



Durham police officers tackle highest murder rate in N.C.

The city's homicide rate has risen almost 7.5 percent from 1995 to 1996.

STATE & NATIONAL

BY SARA DEMANIGOLD STAFF WRITER

While Chapel Hill had only one murder in 1996, a neighboring city was

at the other extreme. Just miles down the road, Durham recorded at least 42 murders in 1996 the highest percentage per 100,000 peo-ple in North Carolina.

Police discovered another possible homicide recently, but await results of an autopsy before they can tell whether the victim died in 1996.

Durham resident and grandmother Virginia Sessoms said the murders and other crimes in Durham made her fear going outside at night. "You never know who you are going to meet at a intersection," she said.

The homicide rate has risen almost 75 percent from 1995 to 1996, which causes some residents to fear for their safety and that of their loved ones.

"I have three teenage grandsons that have just gotten their driving licenses," Sessoms said. "I am afraid for them and am always warning them to be careful.

Belinda Pridgen, crime analyst for the Durham Police Department, said that of the 42 murders, none were ran-dom acts of violence. "In probably 95

to 98 percent of the cases, the people knew each other," she said. Also, the homicide cases were evenly spread out across the city.

But Sessoms said she was concerned that the rising murder rate showed a lack of police protection to prevent street criminals from harming innocent

"The way I look at it, if they don't get people off the street and stop the drugs, things are going to get worse," she said. In order to combat the criminal ele-

ment the department is trying new tactics.

"Chief McNeil has formed a homicide task force. He wants to try to identify ways to break the cycle of vio-lence," said Capt. John Knight, head of the criminal investigative division. But the police department cannot control the criminal element of the city without mean division involument.

without more citizen involvement, Knight said. "I think the expectation of people for

the police department to solve social problems is too great," he said.

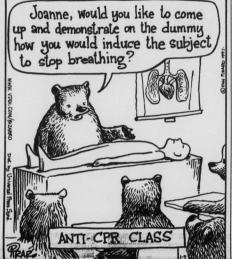
"Crime rate is driven by social prob-lems not created by the police department.

Campus Calendar

Thursday

11 a.m.-2 p.m. — Campus Y Horizons will be in the Pit for stu-dents who want to sign up to join a Campus Y committee. There will be an additional presentation tomorrow at the same time. 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. — There will be a returnee meeting forfall 1996 study abroad students in Union 224. Food will be provided. 5:30 p.m. — The third in a series of information sessions on the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity will be held in Union 226.

Bizarro



Additional sessions will be held Friday at 4 p.m. in Union 226 and Jan. 13 at 4 p.m. in Union 205.

Items of Interest

Class of '38 Summer Fellowship Applications are available at the International Center on the main floor of the Student Union. Four fellowships of approximately \$3000 each are awarded to sophomore and junior students interested in an independent study project abroad that is related to personal and/or career aspirations. For more infor-mation call 962-5661.

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The APO Book Exchange will be open from Jan. 6 through Jan. 17 in Union 212. Come to the original source for used textbooks on campus where prices are still set by the seller. Books will be collected until Jan. 10 and sold until Jan. 17. Book co-ops mean better prices. Suddent Health Service will hold an introductory meeting of the UNC Diabetes Support Group on Jan. 14 on the second floor of the SHS building in the Psychological Services Conference Room. For more information call 966-552.
The Creative Writing Program will present poet Robert Kirkpatrick of UNC's Department of English and fiction-writer Elyn Bache of Wilmington who will give a public reading Sunday at 2:30 pm. in the Wilson Library Assembly Room.
Moors Program applications are available in 300 Steele Building. The entry deadline is Feb. 1.
A Wedding Designs Bridal Tea, a Tar River Orchestra benefit, Woont, N.C. Guests may make donations while viewing fashions and flowers. For more information call 919-977-4017.
Carolina Leadership Development will sponsor the "Emerging Leaders" program, beginning with a lecture tildel "Communicating with Power" featuring Cynthia Wolf Johnson, the director of N.C. Fellows & Leadership Development on Monday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Vison Love Johnson the schibit "Looking Back" from Jan. 26 through Feb. 6 in the Hanes Art Center gallery, The exhibit features 26 silver gelatin prints emphasizing architecture, particularly windows, doors and porches, that are documented in an undisturbed state. undisturbed state.

undisturbed state. Pianist George Winston will perform Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets for the concert, sponsored by the Carolina Union Activities Board, are \$16 for the general public and \$12 for stu-dents and are available in the Union Ticket Office now.