

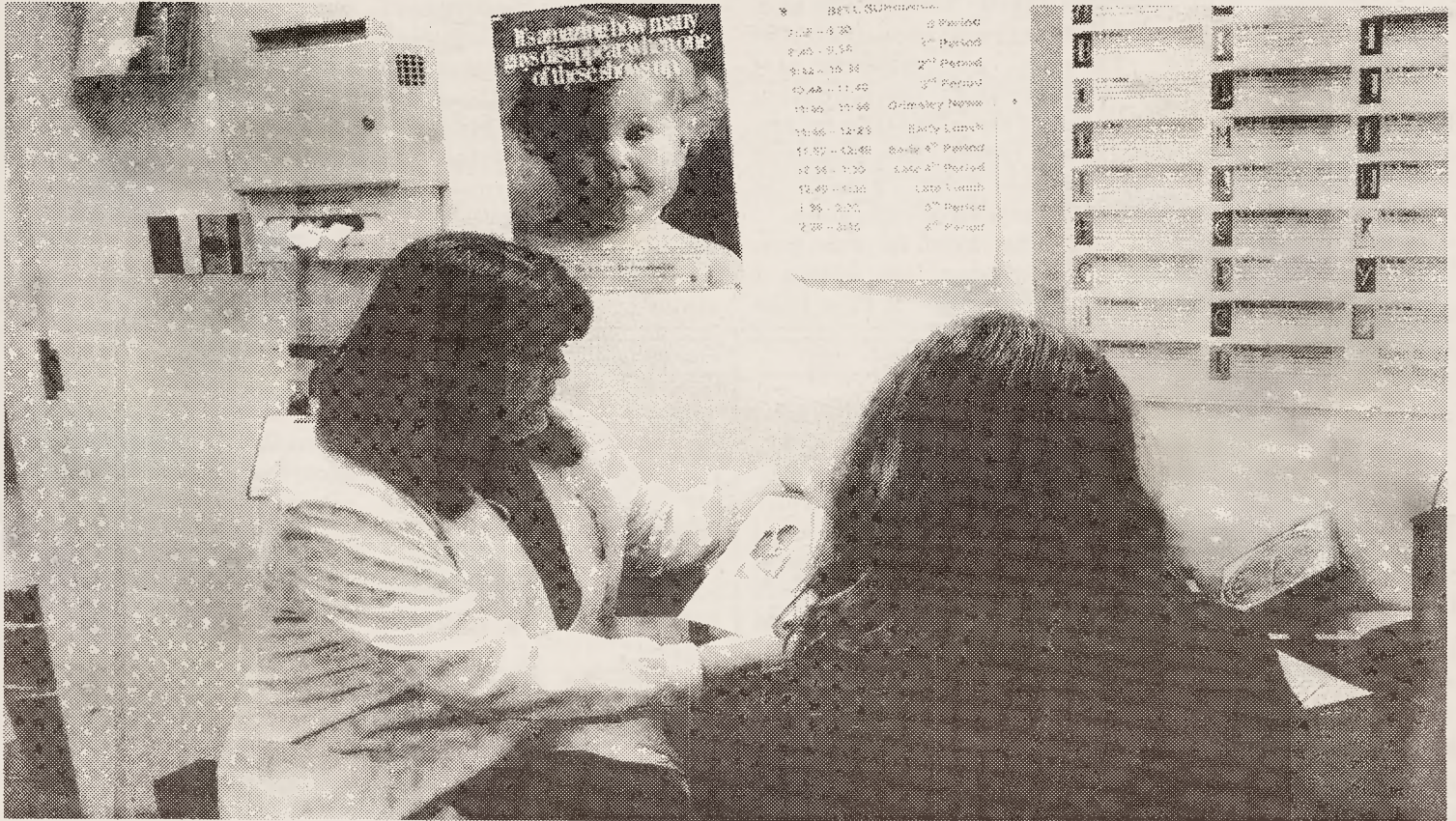
Contraceptive manufacturers, county schools at odds over sex education

County school board officials, contraceptive manufacturers, and endorsers debate over the methods by which to educate young adults about sexual activity.

