

## Editorial: Bad news

by Tara Young

Rape, murder, and violence are seen everywhere in the world today. We see it on street corners, we read it in the paper, we see it on TV. There is no escape from all of the negative input that screams of how the world is over-run with crime. Many people spend every waking hour in fear because being safe is all that they can think about. When do we have time to spend with ourselves and focus on all of the positive things happening in the world when we hear of so much depressing news?

On Friday, October 5, there were all sorts of articles in the paper, but the ones that stood out the most to me were mostly sad. There was an article about deputies being placed in a dozen high schools in Wake County to ward off violence. It is good that

the people are aware and concerned about violence in schools, but I find it overwhelming that schools have to have this kind of protection. It is also sad for a parent to have to wonder if her child is at school buying drugs, or even if he will make it home alive.

It is also depressing to think that no one can escape from the violence that is in our society. The news article "Clinton Security Will Be Stronger Than Kennedy's" focused on the amount of protection that will be given to the president on his trip to UNC Chapel Hill this week. His every step will be planned out, he will probably ride in a bulletproof limousine, and he will probably stay only long enough to give his speech. Officials commented that the "security surrounding the trip is so tight that the White House officials don't even want to discuss it."

There are enlightening articles

in the paper, but they often get overlooked because they aren't packed with action. Take the article about a bus driver of five years who refused to run her route because her bus had worn tires and a leaking exhaust pipe. She was looking out for the children who she was responsible for and was not just concerned with doing her job. If it weren't for her, a bus load of innocent children could have lost their

lives in an accident that could have been prevented.

In everyone's lives, a sense of security and well-being is desired. Oftentimes, we get caught up in the rush of news and we forget about the small things in life that mean so much. Even if we don't think the little things we do count, they could be the biggest part of someone else's life.

## Letters to the Editor

I'm writing this letter regarding the recent fire incident in Heilman, not only as a staff person concerned for the safety of individuals in the Meredith Community but as one who resides within this community. One of the basic needs of individuals living within a community is that of physical safety. In light of the facts surrounding the recent fire incident in Heilman, I have great concern that the fire safety procedures we have in place to handle fire emergencies have failed us, thus causing me to doubt whether or not individuals working and living within this community are really safe.

My doubts are fueled by many unanswered questions, such as, why was a mattress in the storage room when it is a clear violation of state fire regulations? Why was the fire alarm not pulled in order to evacuate students as soon as the smoke was discovered? Why was the fire extinguisher not used to extinguish the smoldering mattress before it was removed from the storage room? Why did the smoke detectors not work?

Out of respect and concern for the Meredith Community, these questions need to be addressed so as to assure its members that safety is of utmost importance.

Fire safety is the responsibility of every person in the Meredith Community, both students and employees. Clearly, the students who smoked in the storage room should assume their share of responsibility for this fire accident but not all of it! Perhaps Residence Life, Security, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Administration, Staff, and students should each examine their role of responsibility as it relates to fire safety issues within this community.

My purpose in writing this letter is not to place blame on anyone. It is my hope that we will move beyond the need to place blame and begin focusing our energy towards better educating and training this community in regards to fire safety issues. Next time, we may not have a second chance!  
Libby Mullinnix, Vann Residence Director

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Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with contact name and address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request.

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