

Campus safety issues raise questions: Police assure students that safety measures are in place

Dan Schrot
Reporter

Campus safety is a concern on every college campus. Some students at Elon have expressed concern at the lack of safety for pedestrians at night.

"I do not feel safe because there is not enough lighting," senior Janetta Tolliver said. There is also a preconceived notion that women are not safe walking at night around campus by themselves. There is not enough lighting at certain spots around the Greek courts, certain spots around the fine arts building and along the tram path. Putting up more lighting would solve this problem."

"I generally feel safe," sophomore Shannon Brown said. "I am a CDC in Staley, I think there should be more lights around the dorms, and more blue emergency lights in front of the Staley and North dormitories."

Director of Campus Police Chuck Gantos said Elon College has tried to address the issue of campus safety in a few ways; one method is with the blue light system.

Stand-alone poles with a phone and blue light are connected to Campus Police. The blue light makes them visible at night. Someone that feels threatened or unsafe can call campus police from the blue light phone and be escorted to a desired location.

"There are 14 blue lights around campus, 13 minus the one that is being repaired," Gantos said. "Two blue lights will be added at Danieleley Center and one near the Belk Library next year. The one being repaired is at the intramural fields. As of now it is radio operated. It is not as obvious as the other blue lights around campus. We are in the process of making it a blue light post.



Adam Waterson / Photography Editor
Blue emergency lights can be used when students do not want to walk home alone.

"The blue lights are working, they are checked on a regular basis, and we are enhancing the service by acquiring software that will do diagnostic checks automatically; if there is a problem, the software will check it automatically," he added.

The location of blue lights is determined by the college's safety committee. Blue lights are placed in locations that are heavily traveled by pedestrians, such as parking lots, another blue light will be put at Danieleley with the new parking lot that will be constructed.

Tours of the blue light locations are given at least twice a year to officials from campus safety and police, physical plant and student life. Sometimes trees are cut or removed, and lights may be relocated or added.

The blue lights are given by a safety budget that is controlled by Jim Johnson, Director of Adminis-

trative Services, and Ron Driscoll, Director of Information Systems and Technology. "If the safety committee or SGA thinks there should be more blue lights on the tram trail or elsewhere, they can always make those suggestions to me," Gantos said.

Johnson, who is on the safety committee, said that blue lights are reviewed periodically; if someone has a safety concern, they can address the safety committee when they meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the Harden Dining hall.

There is no exact budget for campus safety concerns. When an issue arises or a change needs to be made, a capital request is made and money is given from the school to address the problem. This money is not connected to SGA.

Representatives of Student Life, Residence Life, Campus Recreation, Campus athletics, Purchasing Department, Department of Human Resources, Campus Safety and Police, Director of Human Services, the Biology and Chemistry departments, Food Services, Aramark, Physical Plant and Health committee influence the security measures that

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Adam Waterson / Photography Editor
Elon students were reminded of the need to wear a helmet after a fellow student driving a motorcycle was in an accident March 30.

Motorcycle helmet law voted down by House

Joshua Ausley
Contributing Reporter

The North Carolina House of Representatives recently voted down a bill that would have made it legal for some motorcycle riders to go without helmets. The bill managed to stay alive despite its defeat and could be brought forth again at any time.

On April 5, the House voted against the Motorcycle Safety Act, an amendment to current regulations on motorcycle safety. The proposed bill would allow people over 21 to ride without a helmet, provided they had their license for at least one year. If passed, it would take effect on October 1.

Rep. Dewey Hill was the bill's primary sponsor, and the Concerned Biker's Association of North Carolina was a large proponent for the bill's passing. According to North Carolina's CBA Web site, the bill's opponents had

to "pull out all the stops" to win, and also said that several of their supporters had "turned on us."

The Web site listed each of the bill's supporters and opponents, but it asked that its members not take the issue personally. It also declared that the bill wasn't dead yet. Supporting representatives saved the bill and filed it into a minority report. The minority report must be passed by the House for the bill to be brought to the floor. Even though there is some hope, the House has never before passed a minority report.

In addition to removing the helmet requirement, the proposed bill would also increase the motorcycle registration fee by \$2. According to the bill's fiscal note, this would mean an increase of

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