



STATE & LOCAL

Release of Inmates Causes Concern

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Staff Writer

Most students at Meredith College consider themselves to be relatively safe on campus and in the surrounding Raleigh community. Although aware that risks and dangers do exist, we are thoroughly confident in the security systems that are in place both on and off campus. With the recent news that 20 murders and rapists could potentially be released from prison and free to roam the triangle area, students are naturally feeling a little less confident about their safety.

"After hearing about this po-

tential release, I am worried for my safety as well as the safety of my fellow students at Meredith College," commented sophomore Sara Shaw.

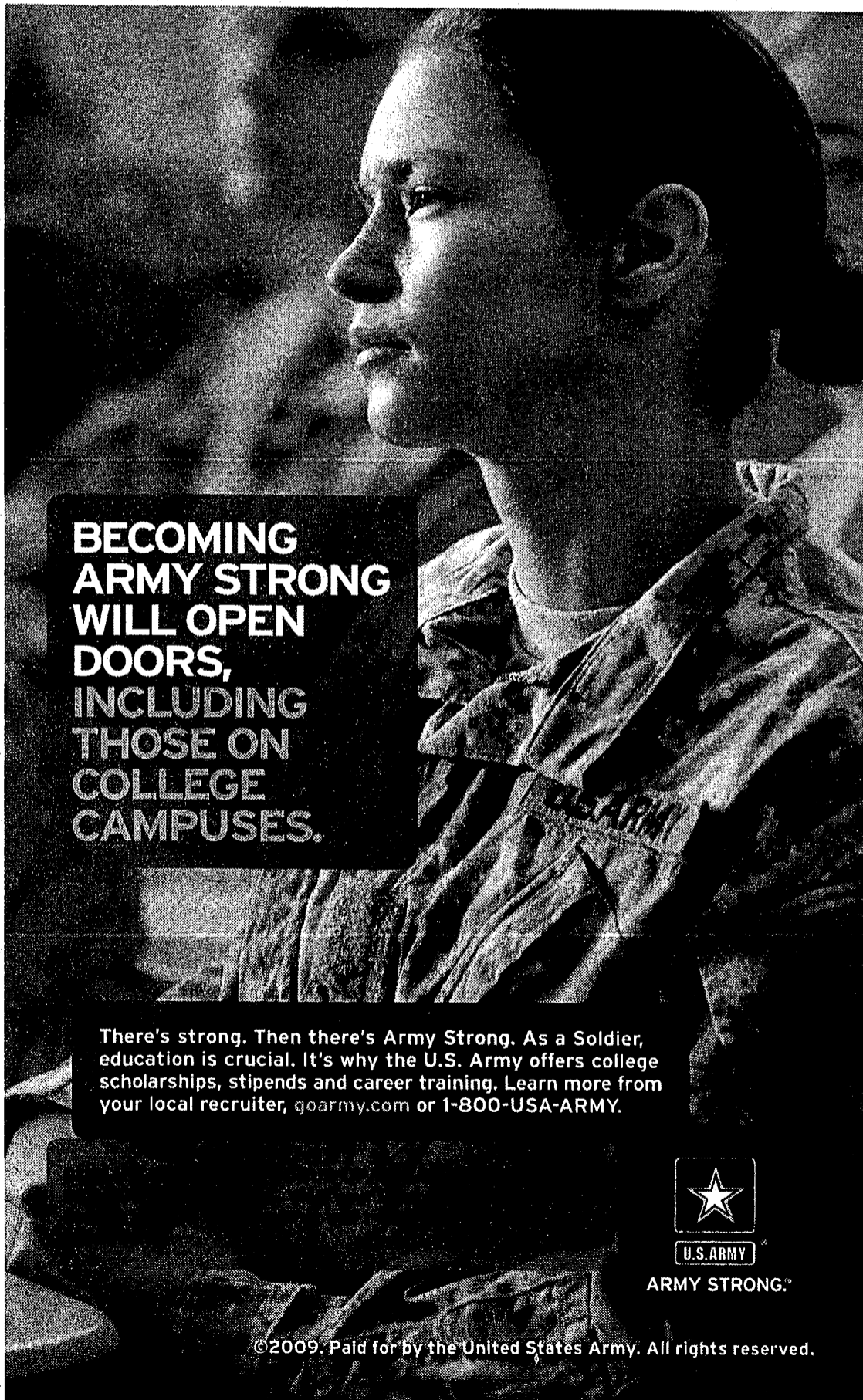
According to the News and Observer, state officials are being forced to release 20 inmates because their sentences of a lifetime in jail were put into place in the 1970s. Recently, the high courts in North Carolina have found that in the 1970s these sentences amount only to 40 years. Convicts could also be released early on accounts for good behavior. Naturally, many

people are outraged that the state could overlook this major detail. Lawyers from the State Attorney General's office pleaded to the state Court of Appeals as well as the Supreme Court to keep the inmates in prison, but the appeals were denied. Recently, Governor Bev Perdue has made a stance that she is willing to do anything she can to keep these criminals off of our streets.

In addition to the Governor, the US attorney of the Eastern District of North Carolina, George Holding, is making it his personal mission to find crimes that the


convicts had committed but were never prosecuted for because of their so-called "life" sentence. These crimes can be either state or federal charges, but given the limited amount of time, it could be a very challenging task. As many as 10 criminals are expected to be released each year because of the court's ruling.

Because of this fiasco, many Meredith students are worried about their safety, particularly off campus. The fact that they could be interacting with murderers and rapists is naturally a scary thought, and many students have expressed concerns.



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