

CAMPUS SERVICES

University theft problem steals safety from campus and students

By Ashley Fogle
Staff Writer

UNC campus: seething center of crime, or tranquil safe haven? You decide.

The University is basically a safe place with a crime rate much like that of any college campus, said University Police Director Arnold Trujillo.

The theft of personal property is the most commonly reported campus crime, Trujillo said. "If there was no theft, that would take care of most of what we do."

Last year there were 200 burglaries, one robbery and 302 cases of larceny reported on campus, according to police records. Of these cases, 17 were solved.

There are several things students can do to prevent theft, Trujillo said.

"Basically, follow what you were taught at home," he said. "Don't leave

things lying around. Keep your room and your car locked. Take your belongings with you — don't leave them lying on tables or benches or on top of your car. Just be more careful."

Students also can take steps to ensure their personal safety on campus, Trujillo said. He advised students not to walk alone after dark and to develop a buddy system. Students also should tell someone where they are going so police can be alerted if they do not return. The University police department is willing to escort students, he said.

Student organizations work with campus police to prevent crime, Trujillo said. A student patrol, made up of 11 students, works on building security and sometimes provides escorts.

SAFE Escort — Students Averting Frightening Encounters — is another student organization dedicated to enhancing student safety after dark. The group offers free escorts to anyone on campus from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sunday

through Thursday. The service operates during the fall and spring semesters, and can be contacted by calling 962-SAFE.

More than 25 emergency call boxes with a direct line to campus police are located at various locations for students' safety, Trujillo said. When the phone is picked up, dispatchers are able to identify the box's location and send an officer, he said. Police are usually able to respond in two to three minutes. Police are in the process of installing call boxes in parking decks as well, he said.

In addition to theft, University police handled one murder, 22 assaults and 17 cases of motor vehicle theft last year.

Kathleen Benzaquin, assistant dean of students, said rape was as much a problem on the UNC campus as it is at other universities. Students need to learn about the problem, she said. Programs that address date rape are given during student orientation.

Benzaquin said students must take

some precautions to prevent rape.

"In terms of date rape or relationships, there needs to be communication," she said. "Know your limits. Be aware of alcohol and its effects or the effects of drugs. This is the responsibility of men, too, not just women."

Victims of rape or sexual assault can bring charges to the Honor Court as well as in criminal court, she said. Students wishing to bring charges against another student should contact the student attorney general or Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Cannon.

An Honor Court rape trial, unlike criminal proceedings, are closed to the public, Benzaquin said. Victims also are allowed a support person — a counselor, roommate or parent — to give moral support throughout the trial. These precautions are taken to encourage more students to come forward, she said.

"Rape on campus is an underreported crime," she said.

There was one rape reported to Uni-

UNC Police Crime Statistics

Offense	1988		1989		1990	
	Committed	Cleared	Committed	Cleared	Committed	Cleared
Murder	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rape	2	1	1	0	0	0
Robbery	5	0	2	1	1	0
Assaults	20	10	25	18	22	11
Burglary	52	1	126	4	200	2
Larceny	459	10	490	11	302	4
MV theft	15	0	13	2	17	2
Arson	0	0	7	0	0	0
Totals	553	22	664	36	743	20

versity Police in 1989 and none in 1990.

Students often do not come forward because of fear of the consequences or not being believed, Benzaquin said. Other reasons for failing to report include horror stories about rape trials, the lack of confidentiality and self-blame.

The University has developed a response plan to help victims, the first of its kind on a university campus, Benzaquin said. The plan outlines the steps to be taken, from identification of the victim to a follow-up after the case is closed. The plan also coordinates University services to help victims.

Bicyclists asked to register bikes to protect against local theft

By Ashley Fogle
Staff Writer

University officials have encouraged students and faculty who park their bicycles on campus to register them with the Department of Transportation and

Parking Services.

Registration is not mandatory, but officials hope that all students will register their bicycles. Incoming freshmen are encouraged to apply for a permit as soon as they get to campus.

Mary Fox, the department's external

operations assistant director, said the goal of the registration plan was to deter bicycle theft by registering every bicycle on campus. Registration also will speed up the identification of lost or stolen bicycles and assist in planning the improvement of bicycle parking facilities, she said.

The value of bicycles reported lost or stolen last year totaled about \$29,000.

The registration process is simple and free, she said. "Students can apply for permits when they pre-register for a parking permit or a bus pass."

Those registering for permits would need to provide the department with the

bicycle's serial number, model and manufacturer. The permit will be a reflective sticker affixed to the rear frame bar that supports the seat. If the sticker were removed, the bicycle could be identified by the serial number, she said.

University police spokesman L. Marcus Perry said the serial numbers of the registered bicycles would be available to his department to assist in theft investigations.

Fox said she thought 100 percent registration was possible because the plan would not cost registrants anything. She expects 60 to 70 percent registration by the fall, she said.

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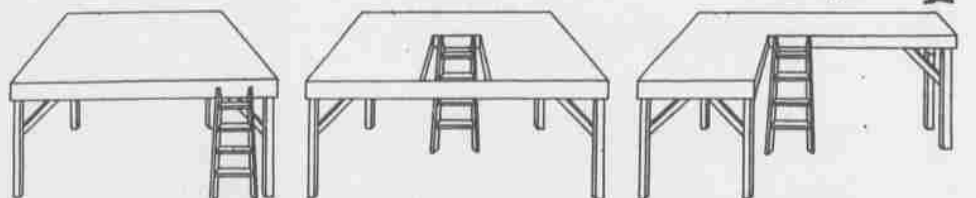
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