



the Seahawk

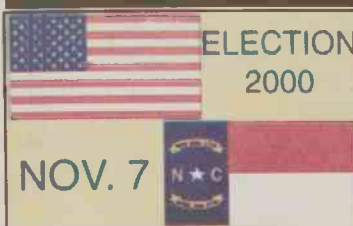
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VOLUME LII, NUMBER 12

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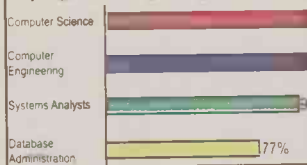
OCTOBER 24, 2000

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Crime report shows increase in crime

HEIDI BING
NEWS EDITOR

Reports of crimes and arrests on campus increased significantly during 1999, according to the UNCW Police Department's yearly report. The report shows a notable increase in alcohol, drug, and weapons-related arrests and reports of burglary.

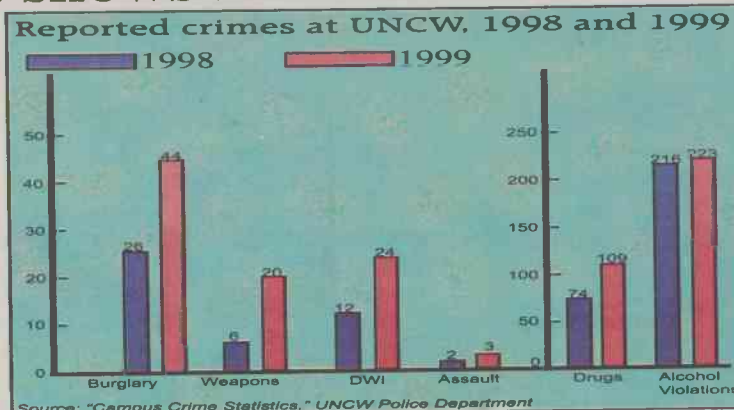
"We feel like the crime report is an accurate representation of crime on campus," Captain David Donaldson of the UNCWPD said.

Donaldson said that the increase in arrests on campus can be attributed in part to an increased police presence on campus.

Property Crimes

The crime report cited 44 cases of burglary, while only 26 incidents were reported in 1998. The report follows the federal definition of burglary which is, "the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. For reporting purposes this includes: unlawful entry with intent to commit a larceny or a felony; breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny; housebreaking; safecracking; and all attempts to commit any of the aforementioned."

Donaldson said that the majority of these



Source: "Campus Crime Statistics," UNCW Police Department

Graphic by Thomas M. Ruyke/The Seahawk

burglaries were "crimes of opportunity" that occur in residential areas and involve non-forceful entry when students leave their doors unlocked. He said that most crimes are perpetrated by other students and that the police expect a significant number of property crimes to occur at the beginning of a new school year.

"As the year progresses there have usually been enough crimes that people understand that they need to lock their [property] up," Donaldson said. "Unfortunately about the time that understanding is reached the

year's over and 1,300 new freshmen move in August and the cycle starts again. Its a constant education effort from our end."

Drug and Alcohol Arrests

There were 42 alcohol-related arrests in 1999, up from only 26 arrests in 1998. Similarly, 53 drug arrests were made in 1999 while only 14 were reported in 1998. Donaldson said there were many factors influencing this trend, notably the increasing number of veteran police officers on the force and an in-

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Seniors voice criticism of senior gift choice

TODD VOLKSTORF
STAFF WRITER

Discussions concerning the senior class gift, graduation and other senior related issues took place last Wednesday night in the living room at University Union after criticism surfaced regarding the proposed senior gift.

Senior class President Aaron L. Davis, organized the meeting.

The original gift idea was to build a small patio near the commons area, which will have benches, flowers and "UNCW" written in stone letters. According to Davis, the area would serve as a place to take photographs. The estimated cost is approximately \$30,000. During the Tuesday, Oct. 17 SGA meeting, Davis reported that the idea had been finalized.

Some seniors said that the idea is not an appropriate gift, and that very few seniors were involved in the process of selecting it.

Rachel S. Wallace, a senior biology major said she did not personally like the idea of another monument on campus. Her biggest concern was that seniors were not involved in the process.

"Decisions were being made without seniors being a part of it," Wallace said.

She did point out that she was impressed

with the response from everyone when she presented her views about the project.

"Everyone I talked to was willing to work on the idea," Wallace said.

Jessica A. Maher, a senior and a member of SGA, is interested in doing something other than another campus beautification project as a gift. She would like to see seniors begin a new tradition of contributing to a "specific philanthropic or social cause."

"Decisions were being made without seniors being a part of it."

-Senior Rachel Wallace

"I'm proposing we change our idea of what a senior class gift is," Maher said. She added that there was nothing inherently wrong with the current idea, but that UNCW would probably do the project on its own, without it being "a gift."

"I would like to make the world a better place, not the UNCW campus," Maher said.

Davis said he disagrees with the criticism and feels that a senior gift should be something given directly back to the university, but he is not entirely opposed to the idea of a philanthropic gift.

"I just want to give something back," he said. "This school has changed my life."

The group discussed the possibility of combining the two ideas but would like input from the senior class before a final decision is made.

Issues concerning graduation were also discussed at the meeting. Among the ideas proposed were suggestions about "splitting" graduation into two ceremonies, and changing the number of tickets each graduate is allowed. The group also discussed who the speaker will be during the ceremonies and whether caps and gowns should be school colors or standard black.

Shaun E. Lloyd, a senior business management major, will be graduating in December. He said he was somewhat disappointed when he picked up his black cap and gown on Wednesday.

"It would make me feel proud to graduate in the school colors," Lloyd said.

Further discussion at the meeting revealed that university officials are ready to propose that graduation ceremonies be "split," which would be done by combining the schools of nursing, education and business into one ceremony and the rest of the university in an-

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