

Activists Urge Adoption of Mandatory Victim Notification Policies

CLINTON
FROM PAGE 1

BY JENNY HEINZEN
STAFF WRITER

Victims'-rights activists have joined together in a call for legislation that would require state law enforcement officials to notify a victim of a violent crime when his or her assailant is released from prison.

"It's important because it is a key to other rights," said David Beatty, director of public affairs for the Virginia-based National Victim Center. "Victims are allowed to come in and testify before the parole boards in many states during parole hearings. They can't do this if they don't know about them."

North Carolina already has enacted a law concerning notification of the release

of certain prisoners, said Greg Rideout, spokesman for the N.C. Attorney General's office. But the law makes no mention of notifying the assailant's victim, he said.

"Legislation passed by the N.C. General Assembly two years ago stated that local district attorneys must be notified when perpetrators of class G crimes become eligible for parole," he said.

Class G crimes include murder, rape and assault with intent to kill, he said.

Rideout said the N.C. law stipulated that a victim must indicate in a written request that he or she wanted to know the date of a violent criminal's parole hearing.

But national victims'-rights organizations claim this is not enough. They have demanded that notifying victims or their

surviving families of an assailant's parole be mandatory.

Beatty said he thought North Carolina should choose to enact either a mandatory notification policy or the opt-out system, which would entail notification unless the victim specifically requested otherwise.

"As a practical matter, safety is a major concern," he said. "Victims want to know because the offender represents an ongoing threat."

He said the mandatory notification policy was used by 11 states, including Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Rideout said the point of pushing for

victim-notification laws was to prevent victims from suffering again.

"Victims and people in general want to be protected from the violent crimes that happen in their communities," he said.

Patty McQuillan, director of public information for the N.C. Department of Correction, said she thought financial constraints and prison overcrowding had prevented most state legislatures from adopting the policy.

"Any extra duties or responsibilities would be paid for by taxpayers," she said. "I don't know how many people would have to be hired for that because it would definitely require additional staff."

Prison overcrowding could be the biggest influence on legislative decisions con-

cerning a new policy, she added.

McQuillan said North Carolina's prison caps, which force officials to release prisoners to prevent overcrowding, could bring the number of prisoners eligible for parole hearings to 700 per week.

If five people must be notified for each violent criminal who faced parole, "it would become quite a big operation," she said. Beatty said that although additional staff could be required, the government had a responsibility to guarantee victims' basic rights.

He added that hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent each year to protect the rights of offenders. "Relative to this, the cost is small — the price of a phone call or a piece of stationery and a stamp."

talk to the White House to find out their plans."

Hardin said he saw the symmetry in having Clinton succeed Kennedy as a presidential University Day speaker.

"As it is well known, President Kennedy has been a hero and role model of President Clinton for a long time," the chancellor said.

Kennedy spoke in 1961 about what role a new generation of college graduates would have in the United States:

"I ask you to give to the service of our country the critical faculty which society has helped develop in you here. I ask you to decide, as Goethe put it, whether you will be an anvil or a hammer; whether you will give the world in which you were reared and educated the broadest possible benefits of that education."

COMMUNITY
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said that although the center was a good idea, he was not sure whether it would continue to be successful. "This is a heterogeneous community, meaning there are lots of different kinds of people, and it will take some time to help this community because there is such a variety of people."

The center probably will not deter drug dealers, he said, adding that the community only would improve if the neighborhood pulled together. "People who want (something) positive will know that the center is a place where they can come."

Many of the center's programs still are being planned. Kinnaird said she would like to see the center provide children with a safe environment where they can do

homework. "Parents of children told me that their children couldn't get off the bus without being surrounded by drug dealers," she said.

UNC's fraternity and sorority members can be involved in the center to serve as role models for the children, she said. "The success of Carr Court Community Center depends in part on the students from the University."

NIKE
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said. "(Other coaches) see what Carolina's making, and they want more."

The disclosure also embarrasses coaches who receive a portion of the contract, he said.

Swofford said Saturday that Smith's basketball team had led the way for the new contract.

"I think to some degree we're breaking new ground here," he said. "This is the first time at this institution that the interest in one sport has been parlayed to the entire athletic department."

Smith said he would distribute his annual \$300,000 Nike salary among assistant coaches and staff and to a fund that helps former UNC players.

According to the agreement, the breakdown for the yearly payment is as follows:

- Assistant coaches: \$135,000.
- Office staff, auxiliary staff and trainer: \$65,000.

Television and radio show host: \$30,000.

Coaching consultants to Smith: \$25,000.

General purposes such as providing assistance to former players and families, with the remainder to the Dean E. Smith Academic Scholarship Fund: \$45,000.

Nike also will make a one-time payment of \$500,000 to Smith. He said Saturday that he planned to donate the money to various charities, but he would not say which ones. "I don't have to say," he said. "It's going to me."

Under the contract, Nike also will donate \$100,000 in Smith's name to UNC-CH's Bicentennial Campaign. Smith originally planned to give the money himself, but he decided to have Nike donate it to avoid taxes on the gift, he said.

The athletic department also can look forward to a big payoff. Nike will pay the department \$420,000 over the course of

the contract. Swofford said the money would go to women's teams and academic support programs for athletes.

Swofford said side agreements with other UNC coaches still were being negotiated. Nike is negotiating with head football coach Mack Brown, head baseball coach Mike Roberts, women's head basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell and head track and field coach Dennis Craddock, Swofford said.

The University will benefit from a licensing agreement included in the contract, Swofford said. Nike will be able to use University trademarks on clothing, but it will have to pay the same fee that other licensees do.

"The licensing moneys that come into the University should increase significantly with this agreement," Swofford said.

The 24 varsity teams will receive at least 1,908 shoes in the first season of the contract. The package also includes at least 443 travel bags and 616 pairs of socks.

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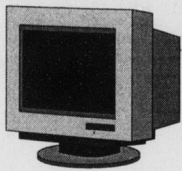
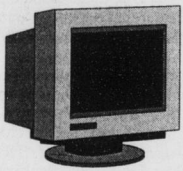
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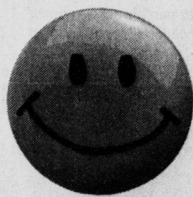
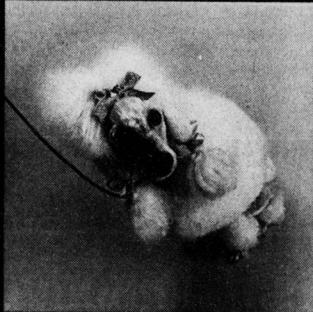
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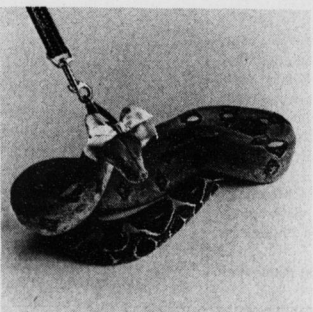
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