

Congress to debate campus-crime bill

BY DAVID COENEN
STAFF WRITER

A new congressional bill would make campus crime rates reported by universities more accurate and open campus criminal hearings to the public.

The Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act of 1997 would require all schools to provide public access to a crime log and make campus disciplinary proceedings involving criminal allegations public.

"Most schools are underreporting or inadequately reporting crime on their campuses," said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center.

The act was designed to change this by expanding the types of crime that schools must report under the current Campus Security Act of 1990 and clarify that school officials must report statistical information on campus crime.

In addition, schools would be fined if they violated the new reporting requirements.

Goodman said, "I think it boils down to image concerns," he said. Universities don't want to mar their reputations, so they withhold campus crime information, he said.

Daniel Carter, regional vice president for Security on Campus, the main group that drafted the new campus crime bill, agreed and said schools must report crime for the safety of the students.

He said parents and students should have crime information available when deciding which school to attend.

"Students need to be informed to make safe decisions," Carter said.

He said communities and students couldn't help with the crime problem unless they had accurate information.

If the bill passes, campus crime information would be available in libraries and on the Internet, Carter said.

"People who want (the information) can get it," he said.

Carter said the legislation would change the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which was created to protect students from schools releasing "academic records."

He said some schools have funneled criminal cases such as rapes, aggravated assaults and thefts into campus courts and then withheld that information from the public.

"FERPA was never intended to be abused in the way it is," Carter said.

Schools deceive the public about how safe their campuses are by not reporting simple assault or theft, Carter said.

He added that current legislation fosters unfair comparisons of campus crime rates at universities when some schools report crimes that others hide.

Carter expected Congress to pass the bill by next January. He said it was being reviewed by the Education Committee.

Amanda Martin, attorney for the N.C. Press Association, said the new legislation would address problems at UNC that sparked a lawsuit by The Daily Tar Heel. The N.C. Superior Court ruled that UNC's Honor Court could open its meetings under the N.C. Open Meetings Law, but had the legal right to close the hearings under FERPA.

Both the University and the DTH have appealed the decision.

"Because the legislation addresses (amending FERPA), the problem would go away," Martin said.

The new legislation would not affect the lawsuit because the suit was tried under the old law, she said. Academic proceedings would not be affected.



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Office of Greek Affairs uses program to fight date rape

■ Wednesday night's program was mandatory for all new fraternity pledges.

BY ERIKA MEYERS
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Greek Affairs sponsored an educational program about date rape Wednesday night in the Great Hall.

The Office of the Dean of Students, the Greek Women's Issues Group and Student Health Service helped coordinate the program.

Michelle Cofield, assistant dean of students and the University's harassment and assault prevention coordinator, said she implemented ideas in Wednesday's program that she had learned at a conference focusing on sexual assault and harassment on campus.

"A year ago in the spring semester is the first time we had this program," Cofield said. "This semester, the program setup is a little bit different. Instead of a lecture format, it is more interactive with stations set up."

Director of Greek Affairs Ron

Binder, who led a discussion on facts and fictions about rape, said the program was a requirement for all pledges who joined a fraternity this semester or last semester.

"Basically, this was something we committed to doing a year and a half ago," Binder said. "The statistics of date rape in colleges show that it is necessary to deal with this issue."

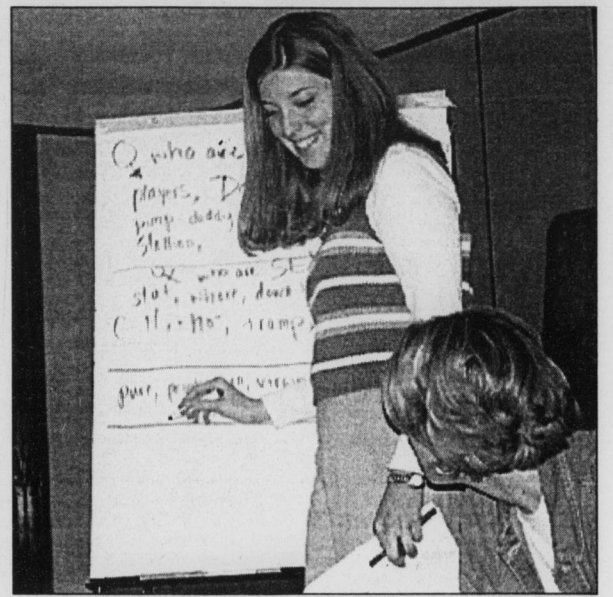
The program consisted of four stations, each one representing a different topic related to date rape and gender communications. Participants spent 15 minutes at each station.

