

## Deer casualties increase as habitats are lost

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The Pendulum

Tuesday's wildlife casualty highlights an issue that North Carolina is facing more often.

Anne Kerns Hice, who works in the conservation education division of the North Carolina State Wildlife Resources Commission, says her main concern these days is making the public aware of what to do when an animal loses its habitat.

"You never approach a wild critter. The animals can do a lot of damage when hurt. People should immediately call the wildlife commission," Kerns Hice said.

There are more deer in North Carolina and Virginia than when the pilgrims came over, Kerns-Hice said. "As long as they are plentiful, these kind of incidents will continue to happen."

Deer hunting is one way deer populations are managed in North Carolina. In 1976, the deer harvest was 23,184 (deer killed by hunters). In 1990, the deer harvest increased to 104,413, she said.

Continuous changes are made to the rules and regulations for hunting and fishing. "You have to adjust the management of deer herds. If they weren't hunted, disease would set in and they would be wiped out," Kerns Hice said.

Cars play a big part in many deer casualties. More than 3,000 big animals collided with cars in 1990, she said.

Human casualties have also occurred. Kern Hice said a Richmond County man was killed when his car hit a deer.

The development of shopping centers, schools and super highways contribute to the loss of wildlife habitat. Lack of a predator also plays a part. "Cars, 16-wheelers and man have become the predator," Kerns Hice said.

"In the next five years, we are really going to see a problem. Right now, we are just beginning to see," she said.



Workers from the North Carolina Wildlife Commission tend to a young doe that crashed through a window in the Fine Arts Building Tuesday morning.

## Deer

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deer. I called Campus Security and the Police Department. Then I called veterinarian Jeff Wilkins because I wanted to save the deer's life."

The doe was crossing the street from woods behind Jordan Center when a car, frightening the doe, caused her to become confused. The doe was fooled by the mirror like glass and plunged through it.

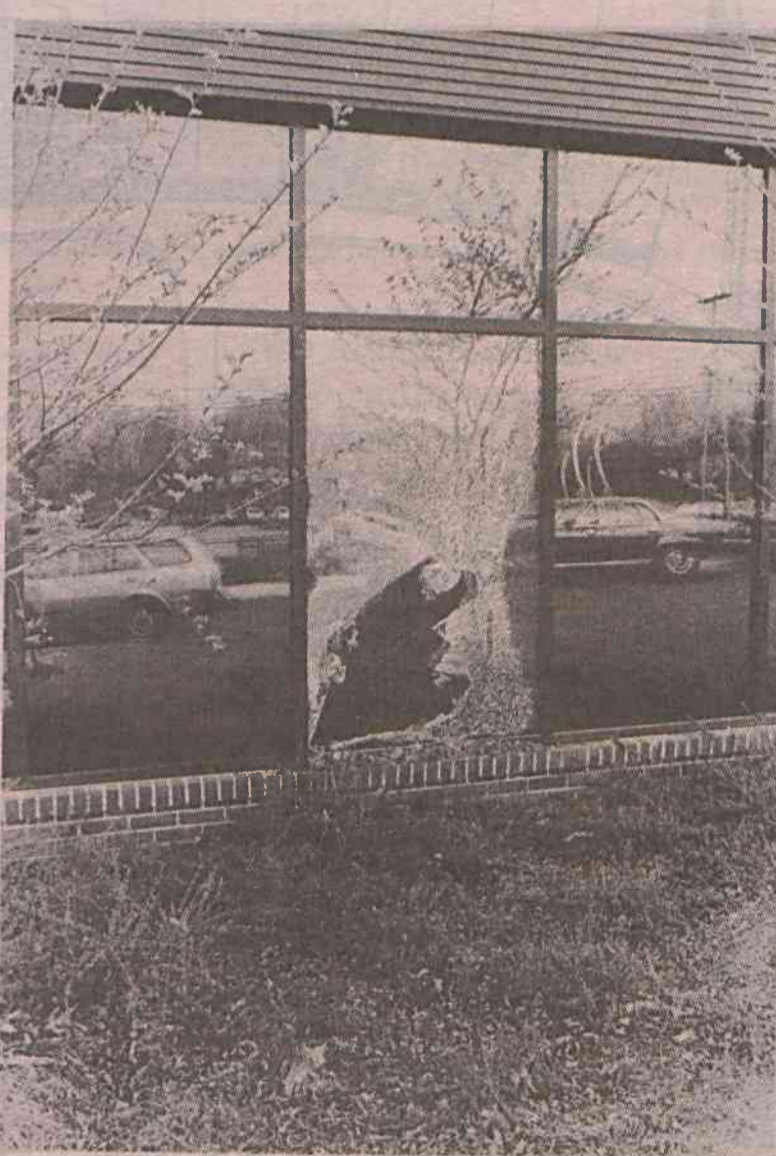
"She probably saw the reflection of the trees in the glass and thought it was an escape route for her," said Sterling Baker, district captain of district five of the North Carolina State Wildlife Commission.

Harlan Hall, game biologist for the State Wildlife Commission, gave the doe a tranquilizer shot but it was too late as the deer died from shock and loss of blood at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Hall said this type of deer casualty isn't all that uncommon.

"An overflow of deer at this time of the year causes more deer to come out of the woods into the city, thus causing more casualties," Hall said.

Damage to the Fine Arts Building is estimate to be between \$300 and \$400.



The doe crashed through this double paned window after being spooked by traffic while crossing the road.

## Habitat

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"They were absolutely amazed by the number of volunteers that came out that had no idea who they were, or knew anything about the family, and yet, they were willing to help," Barnhill said.

Barnhill said a lot of people were at the site Saturday. There were even people on crutches. The Cooks couldn't believe the support. "That was the best feeling they had," Barnhill said.

Pilec said the family was a little apprehensive at first. Then they realized that Habitat wasn't a charity, but a partnership. She said when the family started working with the students, they started warming up to them. "They started developing a friendship."

Asked why he became so involved with Habitat For Humanity, Barnhill said, "It's one of the most down to earth organizations. There's something special about Habitat. If you donate money, you just bought something. It doesn't go to a fundraising campaign that you never see. You're out there doing the work, and your money goes right to the family and right to the house."

Barnhill said Habitat is rewarding quickly. "It's concrete."

Barnhill thanks everyone that has helped so far, but says to those that haven't helped so far, "give it a try...it's great!"

## Zoning

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Bernadette Dove, zoning coordinator of Elon College, said the house they are having the most trouble getting to comply with the ordinance are the fraternity houses not recognized by the school.

"The house two doors down from the Hardees is one we are having problems with," Dove said. "There are more than three unrelated students living there. If their address is there that is where they live."

Sandy Simmons the owner of the house two doors down from Hardees said she rents the house to four boys but she has yet to be notified by the town about zoning regulations.