

Campus News

ECSU: IS IT SAFE?

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"You never know what you've got until it's gone," but maybe somebody else does, and that is why it is gone. Last year at Elizabeth City State University, from January to December, 21 burglaries were reported, three alleged assaults took place, and there was one murder. The numbers could have been worse had it not been for the help of the police and security officers of ECSU.

Safety is taken seriously when the lives and property of the students living on campus are concerned. Card entry doors on the dormitories aid in the protection, as well as a strict rule that no weapons are allowed on state property. Two police officers and two security police officers are on duty at all times, whether on foot patrol, vehicular patrol, or bike patrol. Emergency call boxes are placed throughout the campus.

Mr. George Mountain, Director of Police and Public Safety, feels good about the security here at ECSU.

He explains the qualifications of his officers saying, "The police officers are certified by the attorney general's office, go through basic training, and go through a screening process which includes a psychological and a polygraph test given by the FBI." Background checks are performed as well. The security officers are also certified, go through basic training and have background checks. The coverage area for the police and security officers include the entire campus and any roads running adjacent to Campus.

The emergency call boxes are provided in case of an emergency. A button inside the box, when pushed, sends a signal to the campus police station, as well as all police vehicles. The receiver of the signal can identify from where the call comes from. That way, the police or security personnel are able to respond to the call as quickly as possible. Direct contact with the public safety officials will also be immediately available.

Common on most college campuses, burglaries, usually occur school functions or during spring

break when the dormitories are known to be mostly empty.

Officer Anton Thomas, an ECSU police officer, urges students to always lock their doors and to keep valuables locked in the wall locker. "I suggest that before leaving for spring break, put everything in those lockers. Computers, TVs, video games..." Instances have been noted that doors were kicked in during these robberies, so just locking your door may not be enough. Officer Thomas also suggests that each student who resides on campus fill out an Operation Identification Record. This is for recording students' valuables and offers areas for identification, such as serial number, i.d. number and descriptions. In the event that an item is stolen, and retrieved, the student will have proof of his possessions.

Last April, an upsetting and frightening event occurred. At a dance during Viking Fest, a non-student was shot and killed on campus. The offender was apprehended and no other injuries were recorded. Crimes of this sort are not common at ECSU, in addition, additional

security is hired for school functions, spotlights are set up throughout campus, and large areas are blocked off to prevent unmonitored access into and out of the coverage area.

Still, Mountain stresses the need for everyone to take precautions, male or female, on campus or off. Mr. Mountain makes these suggestions: Always keep your doors locked, never walk alone at night, always walk with a friend and in a well-lit area. Leave information with a friend, or roommate about whom you are with and where you are going. Don't ever pick up strangers.

Occasional altercations, assaults, stealing and vandalism are the most that this campus has to deal with. If a student witnesses any of these crimes, Mountain urges them to contact the campus police as soon as possible. He says working together will make living on campus more secure and enjoyable, he says.

"I think we have a real safe campus," Mr. Mountain said, "We certainly appreciate any support from the students."

JONES RETIRES, ROUSON RESIGNS

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Before the start of 2002-2003 school year, two of Elizabeth City State University's most well-respected faculty members left the university, Dr. Carol C. Jones, Director of the Honors Program and Dr. Leon-Rouson, Coordinator of the Mathematics and Science Education Network (ECSU-MSEN).

Dr. Jones taught at Elizabeth City State University for over thirty years. As the Director of the Honors Program, she dedicated herself to instilling its mission and goals in the scores of students who passed through its proverbial gates.

According to the University Program Philosophy and Mission Statement, The Honors Program was designed "to challenge students with high academic potential at an accelerated rate and to pro-

vide them with exposure to a wide variety of in-depth academic, social, and cultural experiences." Graduates of the program have usually developed "self discipline and self-restraint both in character and in academic endeavors to the extent that counter-productive distractions will not be allowed to impede progress." They have also obtained "a psychological disposition that displays and independent and personal approach to the search for exceptional scholarship as apposed to a dependence on established patterns." Dr. Jones has made sure that students have "developed high levels of research, creative writing, technical writing, computational, and non-verbal skills so that a substantial level of proficiency has been achieved."

She has also been the coordinator of the ECSU-SACS Self Study Program. She once said

"Cooperation from all segments of the Institution is vital... to be a success."

Leon Rouson joined the university's staff in 1993. By 2001, he had received his Doctorate in Urban Sciences with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from Old Dominion University. The MSEN program influenced his dissertation, "The Influence of Selected Noncognitive Variables on the Academic Success of Black High School Males in an Enrichment Pre-College Program."

Known for being a strong and enlightening motivational speaker, Dr. Rouson also dabbled in the theatre arts. During the early nineties, he helped to stage the production of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enough" by the ECSU University Players. He directed "The Children's Hour" in 1998 and "The Old Settler" in 2001.

Rouson was the fifth coordinator of MSEN at the university. The mission of the Mathematics and Science Education Network Pre-College Program is "to broaden the pool of students pursuing mathematics and science based majors and careers." The curricula focuses on conducting "academic enrichment experiences in problem solving, mathematics, science, communications, and technology" as well as helping students to become interested in pursuing a four-year degree.

Rouson is credited with doing that by sending some of ECSU-MSEN's first handful of students to schools such as The North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham, North Carolina.

"Dr. Rouson wanted to return to the classroom," says Tamara Baker, the Office Manager for the MSEN office. He is currently teaching at a middle school in Virginia.

ECSU DORMS: OVERCROWDED?

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As with any school, the primary goal in preparing for a new year is to recruit as many students as possible. Here at Elizabeth City State University, a school whose enrollment has grown somewhat leisurely over a twelve-year period until this year, enrollment has jumped up at an alarming rate. One freshman, Eugenia Evans, of Enfield, NC said, "I think we have an enormous population, and a variety of students here."

According to Bruce Boyd, Assistant Director of Residence

Life, extensive efforts were put forth by the admissions office to do recruiting for this year. Chancellor Burnim also assisted in helping reach new students. The increase has caused some overcrowding on campus, but according to reports, only a few female freshmen are experiencing problems.

In Bias Hall, for instance, four females are currently sharing a room. Sharess Jefferson and Latoya Webb of Halifax County, NC, along with Casey Dickens and Diketa Lyons of Tarboro, NC. The girls say that they all get along and that the living condition is not as bad as people think. "We are all

getting along fine," Jefferson said. The room is so much bigger than I thought it would be, but we only have one phone and one television."

The girls cope with the phone issue by using cell phones. On the third floor of Bias Hall three females are also living in one room. "We just have to consider the next person's space," Webb said.

Mr. Boyd says that the new dorm scheduled for completion in 2004 will help eliminate overcrowding.

"We will gain an extra 25-30 beds on campus then, and immediately following its construction Wamack and Mitchell-Lewis will

be air-conditioned and renovated. Then, 75 more beds will be gained," said Boyd.

While overcrowding is uncomfortable for some students who are outside looking in, for others, it represents a sign of growth that any university would appreciate. Hopefully, ECSU will continue to multiply in future enrollment.

The Freshman Candlelighting Ceremony will be held in the Fine Arts Auditorium on Sunday, September 22, 2002 at 6:00pm.