Sue Grey, social director of SHS, discussed gender communications at her station. "If men and women would talk to each other, we wouldn't be here tonight," she said.

GWIG members Katie Smith and Dianna Chapman led a discussion about sexual stereotypes and their negative impact on gender communications.

They pointed out several gender stereotypes, such as the names used to describe sexually active males versus the names used to describe sexually active females.

Chapman said stereotypes discouraged males and females from commu-



Diana Chapman (center) and Katie Smith present a seminar to fraternity pledges about date-rape prevention Wednesday evening.

nicating effectively. "(Gender communication) is not something that happens and is something we need to think about," she said.

"There are things we have in our minds, but they're often not expressed. This results in misconception of what we say or how we act."

Local principals gain more authority over bus drivers

BY MEREDITH MATHIS
STAFF WRITER

In response to a court case Tuesday, Chapel Hill and Carrboro school principals now will be able to halt school buses when they suspect drivers of alcohol intoxication.

District Transportation Supervisor Mary Lin Truelove in October advised Ephesus Elementary School principal Terrence Young to let a bus driver continue his route after staff members

noticed that he smelled of alcohol.

Cecil Tony Ingram, 58, was pulled off the bus at Phillips Middle School, the next school for which he had a route, by transportation officials and charged for impaired driving.

Ingram admitted having a vodka drink and beer four hours before picking up the children at Ephesus, yet he was not proven guilty due to lack of evidence of being appreciably impaired.

Truelove said she based her decision on the driver's state when he left the

transportation center.

"Prior to leaving the transportation center, several other people and I talked to (the driver), who showed no signs of impairment."

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools public relations representative Kim Hoke said schools officials had never dealt with such an incident.

"The principal did not know he had the authority to stop the bus," she said. "From now on, principals can hold a bus until other safe transportation can be

arranged." Truelove said that, currently, only the transportation officials had the training to legally detect intoxication.

"The Ephesus administration made a big accusation in this situation, and people who make determinations about alcohol should be trained with specific federal requirements," Truelove said.

Hoke said, "Just smelling alcohol is not enough proof, but we have a responsibility to protect the safety of the children."

Campus Calendar

Thursday
3:30 p.m. — The UNC Classics Club will meet in the common room on the third floor of Murphey Hall.

5 p.m. — The Out of State Students Association will present Brad Lamb to speak on "How to Pay In-State Tuition" in Union 224.

Black History Month spotlight

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)

Booker T. Washington, born a slave in Franklin County, Va., became the most influential black leader of his time in the United States. In 1881, Washington founded the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of which he served as principal.

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The New York Times

1997 Summer School OXFORD

Information Meeting

Monday, February 24, 1997 4:00 pm Greenlaw 301

Plan to attend if: You are already enrolled in the Oxford program OR are interested in studying in Oxford this summer.

Take us down to...

The Underground

ASA, KASA, & VSA invite you to the **speakeasy semi-formal** for a night of pure sonic and dance!

Saturday, February 22, 1997

Great Hall, Student Union, UNC Chapel Hill from 10:30pm-1am

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Attention Seniors!

Come find out how you and your friends can raise money for charity in the

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Information Session Monday, February 24, 5-7pm, Union 211

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

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Swimming - Women's ACC Championships
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Softball vs. Minnesota
2pm at Finley Field

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National CONDOM week

TIPS for SMART LOVE

JUST USE IT...

If a condom breaks, the FDA encourages the emergency use of oral contraceptives up to 72 hours after unprotected sex to reduce the threat of an unwanted pregnancy.

For more information, call Student Health Service at 966-6586.