

News

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Caliendo said. "When they are comfortable, they will be more likely to come to an officer with their problems."

Caliendo said he would like to implement a 'citizens' police academy' at UNCA.

"Public safety officers would each teach different lessons, such as communication (and) traffic enforcement. Faculty, staff and students could see what we go through during police training," said Caliendo. "Then they will understand why we do what we do."

According to Epstein, Caliendo does not have an advantage over the rest of the candidates although he graduated from UNCA.

"I do not think that Caliendo has an advantage because (he attended UNCA)," said Epstein. "He has an excellent career, but the other candidates (also) have excellent careers and have been on campuses of their own."

One of the candidates, Meyers, said he believed the community and the public safety department must work together in order to keep the campus safe.

"I have learned that public safety cannot complete their mission without the trust and assistance of the community they work for," said Meyers. "It may take a while, but I want to build a partnership between students and officers."

Bosley, said he also wanted to build a better relationship between public safety and students. He suggested informal meetings with the students, as well as hiring some students to help patrol the campus.

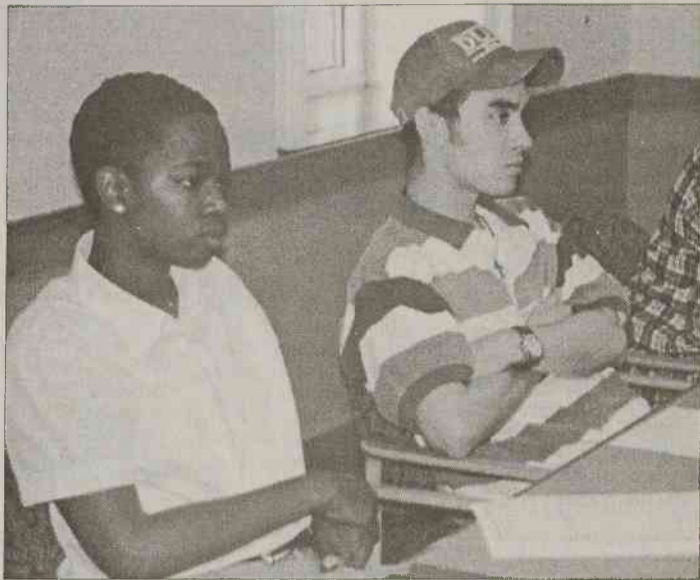


PHOTO BY SARAH LACY

Several Student Government Association members listen to Caliendo's views on public safety at UNCA as part of the student discussion.

One campus I worked on "had a program called 'pizza and police,'" said Bosley. "We rotated from residence hall to residence hall inviting students to come eat pizza in their lobbies. We would talk and ask students if they had heard any rumors they would like us to verify and what they wanted us to help with."

"Students may be invited to help public safety officers," said Bosley. "We may have them walk around in pairs and patrol some areas."

A student member of the search committee, junior sociology major Marcus Bethea said, that he is more concerned with student issues, in-

cluding police visibility and parking, when he examines the possible candidates.

"All of us (on the committee) have a say in who will win the position," said Bethea. "I am concerned with student issues, and I think that is my purpose on the committee."

Some of the student issues include visibility of officers in residence halls, parking, lighting on campus and escorts for students, according to Bethea.

"These are things that need to be maintained, and sometimes students do not feel that these are being provided enough by the public safety department," said Bethea.

Weber

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staff at the University of Liberia sorted the donations, most of which could be used immediately to begin a new library system, according to Weber.

"The donations went so well and the people of Liberia were so grateful, they have declared UNCA a sister institution," said Weber. "They sent numerous pictures of students and staff unloading boxes of donated books. You can see the gratitude in their faces."

In October, Ramsey Library will exhibit a display highlighting the 1999 book drive for Liberia, according to Weber.

"It will emphasize the importance of the current book drive," said Weber. "People will be able to see how their donations helped this country, and they will be able to sign a book that will be sent to the people of Liberia with the new shipment of donated books."

Liberia is located in Africa, bordering Sierra Leone, and was originally established as a haven for freed American slaves. The colony became independent in 1847. Constitutional issues, mounting foreign debts (the government was bankrupt by 1909), and the loss of disputed territory threatened the stability of the nation, but with U.S. help, independence was preserved, according to encyclopedia.com.

Years later, a coup led by soldiers of African origin ended 100 years of rule by Americo-Liberians. Peacekeeping forces led by Nigeria largely ended the fighting, but by 1993, the emergence of new, armed groups and fighting within existing groups disrupted the peace pact and renewed the civil war, according to encyclopedia.com.

"This is a strictly humanitarian effort. It has no political connections," said Weber. "We are simply trying to reach out and help others."

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to help a nation that American settlers first established, according to Weber.

"I think students can choose to get involved in a new connection that will add meaning to their lives, and involvement can be at any level," said Weber. "Even though you will probably never meet these people, you have established a connection that does not require money or time."

Weber said she is hoping that word will get out to student groups and individuals that she is looking for volunteers at all levels. In March, she will need people to help box the books and ready them for shipment to the State Department.

"We can do so much for the literacy of a nation, and it gives these people heart that other people care," said Weber. "All people have to do is bring books to campus."

State laws for underage drinking have changed. For the first time, there is a mandatory minimum penalty of a \$250 fine and 25 hours of community service for adults convicted of providing or helping provide alcohol to underage persons. A person aiding or abetting the sale or provision of alcohol to a minor for the first time will receive a penalty of no less than a \$500 fine and 25 hours of community service.

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