

Students critical of campus security

Stephanie McCorkle
Banner Reporter

How many times have you come back to your dorm late, and had a difficult time getting in? Have you ever waited forever and a day for security to unlock the door?

Many students have had that problem and it is rare to find a student that has not had her share of problems with the members of campus security.

Captain Keith Shouse is the supervisor of Pinkerton Security on this campus.

Going into their fourth year of service with the college, through a contract renewed yearly by administration, the 15-member staff consists of five women and 10 men who have been criticized by some students as not doing their job the way they think they should do it.

Shouse, however, thinks differently.

"I think we have done as good a job as can be expected," Shouse said.

"Everything has remained the same, but better than previously,"

According to him, "The majority of students have positive feelings about us. Those that have negative feelings are the ones who have problems following rules, but I think it is a tolerable relationship."

Shouse said that he and his staff are not taken seriously as real Bennett employees.

"They (students) feel that we are outsiders who are telling them what to do, and there has been verbal disrespect," Shouse said.

"This disrespect is based on what they think we should be doing at that particular time."

Security's attitude is a problem with some students as well.

"A particular security guard refused to open the door for me because, as she put it, he didn't want to," said Nohemi Williams, sophomore.

"There have been times when I have stood outside of the dorm for 20 minutes in the cold and nobody came, even when I went there (Security House)

to report to them that I needed to get into my dorm," she said.

"She told me there was a stick in the door for me, but when I got there, I saw that it was not there. I

went back and told her, and it was then that she got mad and refused to open the door. When I asked her name, neither she nor anyone else I asked would give it to me. I guess they figured I was going to report her."

Pamela Currie, sophomore, had a similar experience when she had a tutoring session with a student on campus that lasted until 1 a.m.

The student gave her name to security so they would admit Currie to her dorm.

"I started walking, and when I got to my door nobody was there," Currie said.

"Cold and windy as it was, I waited for 15 to 20 minutes, still no one showed up.

"So I went back to the Security House and asked them what the problem was and the guard said that the signals got messed up. I don't even think he called it in the first time I came up. They are getting paid to do their job, and they act like they don't want to do it."

Juanita Butler, freshman has had problems with security concerning parking.

"One of the guards told me I could park my car on the inside of the gate (Gorrell Street entrance)," Butler said.

"He said that he would tell the captain that I was there, and that the car could stay there over spring break. When I came back, I found out that my car was about to be towed. He never told the captain.

"I believe that there is a lot of favoritism. What one can get away with, the other student can't. But, overall, I think that he (Shouse) is doing things the way they should be done, however there are some people on his staff that do what they want to do," Butler said.

When the car vandalisms and break-ins took place over the course of last and this semester, security shouldered much of the blame.

"Security takes the blame for good and bad," Shouse said.

"What people don't understand is that security is everybody's job, not just ours. If you don't take responsibility for your own security, nobody else will."



Outkast

Music Review :

"Player's Ball" hot single

By Kim Hall
Banner Editor

LaFace rap artist, Outkast, are sending ripples reverberating throughout the hardcore rap world with their hit single, "Player's Ball." Since its release, the track continues to rise on the charts.

It is "The Greatest Gainer" on Billboard's "Hot R&B Singles" chart and has captured a Top 5 spot on

Billboard's "Hot Rap Singles" chart. The video is a hotly requested video on The BOX and is in heavy rotation on BET.

Additionally, the single has set off an explosion in sales at music chains across the nation. As a result of their growing popularity, the new-comers appeared on Soul Train March 19, to showcase their distinct rapping style.



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