

The application deadline for graduation has been moved up to make sure that all applicants will, in fact, be able to graduate.

Students planning on graduating this December are urged to apply for graduation by the end of April.

The deadline is being moved because there has been a reoccurring problem in that students missing one class will not graduate because there was not enough time for them or their adviser to catch it. This has led to advisers and students scrambling to add a directed independent study or a last-minute class to their schedules long after the drop/add period has ended.

"It is very anxiety-making for the student and for me," said Kathleen Gould, undergraduate coordinator for advising in the English department.

Ron Whittaker, the university registrar said, "If we can catch it the term before, we can react and

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