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Bicycles and cars: safety issues questioned

by MELISSA FARQUHAR

Staff Writer

The one-mile radius issue has forced many students to use means of alternative transportation on campus. While this change has helped to alleviate some traffic and parking problems on campus, many students who choose to bike to school have been the victims of vehicular accidents, leading some students to believe that the university does not provide a safe means for bicyclists to travel on campus.

Senior Claus Kuhn Hansen was recently hit by a red Dodge Neon while bicycling on campus. The driver clipped him and kept driving, leaving Hansen on the side of the road, near the Warwick Center.

"The thing is, this isn't the first time something like this has happened," Hansen said. In the three years that Hansen has been riding his bicycle on campus, he said he's been repeatedly yelled at and cut off by drivers on campus.

"All of the roads are bad," Hansen said. "There aren't enough bike lanes".



Among the many rules not observed by bicyclist is not walking their bikes over cross walks on campus.

Senior James Cooper of Students and Community for Alternative Transportation (SCAT) agrees.

"UNCW has an incomplete bicycle lane network," he said. "They only have marked bike lanes on one side of the road. This is dangerous because cyclists are supposed to ride with the flow of traffic, but by having only one lane on a road, some cyclists ride into traffic also, which causes a bottleneck."

Along with the problem of limited bike lanes, Hansen said many drivers and cyclists do not understand road rules.

Hansen recommends a campus wide effort to make drivers and cyclists more aware of laws. In addition to the problem of cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road, Hansen doesn't think any drivers on campus recognize bicycle signals.

"There is a problem out there concerning bikes and cars," said Lt. David Donaldson of the UNCW police department (UNCWPD). "There is a large quantity of traffic, and there is ignorance, that is, a lack of understanding, about what bikes have to do and what pedestrians have to do."

Bicycles have been considered vehicles under North Carolina law since 1937 and bicyclists are granted the same rights as motor vehicle drivers.

Since implementing the one-mile radius policy last fall, the university has seen a rise in the number of students utilizing alternative transportation. Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Dick Scott said that the university is continuing to improve the bike paths throughout campus, and there has been a big push to get people to use the Seahawk Shuttle

According to Scott, the university has just recently been approved for a joint grant with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT), which will create a bike path from the center of campus to the beach. The university is currently waiting for a contract now that funding has been approved.

"The project will be implemented in the summer and will be ready in the fall," Scott said.

The university is also looking into other ways to aid cyclists on campus. A committee was established by the Stu

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Students protest Disney presence on campus

by THOMAS M. RUYLE

Editor-In-Chief

A small group of students staged a protest last Thursday at Morton Hall as the Walt Disney Company held an internship recruiting session there. Five members of P.E.A.C.E. (People for Education and Active Commitment to Equality) handed literature to the internship prospects detailing labor injustices committed by Disney in Haiti.

The group, led by sophomore Adrien Lopez, stood outside the doors of Bryan Auditorium attempting to dissuade students from attending the information session, speaking of various injustices said to be committed by Disney.

Shortly before the presentation, the group was confronted by members of Career Services and a Disney representative. A short discussion ensued regarding the students' right to voice their opinion.

After Lopez cited a clause in the Student Handbook that allows groups of 50 or less to peacefully demonstrate, the two sides reached an agreement quickly. P.E.A.C.E would be allowed access to the auditorium until the program began, and were welcome to stay, as long as there were no



Several students protested at Morton hall during a Disney internship recruiting program last Thursday.

disruptions. Several members of the group chanted "Halt Walt!" and "Hit the road, Disney!" at the doors of the auditorium until the program began.

A university police officer arrived on the scene for several minutes during the demonstration as a security precaution.

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