



THE LANCE

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New Alarm System Plagued

By John Cohen
Staff Writer

Recently, many students have been informed that the Student Life Committee, in order to better evacuate us from our dorms should a fire occur, have installed a new fire alarm system. While most students approve of the new system, there are also many problems with it. We at the Lance were curious to find out more about the system and how it works, how the staff and security would respond if a fire were to occur, and what was going on to correct any flaws in the new system. To find out these things, I talked with the Director of Residence Life, Wayne Johnson.

According to Wayne, if a fire were to occur, the alarm would go off either on its own power (when smoke is detected) or if someone pulled the lever on the "Fire Call" switch. The staff would then conduct a "systematic evacuation," in which everyone would go to the dorm opposite theirs. (Orange Dorm

Dorm residents would go to Pate, Albemarle residents to Granville, etc.) Then the staff would "search the building carefully to make sure everyone was out safely, and locate the source of any smoke or heat. If there really was fire, they would contact the Laurinburg Fire Department immediately.

Unfortunately, this system, which cost \$48,000 to install, has had a lot of problems since it was first activated two weeks ago. First of all, there have been a lot of false alarms., "about eight" according to Wayne. Also, the alarm does not signal the fire department immediately, which could cost them valuable time. Finally, not all Residence Life staff members may know how to use the alarm system.

According to Wayne, the false alarms are mostly due to steam from the showers. "Some of the smoke detectors are just too sensitive." In order to rectify the situation, Wayne said, the alarm's manufacturer was

to come in, inspect the system, and make any necessary changes. He added firmly, "They will not be paid until the situation is rectified."

When asked why the fire department does not have direct link to the system, Wayne blamed "lack of funds," and said this would change once they got the money to do so. He added that the staff "wanted to make sure there really was a fire before calling them" He concluded, "I don't know of any college environment where the fire department is signaled immediately."

Wayne also told me that "all staff members had a training session." But Chief of Security Theiron Young, was skeptical, "I don't think ANYONE knows how to use the system!"

Overall, Wayne was quite pleased with the new system, saying it was "pretty much operating as expected."

We at the Lance were curious to see what others thought of the new system. I presented my findings to

four people and got their response.

Neal Bushoven, residential director of Mecklenburg, approved of the new system saying, "We needed it for a long time." He understood the malfunctioning problem, attributing

it to the newness of the system, and was just "glad that the malfunctions were due to the system itself and not caused by students playing with it." He believed Wayne's "funding" story, and when asked about how to further improve fire safety at St. Andrews, he said, "I think we just need to educate students about the seriousness of a fire." He also recommends installing fire breaks in the dorms.

Denise Caison, president of Concord, called the new system "good," but said it "still has bugs in it which need to be worked out." She too believed Wayne's "funding" story, saying "Apparently what he (Wayne) said is true. We don't have the money." She blames the newness of the system for the malfunc-

tioning, but said that "In Concord's case, the malfunctioning was caused by steam from the shower." To further improve fire safety, Denise recommends hooking the system up to security, making the alarms louder, and adding fire escapes and balconies to multi-story dorms.

Jennifer Hands, a senior from Orange Dorm, liked the new alarm system but said "It's not loud enough." She criticized Wayne's "funding" story, saying that "There was enough money for fire alarms, but Wayne just didn't think about it." She blames the newness of the system for its malfunctioning, and "hopes things will be worked out." When asked about further improvements, Jennifer recommended louder fire alarms, fire drills every month, and monthly inspection of all fire extinguishers.

Finally, I spoke to Jo Frost, the residential assistant of Wilmington. She approved of the new system,

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RHINOS ON THE RAMPAGE - The Rhinos played Duke Graduate School at home last Saturday. The Blue Devils won 16-0 and 8-0. The Rhinos return to action when they play Davidson, Oct. 13. (Photo by Rooney Coffman)

Winter Term Courses Offered

By Janna Turner
Staff Writer

There are many exciting places to go this winter term. A few are old stand-bys, but some are brand new trips. One scholarship is available to travelling students. The scholarship is need-based and equals six hundred dollars. There will be one available to students going to China in the spring and one for those going to Brunnenburg in the fall.

The trip to Vietnam with Professor Tom Williams looks very popular. There are only nine spaces available for the trip, so anyone interested should see Dr. Williams as soon as possible. This should be an interesting trip to a beautiful country. The total cost of the trip is 2,624 dollars. The cost is so high because of the distance to travel and because the government keeps tourism at a minimum.

The trip to Morocco, with Professor Samad Mortabit, is another of the new winter term trips. The class will be studying the history and cultures of Morocco and its connection with the Middle-East crisis. There has not been a limit set as to how many students can go, so all interested should contact Professor Mortabit at ext. 354. The cost of the trip will be around \$1800 and \$2000.

Professors Carl and Ellen Walters are taking a group to Switzerland. They will be studying at the Ecumenical Institute, near Geneva Switzerland. There will be a lot of international exposure between St. Andrews students and other students there. The course of study will be decided by the group before December. There is a limit of eight to fourteen students. The cost is approximately \$1700.

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College Names Vice President for External Affairs

Margaret Marik has been named Vice President for External Affairs at St. Andrews.

Marik is the former executive director of college relations at Western Oregon State College. A Philadelphia, Pa., native, Marik received a bachelor's degree in history at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., before receiving her master's degree from San Jose State University in San Jose, Calif.

At St. Andrews Marik will be

responsible for dealing with all the external constituents of the college.

"I'm very excited to be at St. Andrews," Marik said. "The students are the ones that sold me on the College. Now I'm looking forward to working for the College and getting involved in the Laurinburg community."

Marik and her husband, Joe Perry, live outside Laurinburg. Her son, 25-year-old Steven Scott Marik, works for SAIF, the Oregon state accident insurance company.



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