



the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



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GO SEAHAWKS! BEAT ECU!

All students are invited to the SGA Tailgate party at Trask Coliseum this Saturday at 5:30 before the big game. Help UNCW celebrate the end of a great basketball season!

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Auto break-in suspects nabbed, police increase patrols

by HEIDI BING and THOMAS M. RUYLE

The Seahawk

One Wilmington man is in jail and others are under investigation for a rash of vehicle break-ins on the UNCW campus in December and January.

Travis London of Burgaw was placed in jail under a \$25,000 bond on Wednesday, Feb. 9. London is charged with eight counts of breaking and entering and larceny of an automobile.

"This case is still under investigation," said Sgt. Wayne Howell of the UNCW Police Department. "There are people [other than London] who were involved. We know who they are and we just need to get them."

According to Sgt. Todd Curry, the suspects broke into several vehicles on campus on two occasions.

"Once right before Christmas... then they took a month off and hit us for another day or two," he said.

UNCW officers caught the suspect and an accomplice in the act of attempting to break into a vehicle. A short foot chase through a wooded area led to the arrests.

UNCW students are not the only victims of the recent break-ins.

"They (the thieves) weren't just concentrating on campus. They hit apartment complexes off campus and Larry's Used Cars," Curry said. He added that the suspects might be facing additional charges from the Wilmington Police Department.

"One of our officers caught the two (suspects). There has been a little bit of the property recovered," Curry said the property is being held pending the outcome of the investigation.

The thieves used what Curry described as a "smash-and-grab" tactic in the thefts. "They would smash a window and take whatever was in plain view. Whatever was visible got taken," he said.

Curry said that no UNCW students were suspected in the thefts. "Everything is coming back to these two (suspects)," he said.

Sophomore R.J. Russell was one of the victims of the break-ins. Russell returned from a weekend in Chicago on Monday, Jan. 31 and found the roof

of his Isuzu Trooper had been vandalized.

"I had about \$500 worth of roof rack equipment for skis and bikes and it had all been ripped off," Russell said.

The car had been parked in Lot EE, behind the Suites and Schwartz Hall.

Russell filed a report with the UNCWPD and was contacted the following Tuesday to come identify items that the police had recovered. All of Russell's equipment has been recovered, and is being held as evidence.

"Its pretty unsettling to walk by and see your car like that," Russell said. "Its really upsetting that people can't respect the property of others."

The UNCWPD patrols all areas of campus 24 hours a day, and at least three officers are on duty at any given time. Since the rash of break-ins, the police have become more vigilant.

"We've doubled or tripled our patrols in the parking lots," Curry said. The university also has security guards on duty from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. nightly.

According to Curry, if officers see cars with valuables or keys left in plain view they will attempt to locate the car's owner to warn him or her of the increased risk they run of a break-in.

"We're finding keys in the door handles, windows left down. We're calling people and asking them to secure their vehicle," he said.

Even then, some students are not too concerned. Curry said, "If they don't want to secure it, we can't make them."

He stressed the need to reduce the risk of theft. "Take your cell-phone inside with you. Put your CD's under the seat. Take precautions. Lock your doors, roll your windows up," he said.

Although several cars were burglarized recently, Curry said that UNCW has a low rate of such crimes. "Until (the recent break-ins), our numbers were very low," he said.

Russell said the vandalism does not make him apprehensive about leaving his car on campus unless it is for a long period of time.

"I was fortunate in that they caught the guys," he said. "Sometimes they do find leads and its important to report these things."

"We're finding keys in the door handles, windows left down. We're calling people and asking them to secure their vehicle...Even then, some students are not too concerned. If they don't want to secure it, we can't make them."

-Sgt. Todd Curry

Intercultural Festival draws crowd



James Flint/The Seahawk

UNCW's seventh annual Intercultural Festival was held last weekend at the Hawk's Nest. See Page 5 for more highlights from the event.

Tennis coach resigns

by ALLISON BIGGAR

Staff Writer

A women's tennis team meeting on February 1 resulted in the resignation of coach John Glascione and felony assault charges against a player's father.

According to witnesses, during the meeting, Monroe Phelps approached the practice courts and began slamming a baseball bat into the fence while screaming verbal threats at Glascione. Upon leaving campus, he almost hit UNCW police officer Mike Spencer with his car. Mr. Phelps is the father of sophomore Stephanie Phelps.

Prior to this incident, players said that there was tension on the women's tennis team and Glascione was accused of being too tough on the team members in his first year of coaching.

"[There was] a lot of miscommunication between John and some of the other players. They didn't see where each other were coming from," said assistant coach Jon Ingham. "A few of the girls resisted the change. It was a lot tougher and a lot more demanding."

"He just wanted us to do our best and he pushed us harder," said

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