By Shimère Etheridge
Reporter

While some companies are trying to promote contraceptives by increasing advertisements and creating new gimmicks, other groups, such as county school boards, fear that these condom manufacturers and sex educators, by emphasizing safe sex rather than abstinence, are increasing the risks of sex.

Last year, the Wake County Board of Education approved significant updates to its "Healthful Living Education Policy," which became active this school year. The new policy states that school employees must promote abstinence until marriage as the standard in sex education. The curriculum, which encourages abstinence and discourages contraceptive use and homosexual behavior, includes information on sexually-transmitted diseases



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Grimsley Health Center nurse Debbie Simpson believes that "contraception education does not belong in schools," explaining, however, that the anatomical and physiological aspects should be addressed. Simpson does not believe the matter of sexuality should be taken lightly among students and thinks one should seriously consider whether or not to become sexually active.

and the failure rates of contraceptives.

Specifically, the policy states that members of the school system staff will be limited to teaching that "abstinence from sexual activity outside of

marriage is the expected standard for all school-age children and that a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage is the best lifelong means of avoiding

sexually-transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS."

The new policy is made possible by North Carolina law, which neither requires nor prohibits schools or districts from teaching the use or

methods of contraceptives; provides voluntary HIV, STD, or pregnancy testing to students; and prohibits schools

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Guilford County begins driving program implementation

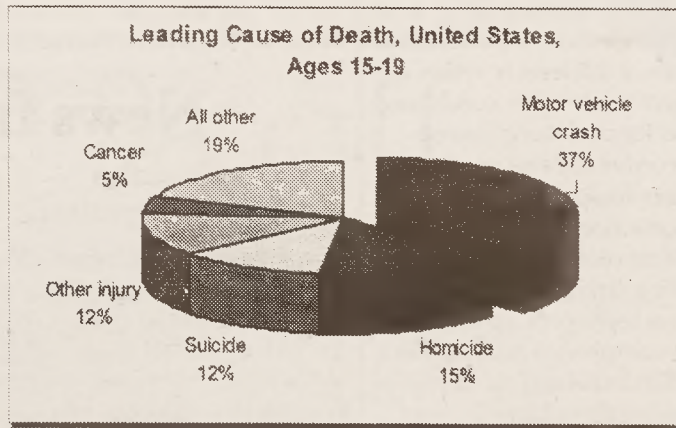
Established seven years ago, Guilford County's Graduated Driver's Licensing program with increased restrictions and standards on driving came into effect in August of 2004 and will begin heavy enforcement during the next few months.

By Emma Williams
News Editor

Dec. 1, 1997, marks the date when North Carolina introduced the Graduated

Driver's Licensing (GDL) policy in order to reduce the high number of crashes among young drivers. After almost seven years, police finally began enforcing the new course of action in August of 2004.

According to studies, 37% of all motor vehicle fatalities occur among individuals between the ages of 15 and 19. In an attempt to remedy the problem, the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, among others,



Guilford County's Graduated Driver's Licensing policy is aimed at reducing the statistical figures indicating high motor vehicle crash rates among young adults.

created the "Ticket today=License delay" program as a means of reaching out to novice drivers and emphasizing to them the importance of being aware of and abiding by GDL.

The GDL of North Carolina accredits high crash rates to the inexperience of and risky behaviors assumed by many young drivers today. By taking a proactive approach with GDL, Guilford County, along with the state of North Carolina, hopes to reduce the

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Americans seem to be developing an unhealthy dependence on prescription drugs.
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Trick or treat
Woods of Terror is sure to provide students with numerous thrills throughout the Halloween season.
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Club gains popularity
Students take advantage of Grimsley's new Cycling Club, which is quickly gaining popularity.
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