



the Seahawk

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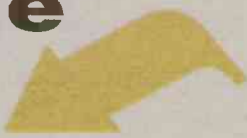


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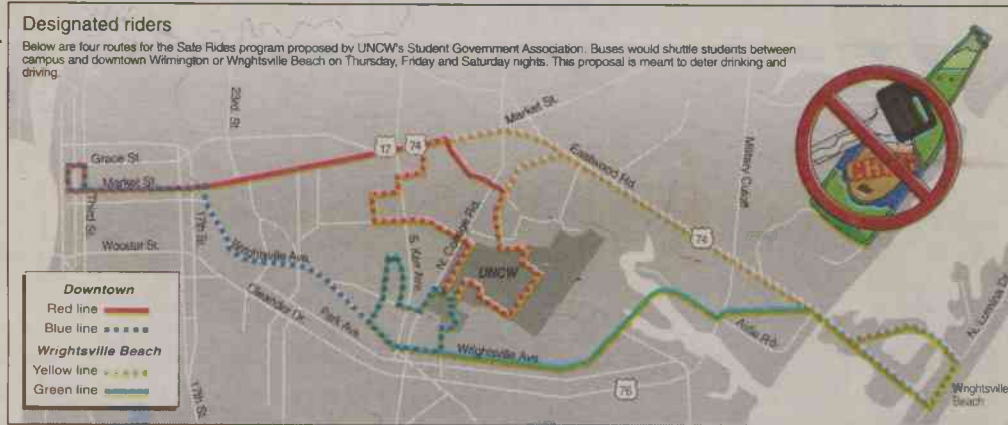
February 16, 2000

Inside This Issue...



Safe ride program nearing completion SGA spearheading effort to promote students' well-being

by HEIDI BING
News Editor



Designated riders
Below are four routes for the Safe Rides program proposed by UNCW's Student Government Association. Buses would shuttle students between campus and downtown Wilmington or Wrightsville Beach on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. This proposal is meant to deter drinking and driving.

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The Student Government Association (SGA) is currently developing a Safe Ride Program that will provide transportation to students who go downtown and to Wrightsville Beach at night during the weekends. The program is an effort to provide free transportation to students, to protect students from walking alone at night, and to curb incidents of students driving after they have been drinking.

"We wanted to cut down on student spending and give students a safe way to get out and back home," said SGA representative Skipper Mervin.

The program is one of the SGA's main goals for the year. The University Affairs Committee began working on the proposal in October, and they are hoping to get the Safe Ride Program started by the beginning of the fall semester.

"We took the idea and made it into our own individual goal," said committee chairwoman Jeanette DeRenne.

Under the Safe Ride Program, buses will travel the university campus and apartment complexes within the one-mile parking zone and pick up students to travel either downtown or to Wrightsville Beach. The buses will run to and from these destinations between 10:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

"We know that student drinking is inevitable because a large part of the student body is of the legal drinking age," Derenne said. "Also, if something unforeseen happens to a student like they lose their ride or have car trouble, they will have a safe way to get home."

Although the program has not been widely advertised yet, the committee is already receiving student responses.

"So far we're getting lots of great feedback from the student body," Mervin said. "Everyone I've talked to says

The SGA's proposed safe-ride program is being designed to bring students safely back to the UNCW area from the downtown and Wrightsville Beach areas on Thursday through Saturday nights.

they'll take advantage of the program."

"I absolutely think there is a need for the program," said sophomore Alecia Mitchell who works as a bartender at King Neptune at Wrightsville Beach. "I have seen many people who have been left by friends and can't get a ride home. You always see 'stragglers' who are still there at three and four in the morning."

Mitchell said she recently left the bar and saw a girl who was in a nearby phone booth crying because she could not get a ride home. Mitchell ended up taking the girl to her house, but voiced concern about other students in similar predicaments.

"It's really hard to get a cab here late at night and even if you get one the price can be higher than usual," she said.

Mitchell said that the only time King Neptune gets slow on weekends is during exam times, reflecting the fact that the

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UNCW cracks down on illegal parking decals

by SOMER STAHL
Staff Writer

Parking on campus still remains a major issue, nearly one year after the enactment of the one-mile radius. The Parking Administration is aware of the false documentation being used to purchase parking permits on campus and has issued a statement that they are aware of who exactly is in violation.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 marked the end of an amnesty period given to students who have illegal permits.

"As of today [Thursday, Feb. 10] we have not had anyone turn in anything, we've only received a few phone calls," said Administrative Assistant of Auxiliary Services Betty Gurganus.

If caught with a forged sticker, students will face a \$105 fine and referral to the Dean of Students Office for dis

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Time to break ground
Senior class clocktower gift will be erected by May / 8



Wilmington art scene
North Fourth Street Gallery offers a feast for the eyes/ 15



The boys of...summer?
UNCW falls to UNCG on a very cold Saturday afternoon / 19

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Staff Graphic/The Seahawk

UNCW Auxiliary Services, which administers parking privileges on campus, is investigating many cases of students obtaining parking decals by fraudulent means. The amnesty period for such decals to be turned in without penalty ended last Wednesday.