



1981

1981 Letter from Susan Becker to Clay and Strickland re Campus Safety

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

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Ms. Gail Clay, Chair
Commission for Women
University Center
CAMPUS

Ms. Cornelia Strickland, Director
UTK Women's Center
301 University Center
CAMPUS

30 November 81

Dear Ms. Clay and Ms. Strickland:

I am currently teaching a class in Women's Studies 2020, and the students have asked me to write you about two special concerns, both of which are related to the safety of women on campus. The first is the problem of lighting, which the students feel will become more important when Expo opens but which is a real problem even now. Specifically, they are concerned about the many completely dark or poorly lighted areas of the campus. It has been their experience that the system of "student escorts" has not been effective in reducing the dangers for women using the campus in the evening.

The second concern is for first year women students who often come from small towns and rural areas and who sometimes fail to use common sense when they are out on campus in the evenings. The class suggests that a special series of programs be run in the residence halls to make new women students aware of the precautions they should take. Perhaps a panel including women students, female police officers, and members of the Women's Coordinating Council would be effective in raising women's awareness.

I know that both I, as a faculty member, and the students in my Women's Studies class would greatly appreciate any help you could give in making the campus safer for all women.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Becker

Susan D. Becker, Assistant Professor