

ACLU combats abstinence-only education

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The American Civil Liberties Union kicked off "Not In My State!" a nationwide campaign urging 18 states to reject abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula in schools last week.

North Carolina public schools are required to offer abstinence-only courses, though the N.C. affiliate of the ACLU did not participate in the campaign.

"We certainly support the efforts of the ACLU in its efforts on this front," said Shelagh Kenney, Staff Attorney for the ACLU of NC Legal Foundation. "Unfortunately, we are a very small office and did not have the staff and resources to participate in the campaign with some of the other state affiliates."

"According to a recent congressional report, these programs are among the many abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula that contain false and misleading information and perpetuate harmful stereotypes," said the ACLU in a letter recently sent to local school officials.

The report "The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs," by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., cited inaccuracies in federal abstinence-only programs such as curriculum that teaches condoms only protect against HIV infection 69 percent of the time and that condoms attribute to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

However, the Waxman report references a study published in the "New England Journal of Medicine", in which couples consisting of an HIV positive and an



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PARKING DECK CANCELLED



Courtesy of UNCW Business Affairs
Graphic by Liana Pesci | THE SEAHAWK

UNCW to buy land for more off-campus parking

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The University Cabinet finalized the decision to cancel construction plans for an on-campus parking deck, which would have cost \$12 million and created 600 new parking spaces. Instead, the university has opted to purchase more land off-campus to be used for another commuter lot.

"I'm personally disappointed because we spent a significant amount of time evaluating deck operations and planning the proposed facility, but I support the current university position not to increase students' costs any higher than necessary," Richard Fauson, director of auxiliary services, said.

Since UNCW's parking operations are self-supporting, it was expected that students were going to have to pay \$120 more per year for a parking permit.

"A deck parking space costs over five times of that of a parking space on the ground," Fauson said.

Several other options have been considered. Among these include expanding the one mile radius to two miles, or moving resident parking to off-campus.

At this time, however, it appears that making students park off campus and ride the shuttle back to their dormitories is not a likelihood.

"Going to this option creates some nighttime security concerns that we would need to address through some type of shuttle service, security in the lot, enhanced lighting, etcetera," Fauson said.

For legal reasons neither the cost nor the location of the land to be purchased can be released at this time. But it will be significantly less expensive and result in a smaller increase in parking fees. The new off-campus lot will be ready for the Fall 2006 semester.

Plans to increase the number of shuttles, which service the commuter lots are being examined. Two shuttles will transport students from each lot, and there are plans to increase service hours by including an evening shuttle for all off-campus lots.

"I am glad that they cancelled the parking deck because I think it would have been a waste of money, we don't need it," student Emily Jones said.

Construction for 200 new parking spaces at the corner of Randall and Reynolds Drives, to replace the spaces lost to the new School of Nursing building, will begin Summer 2006.

Current plans to significantly increase enrollment at UNCW guarantee that the issue of a parking deck is far from over. The Campus Master Plan includes several parking decks to accommodate the rapidly growing student population.

UNCW attempts to bridge the gap between campus and community

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With the return of students to college campuses, back-to-school parties are likely to cause noise and irritate neighbors. Balancing the interests of students who want to enjoy their college years with those of residents who have other responsibilities is difficult. UNCW has created a University/Community Relations Task Force with Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo and Wilmington Mayor Spence Broadhurst to deal with these problems.

The task force includes staff from UNCW, the city manager's office and students, and holds public forums where residents can speak. Cape Fear Community College was invited to join as well. The task force has been functioning for a year and a half and deals with problems that arise when students live in neighborhoods with non-students. Examples of problems reported to the University in the past include noise, disposing of trash, urinating in yards, and damaging of mailboxes and bushes. Another common problem is students charging friends to park in their neighbors' designated parking areas.

However, recent reports that noise complaints are increasing may not be completely accurate. While police reports show an increase in the number of noise complaints received, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Patricia Leonard said that this year the university has

received "barely any" noise complaints and was never



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