



One strong reason Sgt. Pete Toomey of the Crime Prevention Unit discourages the use of handguns is that the victim can be overpowered by her attacker and her weapon can be used against her as illustrated in the above picture. (Illustration by Janice Dalton)

## Women And Self Defense Crime Prevention Unit Advises Women To Practice Defensive Thinking

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor

The idea of women being the "weaker sex" probably has more truth to it than many would like to admit. Women who live alone or who go out at night unescorted often fall prey to burglars, muggers, and rapists.

In an effort to defend themselves from would-be attackers many women have gone out, purchased a handgun and learned how to operate it. But are handguns the best protection for a woman?

That question was put to Sgt. Pete Toomey of the Charlotte Police Department - Crime Prevention Unit and his answer was an emphatic "No!"

"First of all, if a woman carries a gun in her purse as she goes out, she has already broken the law," commented Toomey. The argument was referring to the law that prohibits the carrying of any concealed weapons.

"On the chance that she is attacked, the chances are very slim that she would have time to get the gun and be able to use it to her advantage. Then, there's the strong possibility that she will be overpowered and the attacker will use the gun on her."

What the Crime Prevention Unit of the CPD advises women to practice is defensive thinking. "We believe that women should be more aware of their surroundings," asserted Toomey.

Commenting that over half of rapes are perpetrated by casual acquaintances, Toomey advised that women be careful about whom they let inside of their homes and their cars. "In a lot of cases, if a woman just used common sense, for example, if she would get a companion to go with her at night, then the chances of her being vulnerable to criminals would be greatly reduced."

Showing a special concern for women's safety, the Crime Prevention Unit has published two pamphlets that give good safety tips whether the woman is on the streets or in her car.

Some safety guidelines women should be mindful of while on the streets include: never walking on dark, poorly lit streets, never walking close to bushes, trees, doorways or dark alleys; avoiding standing at bus stops at night; run to a lighted house if you feel someone is following you, don't run in high heels, but carry them for future use. The Crime Prevention Unit en-

courages a woman to defend herself, to scream when attacked and most of all not to panic. They also suggest that handy items like a comb, a pen or pencil, a nail file, a tube of lipstick, a can of hair spray, a police whistle, an envelope of cayenne pepper or a small bottle of perfume be carried in a pocketbook as effective weapons to ward off attackers.

While a woman is in her car she should keep the car doors locked, lock the car when leaving it and take the keys with her, children and pets are not to be left in a car. Never pick up hitchhikers; never pick up objects in the street, and if someone tries to open the car while a woman is stopped at a light, she should run the light if another accident isn't likely and blow the horn.

The Crime Prevention Unit goes one step beyond handing out written material, they also give classes free of charge to women throughout the year. The next female security class will be held November 19 and 26 at St. Andrew Methodist Church, 1900 Emerywood Dr. This six-hour course will last from 6:30-9:30. Reservations are not necessary.

## UNCC Theatre Ensemble Presents "The Good Doctor"

Charlotte - The Theatre Ensemble at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is back on the boards with its production of Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" running November 13-16 at 8 p.m. and November 17 at 3 p.m. in the Rowe Studio Theatre. Seating is limited to 80 for each performance.

Simon's "The Good Doctor" is a series of whimsical vignettes based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov. The stories are droll; the portraits affectionate; the play, while not typical Simon, is check-full of infectious humor and unending fun.

"The Good Doctor" has been called an actors' show. Because several actors play more than one role in the UNCC production the emphasis upon the actors becomes more important; an emphasis which is reinforced in the intimate environment of the Studio Theatre.

"The Good Doctor" has an intriguing range of characters: the man who offers to drown himself for three rubles; a crafty seducer of wives who finds himself commanded rather than in command; a haridan who storms a bank and upbraids the manager for his gout and her lack of funds. Simon explores a wide gamut of characters with levity and irony.

Performing all the female roles except one is Kimi Greene of Charlotte; a junior theatre major with concentrations in both acting and design. Liz Patterson, a freshman acting student from Shelby, appears as the wife in "The Sneeze."

Senior Eric Ottinger of Stanley is the narrator (Chekhov's persona) in two vignettes and Peter in "The Seduction."

William Bullock, a junior from Charlotte, performs three roles: Kistunov in "Defenseless Creature," Sexton in "Surgery" and the husband in "The Seduction." Others in the cast are senior Jim Barth of Harrisburg, sophomore Matt Brunson of Asheville, freshman Roy Crisp of Charlotte, junior Tony Powers of Charlotte and Alan Sikes, a student at Contrak Pied-

mont Community College.

Director Richard Meyer recently joined the UNCC theatre faculty. Previously, he taught seven years at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; six years at Florida State University, Tallahassee, where he was director of theatre and associate department chair; and 10 years at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. Meyer was assistant to director Ellis Kazan for the premiere season of the Lincoln Center Repertory Company in New York. He has directed over 100 major productions in university situations, and several others as a director at the all-equity Asolo State Theatre in Sarasota, Florida.

Meyer co-created and hosted a nationally broadcast public television series, "Offstage," which included interviews with major figures in 20th century theatre such as John Houseman, Richard Schechner and Arthur Miller. The series was organized in segments focusing on specific theatre topics: dance theatre, theatre in China, marionette theatre, alternative theatre, mime and new theatre among them.

The six vignettes comprising the UNCC production of "The Good Doctor" are set in 19th century Russia. Senior theatre design major Ginny Johnson of New Orleans, La., has created both costumes and settings to bring the period to life in an unusual way. The detail of her period costumes is an interesting counterpoint to her spare, functionally, almost modern setting. Completing the design team is the lighting designer, senior theatre design major Mindy Mathis of Charlotte.

Tickets for "The Good Doctor" are available at Cone Center on the university campus, or for those not associated with UNCC, by reservation at 597-2599 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Due to limited space, none of the performances is designated as University Night.

## CPCC Offers Newsletter Course

How to produce a newsletter for companies, clubs or organizations will be taught at Central Piedmont Community College beginning in January.

The course, which costs \$15, will cover newsgathering, writing, design, typesetting, paste-up, working with a printer, and mailing regulations.

"We will lead members of the class from the idea stage to the printed copies," said Frank Granger of CPCC's Graphic Arts Program. "Anyone who is responsible for producing a newsletter can gain valuable information from this class."

For details, call Granger at 373-6782. Registration for new students will be December 9-12.

Of the 1,219 community colleges in the U.S., CPCC recently won recognition as one of the top five community colleges in the nation for teaching excellence and student success.

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