

SBI continues investigation of spring assaults

By D.A. TREVOR
Tar Heel Staff Writer

The State Bureau of Investigation is continuing efforts with local law enforcement agencies in their investigation of a series of six assaults on women students dating from March 6 through June 14.

SBI agent Dan Gilbert said that the agencies involved, including University, Chapel Hill and Carrboro police departments, are actively pursuing these assaults, but he refused to go into the details of their operation.

"There is an immediate need to acquaint the public to this, but we're now at a point where I feel a great deal of publicity would hinder our efforts," Gilbert said.

The SBI was called in during April after five UNC students were assaulted in six weeks.

Gilbert refused to comment on whether they had any suspects, leads, or had made any arrests.

Gilbert said there are many possibilities as to why there have been no assaults since June.

"The perpetrator may have become more afraid," Gilbert said. The main concern is to warn students to make sure their apartments and dorm rooms are secured for the night, because there have been no signs of forced entry in any of the assaults, Gilbert said.

UNC Housing Director Wayne Kunel expressed similar concerns about informing students of the danger in leaving doors unlocked during the night.

Kunel said the dormitory security systems have been tightened this summer and that he is currently evaluating the new system with the area directors of residence halls.

Following the latest assault in June, the housing department implemented a strict system whereby no one was allowed inside the dorm until the person they wished to see came down to escort the visitor. This initial system was dropped because of negative feedback from residents and ADs.

As of July 5, an alternative system requires guests to leave their driver's license with the desk attendants, who then log the time that the guest comes in and the time they leave.

"This provides us with face-to-face contact with the guests," Kunel said.

Kunel said the housing department is taking sound measures to provide tighter security but is wary of turning the campus into an armed camp.

"We'll be very sensitive to community needs and responsive at the same time," Kunel said.

Kunel said that this fall the department will continue the usual poster campaigns and resident assistant discussions to educate students of the dangers of assault. He is also considering an idea similar to the seat belt campaign, where students would be rewarded for keeping their doors locked, to emphasize the positive side of the situation.

Kunel said the bottom line is that students must lock their doors. "It's a laxity on the part of the individual to make yourself vulnerable."

Center helps rape victims

By D.A. TREVOR
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Victims of rape, attempted rape, sexual harassment and incest need not bear their feelings of violation and helplessness alone.

The Orange County Rape Crisis Center has a 24-hour hotline (967-RAPE) as well as volunteer "companions" and an extensive referral system to aid victims of sexual assault.

The center will provide support and accompaniment throughout the initial medical and legal procedures.

Coordinator Mary Ann Chap said the center is a clearing house for the rapes reported and that it works indirectly with the police.

"Our companions will go with the victim to fill out a statement or to see a lineup," Chap said. "We help the victim work with the police."

"However, it's very common that the victim knows the assailant, so there's pressure on the person to not report the assault. The victim ends up protecting the assailant in the context of protecting herself."

Chap said that while a low percentage of rape cases reach the courts, the conviction rate is nearly 100 percent. "The DA's office only takes cases they think they'll win," Chap said.

If the victim decides to press charges, a companion may accompany her for several months throughout the proceedings.

However, the center's main concern is crisis

intervention, assessing with the client, her immediate needs and referring her elsewhere for long-term help. "We usually work a few weeks with a person," Chap said.

The youngest victim to contact the center was 7-years-old, and the oldest was in her 90s, Chap said.

The center handles an average of 50 clients a year, but this number does not reflect the number of rapes that occur, she said.

"1981 was a high year, with 66 rapes reported," Chap said. "In 1982, 33 were reported, but in the first half of 1983, there have been well over 33 reported rapes."

The FBI estimates that only one-fifth of the true number of rapes are reported each year, she said.

The center, founded in 1974 as an outgrowth of the Chapel Hill Chapter of the National Organization of Women, relied entirely on volunteers until 1979. They now have one paid director and a part-time support staff. All others are unpaid, trained volunteers. The center is located at 406 W. Rosemary St.

For The Record

An article in the July 21 *Tar Heel* ("Private law firm, Preservation Society restoring Law School") contained several factual errors.

The old law school building is being renovated by Phil Ben and his wife, Stephanie, and not by a private law firm or the Preservation Society as the headline incorrectly states. The Bens acquired the building from the Preservation Society, which had acquired it from the estate of Chapel Hill resident Walter D.

Crech. The Bens agreed to have the building restored.

The original UNC Law School's unofficial namesake, Professor Samuel Field Phillips, was incorrectly identified twice in the article.

Also, the photograph caption accompanying the article should have said the building is being renovated into a private home, not a private law office.

The *Tar Heel* regrets the errors.



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