

Car vandals' violent actions jar Guilford community

BY KATY ANDREWS AND SYDNEY HAWKINS
STAFF WRITERS

A shattered windshield. Glass everywhere. A mason jar filled with ping-pong balls. What could it all mean?

For some students these absurd circumstances became a harsh reality when they saw that their cars had been broken into while parked on campus.

There have been recent reports of someone smashing in car windows with mason jars. These jars have been filled with either ping-pong balls or liquid and appear to be thrown through the cars' front or back windshields.

"I found out my car was vandalized (when) a public safety officer knock(ed) on my door and inform(ed) me very early in the morning," said senior Justin Bradley. "I was shocked and highly upset and did not want to believe it was mine."

Other students have also discovered these incidents in disbelief.

"Last Saturday night, I was with two others in the Bryan

parking lot, and we noticed a car's back windshield that had a huge hole smashed through it," said junior Grier Cross. "We inspected the inside and noticed a mason jar full of water and, oddly, ping-pong balls with glass around (them)."

While these strange instances of vandalism have only happened a few times, even one incident is enough to raise community concern.

"We noticed this has been happening to newer cars," said Cross. "We are not sure who is doing it ... or if certain people are being targeted."

These disturbances have raised alarm and cause many to question campus safety.

Some students wonder what will be done about the vandalism, as it has been a recurring issue all year.

"Well, nothing has happened either time afterwards," said junior Michael MacVane, a victim of the latest car vandalism. "I have filed a report both times and nothing was done about it. There is no way to prevent it unless we get cameras in the parking lot."

Installing cameras in the parking lots is appealing to MacVane, especially after these recent incidents.

"Yes, there should be cameras installed in the parking lots," said MacVane. "It's ridiculous that this can happen and nothing can be done, especially since other students have had their cars keyed and bike tires slashed."

Bradley, who filed a report with a CSI unit, also thinks installing cameras could help prevent such crimes in the future.

"Car vandalism has been occurring throughout the entire school year," said Bradley. "It is virtually impossible for our public safety officers to patrol every area all the time, and it leaves a huge window of opportunity for vandalism. RAs patrol residence halls. Public Safety does generally everywhere else, but the parking lots are neglected."

Students are hopeful that public safety will find out who is responsible for these bizarre crimes and look into potential security devices like the cameras to prevent further property damage.

CONFERENCE

WGSS shows women's issues belong to all of us



Michele Berger, professor of women's and gender studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke on the importance of women's and gender studies.

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Student Committee Coordinator Hanna Christianson. "We've worked really hard to make this an inclusive conference."

Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Julie Winterich described the conference as a great opportunity to bring the community together and highlight the important issues that relate to WGSS.

"I (was) excited about Michele Berger's keynote (speech)," said Winterich.

Berger is an associate professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who argues that Women's and Gender Studies students are highly prepared for jobs and possess sophisticated, practical skills for the real world.

Berger appealed to the committee because of her recent book, which explains how Women's Studies have transformed academia and the world.

"I know that (being employable) is a very important topic to the seniors on the committee as we start to freak out about finding a job post-grad," said Christianson.

Parker Hurley, LGBTQA coordinator, presented "Safe(r)-Zone Training," which Hurley described as an anti-heterosexism and anti-sexism training.

Hurley hoped that participants would "engage in conversations of what the word 'safe' means (and learn) to read the world in a more queer way."

For Hurley, presenting at the conference was a natural collaboration between the WGSS and Multicultural Education Departments. Hurley hoped his presentation would cater to those interested in multi-

issue social justice organizing.

"(My presentation) will help unearth a history that has been made invisible to us," said Hurley. "Queer people didn't just hatch. We didn't just come out of nowhere."

First-year Katie Fullerton, also a presenter, hoped the conference sparked conversation about women's issues that relate to everyone but are often ignored. Fullerton says it has been eye-opening to discover that feminist causes are everyone's causes.

"I feel like Women's and Gender Studies aren't really talked about enough or valued enough in academic circles," said Fullerton.

"It's easy to just lump it in with all the 'isms' and not talk about all the different dimensions of these issues," said Fullerton. "We need to be thinking outside the box and taking in other perspectives other than the dominant perspective."

Senior Lydia Rain, who presented on "Complicating Prevention," researched rape prevention methods that appeal to traditional gender roles. She hoped people came to the conference excited to learn and left with new information and fresh perspectives.

"I think that examining inequalities is important for all people," said Rain. "Feminist studies work to do that. I also think that supporting fellow students and sharing the work that we do builds community."

Including students, faculty and members of the community was key in making this conference a success.

"I would like everybody to know about (the conference) and feel welcomed and invited," said Winterich. "It's really great to come out and support each other."

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Katie Fullerton, first-year