

Campus Police vigilant about school shootings

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The Campus Police Department received a phone call on Oct. 7 of a shooting near Gleason-Hairston Hall. Witnesses said that they noticed an older model burgundy Dodge van.

According to the witnesses report, a male passenger fired rounds as the van sped away from the scene.

Campus Police received the call approximately 6:55 p.m. Campus Police dispatched officers to the area, but were unable to catch the vehicle in question, neither were they able to take any suspects into custody.

The Public Safety Office takes all firearm offenses on campus seriously.

The Virginia Tech shooting tragedy on April 16, 2007 left 33 people dead, many wounded,

and generated a multitude of psychological repercussions that rippled through the country. The massacre was the largest of its kind in American history.

Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia, said that the Virginia Tech Police Department "did not take sufficient action to deal with what might happen," referring to the prevention, as well as the containment of possible threat of gun violence on its campus.

Since then, there have been two notable college campus shootings: Feb. 14, 2008, on the campus of Northern Illinois University, a gunman killed five students and wounded 17 more. The shooter then used the weapon on himself after he opened fire on a classroom. The gunman, identified as Stephen P. Kazmierczak, was a graduate at the university in 2007; more recently, a University of

Texas at Austin student, wielding an AK-47, terrorized the school he attended. Wearing a face mask, 19-year-old Colton

self. With the exception of the shooter, no one was injured in the event.

In the aftermath of these shootings, administrations nationwide took steps to re-insure the safety of campuses.

Because WSSU is a UNC school, its policy for firearms on campus is the same as all other UNC school campuses. According to the UNC Campus Safety Task Force Report: "North Carolina law is clear that it is a felony for an unauthorized person to possess a firearm on the property of an educational institution, including all UNC campuses."

To help enforce the safety measures, Campus Police has set up a response system specifically focused on firearms complaints.

Eric Cabbell, the supervisor of communications at the Campus Police Department, is trained to handle the series of

events associated with these calls.

"If a call comes in to dispatch that shots have been fired, we immediately dispatch our Campus Police officers to that location," Cabbell said.

"We find out who, what, when, where; we find out if they're on foot, in a car, what type of vehicle, and the direction they traveled in and was anyone injured."

Cabbell said that Campus Police also notifies the Winston-Salem Police Department.

WSSU's Campus Police installed a Pier System in the spring known as Ram Alert to notify everyone about weather warnings, natural disasters, or campus emergencies. It also sends out e-mails and text messages to those registered.

WSSU does not have a history of major gun violence.

"If a call comes in to dispatch that shots have been fired, we immediately dispatch our Campus Police officers to that location."

— ERIC CABELL

Tooley stalked the campus Sept. 28, opening fire, using the automatic weapon with little regard. Tooley eventually turned the gun on him-

CAMPUS CRIME BLOTTER

The Campus Crime Blotter is a concise summary of the up-to-date incidents that affect the Winston-Salem State campus and community. Certain incidents may lead to News Argus articles that discuss them at great length.

Friday, Oct. 1

At 3:30 p.m. a vehicle was towed from Lot R for not having a valid decal. The license was reported stolen. The driver was issued a North Carolina Uniform Citation for being in the possession of stolen property. There is no further information at this time. The case is closed.

At 12:15 p.m. a report was received regarding a stolen decal from an automobile. There are no suspects or further information at this time. The case is closed.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

At 11:20 a.m. an officer investigated a possible assault and battery with a weapon involving individuals having a confrontation. One of the individuals was not a WSSU student and was issued a trespass warning. The students involved were escorted to their dorms. There is no further investigation at this time, and the case is closed.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

At 3:55 p.m. a student reported a laptop damaged by a fallen door and the door also caused a small bump to the individual's head. The individual was treated. There is no further information at this time. The case is open.

At 1:20 a.m. an officer investigated a vehicle without a decal being towed. The incident is under investigation.

Thursday, Oct. 7

At 12:53 a.m. an individual reported unauthorized charges on a bank account over the internet. The card has been canceled. There is no further information at this time. The case is closed.

At 2:39 p.m. a female student informed the Campus Police of incidents of inappropriate touching by a known male that she wants stopped. There is no further information at this time. The case is closed.

At 6:55 p.m. an officer responded to a call regarding shots being fired in Gleason Circle. An older model burgundy Dodge van was observed leaving the area at a high rate of speed. A male passenger of the van was also observed firing rounds and .22 caliber casings were found at the scene. Surveillance footage revealed that there had been hand-to-hand drug activity. At this time, one suspect has been identified, and a warrant for his arrest has been obtained. WSSU Police continues to aggressively investigate this incident.

Monday, Oct. 11

At 2:40 a.m. an officer responded to a call regarding a person running from an automobile in Lot S. There was no break-in or damage to the vehicle. There is no further information at this time. The case is closed.

Source: WSSU Department of Police and Public Safety

Compiled by Myiesha Speight,
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