

# Visitation and commuter policies defined



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On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, *smallTalk* ran an editorial from columnist Ginny Deffendall about commuting which was misplaced in the news section of the newspaper. Because of this mistake, the article was presented as an unbalanced news article. This is a follow-up article about the same issue.

A summary of the initial article goes like this: the writer, who is a commuter student, along with some of her friends, was trying to get onto campus late at night. Ginny and her crowd were asked who the student was in the car. "We all are," came the reply, and the guard shot back: "No. You are commuters."

Wilford Saunders, Director of Police and Public Safety, threw some doubt onto the exact account, stating that it is entirely within a security officer's purview to stop any (and really, all) cars that enter the campus late at night. "Late" seems to be the word in question. Most of the campus closes down after the conclusion of night classes with the exception of the library and the Berns Student Union.

"Except in emergencies, there is no reason for a commuter to be on campus at three in the morning," declared Saunders. "To call this a 'commuter policy' is incorrect. Our public safety policy is not about commuters, but everyone in general."

The policy concerning commuters closely parallels the one concerning resident student visitation, according to Saunders. Years ago, there was a large problem with people passing freely through the gate at all hours of the night and vandalizing the campus. Since then, visitors arriving after 10pm must present identification, and in the case of commuters or non-students, surrender that i.d. to the Welcome Center and pick it up when they leave campus. In the case of men and women staying the night with friends of the same gender, their identification must be left in the Welcome Center, unless a form from Student Life authorizing a visit is filled out ahead of time. The security policy is "not targeting anyone, but is a community wide policy" set in place for the protection of residents and commuters alike, and the protection of college property.

While the main campus is on lockdown from midnight until 6am, residents are still free to come and go as they please, but visitor passes must be issued to commuters or non-students.

Information concerning resident overnight and visiting policies can be found on pages 59-61 in the Student Handbook, and Mr. Saunders can be contacted at (910) 630-7149. The Commuter Student Association, a campus organization dedicated to the commuter student's rights can be reached through Dr. Cu Phung (630-7137) and Ms. Carla Raineri (630-7139).

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