



the Seahawk

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Inside This Issue...



Look for the Seahawk next Tuesday, October 3. Beginning October 17, the Seahawk will be issued twice-weekly!



WIZARDS

Rec Center Schedule

Wizards' arrival to affect Rec Center hours / 5



Having a ball

Record crowd shows support in men's soccer loss to Wake Forest / 15

INDEX

Campus News.....	3
Classifieds.....	8
OP/ED.....	9
A & E.....	11
The Scene.....	12
Sports.....	15

SGA Safe ride program stalls out

SGA cites lack of organization involvement, \$8,200 at stake

TODD VOLKSTORF

STAFF WRITER

The highly anticipated Safe Ride program scheduled to begin this fall remains dormant. Student Government Association (SGA) representatives remain optimistic about the idea but have no implementation date as yet. SGA members have cited problems with student organization involvement and legality issues as reasons why the program is not yet operational.

"I think it's an excellent idea, and I hope we can find the leadership to make it happen," SGA President Katie Russell, said.

Nearly a year old, the idea behind Safe Ride is to provide UNCW students with safe and reliable transportation to the downtown area of Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach during the weekends. According to

SEE SAFE RIDE, PAGE 5

Washington Wizards begin training camp here next week

BEN JONES

SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington Wizards' preseason training camp will be held at UNC Wilmington from Oct. 3 through Oct. 11. This marks the first time that an NBA team has practiced in Wilmington.

The Wizards come to the Port City under guidance of team President of Basketball Operations, Michael Jordan. Jordan, a Wilmington native, took over the position last season. One of his duties is to organize the preseason training camp for the team.

Jordan indicated that he will make the trip to Wilmington for the camp.

"My presence [at training camp] is very important to get what I expect and to set the guidelines for this organization early,

so we have no discrepancy when the season comes around," Jordan said at a recent press conference. "That's my purpose for being there early and often."

Star basketball players such as Juwan Howard, Chris Whitney, Cherokee Parks, Rod Strickland, and Mitch Richmond will be on-hand for the Wizards. Also in Wilmington will be the new head coach of the Wizards, Leonard Hamilton.

Last season, the team finished 29-53, last place in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference.

The nine-day trip will be an essential preseason warm-up the team needs to prepare for such teams as defending world champion Los Angeles Lakers. The team

SEE WIZARDS, PAGE 5

Police draw attention to downtown safety issues

HEATHER GRADY

STAFF WRITER

Programs such as the Student Government Association's Safe Ride initiative have brought attention to the issue of student safety in downtown Wilmington. The proliferation of drinking associated with the bar and club scenes increases the potential of victimization in this area and the need for students to be aware of safety precautions.

"Intoxicated individuals have a 30 to 40 percent higher chance of being victims of violent crimes, including assault and robberies," said New Hanover County Deputy Sheriff J.R. Sigman.

Over the past three years, assaults in the areas around Front Street appear to be declining based on police reports. In 1998, 18 assaults were reported, 1999 ten assaults were reported and only three have been reported for 2000.

However, according to Officer Verna Atwood, of the Wilmington Police Department's Crime Preven-

tion Unit of the, these statistics may be misleading because they do not account for those assaults that went unreported over the recorded years. She said that it was impossible to estimate the frequency of unreported incidents.

According to Lieutenant David Donaldson of the UNCW police department, the possibility of violence downtown is more prevalent due in part to the lack of lighting in places

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 5



Students partying downtown run an increased risk of assault or injury, especially when alcohol is included in the equation.

Jenya, (left) and Tim get crazy in one of downtown Wilmington's many small alleys on a recent weekend night. Safety downtown has become a hot issue in recent years.



Photos by Jim Flint/The Seahawk