



the Seahawk

Serving UNC-Wilmington Since 1948

VOLUME LII, NUMBER 29

WWW.THESEAHAWK.ORG

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

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A day in the life of a UNCW police officer

HEATHER GRADY

ASS'T NEWS EDITOR

For many students, not ever seeing the inside of a police car is a good sign that they are doing something right.

However, most students then also miss the opportunity to gaze inside the car and glimpse at a slice of life of the officer inside.

University Police Sgt. Gunnar Matthews, an Ohio native, often spends his day riding throughout the campus, watchful of the students spilling out on the lawn. His police car swells with the wail of the radar every few seconds as other vehicles pass by.

Mathews, like the other campus officers, has grown so familiar with the pitch of the wailing radar that he can estimate the car's speed by the sound. Being able to distinguish the pitches of various speeds enables him to continue watching the road while deciding whether to lock the speed of the passing car into the system and follow-up with a ticket.

Before and after each shift, the officers are responsible for using a tuning fork to calibrate the radar system. They must also calibrate the radar after each ticket is written.

Before coming to campus just over two years ago, Matthews worked with

The UNCW police department recently purchased several new Chevrolet patrol vehicles to add to their stable of modern equipment.



The department employs the latest technology in their vehicles, including laptop computers, front-and-back radar guns and video recorders

Thomas M. Ruyle/the Seahawk

the Topsail Island Police Department for eight years.

"[Working on campus] is a unique experience. It's different from working in a municipality. It's a different style of community. The biggest thing is that you get to know the people in the community right here on campus," Matthews said.

According to Matthews, traffic vio-

lations for Topsail Island were extremely seasonal. In a summer shift, 15 cars could easily be ticketed. However, during the winter, three weeks could pass without a radio call. At UNCW approximately three cars are stopped during each officer's shift, with variation during the individual day and season.

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Professional Writing Certificate offered this fall

CLINT BULLOCK

STAFF WRITER

Students will have a new option available to them under the current English major next fall. The professional writing certificate will be available after more than a year of planning.

With this new addition, students now have a fifth option under the English degree, making it one of the most versatile majors on campus. Interested students graduating December 2001 or later, may qualify for the certificate.

Any previous technical or business writing English classes taken previously will carry over to the



professional writing certificate, according to Dr. Elizabeth Ervine, as-

sociate professor of English.

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"I am getting a lot of enthusiasm from my students and they are excited about it," said Ashe, assistant professor of English. "The English faculty is very excited too."

Last year the creative and professional writing option split and the creative writing department was formed. Since the split, the English department felt there was a need to establish a professional

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