

Campus Police: patrolling the Quad

SINCE CHANGES IN 1989, CAMPUS POLICE HAVE BEEN MORE NOTICEABLE AND EFFECTIVE

By DANIELLE DEAVER
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

One of the first questions many anxious mothers and fathers ask when visiting schools with their children is, "What is security like here?" Although the question may embarrass the student, it emphasizes the point that safety and prevention is an important part of any college campus. In the three years since university security became more noticeable as a police force, many changes have occurred. With

people act with restraint and common judgement," he said. Zick said that the staff, which has become more diverse over the past several years, appreciated the training. "I think it's necessary for every group," Zick said.

Officers are encouraged to get to know the students they protect better through casual conversation. Lawson said this makes them more effective in the community. "We feel we work very hard to be ... visible and integrated on campus," she said. Lawson said that an increase in student

According to Zick, the satellite office, which opened recently in Davis House, is another attempt by the police to become more integrated into the campus community. Because the satellite office is more accessible to students, it makes it easier for the students to report crimes and also to receive help from police when needed.

Students like having uniformed officers patrolling the campus, as it provides them with a feeling of security. "It makes me feel safer to see them in uniforms because I think that it makes them more public," freshman Melissa Johnson said.

Some feel that the officers can be too intrusive. Senior Mark Miller had a video camera outside of his suite in Potate House last year, and for him, it was too close for comfort. "I think that they promote a feeling of safety, but for some students, it might seem as if they have too much power."

Some campus police officers would like to see a change in attitude by the students. According to Sergeant R.D. Johnson, most students have good attitudes, but that they also need to realize that officers are people with lives outside of their jobs, something students sometimes forget.

Officer T.W. Slater agreed. "They need to realize we're human beings," he said. Slater also said that students must realize that it is their own actions that get them into trouble, not the police. According to Lawson, the camera was installed because of excessive vandalism to doors and windows on the exterior of the suite. Lawson stated that cameras are only "used on a need-be basis."

Campus Police interact often with the Winston-Salem Police Department to provide quicker services to both areas. An informal relationship exists between the two departments that works both ways. "We have a very good relationship with them," Lawson said.

The two departments back each other up when there is the need for it. Campus Police talks to the Winston-Salem officers if a university student is involved in an off-campus crime and will occasionally try to persuade the victim of the crime not to press charges and have it handled through the university's judicial system.

Although there are no formal reports between the two departments, they communicate with each other about the existence of dangerous criminals in the area if one learns something. The relationship that exists is favorable to both departments; the Winston-Salem officers have less area to cover because of the Campus Police and the Campus Police officers can call on a much larger police force in times of crisis.

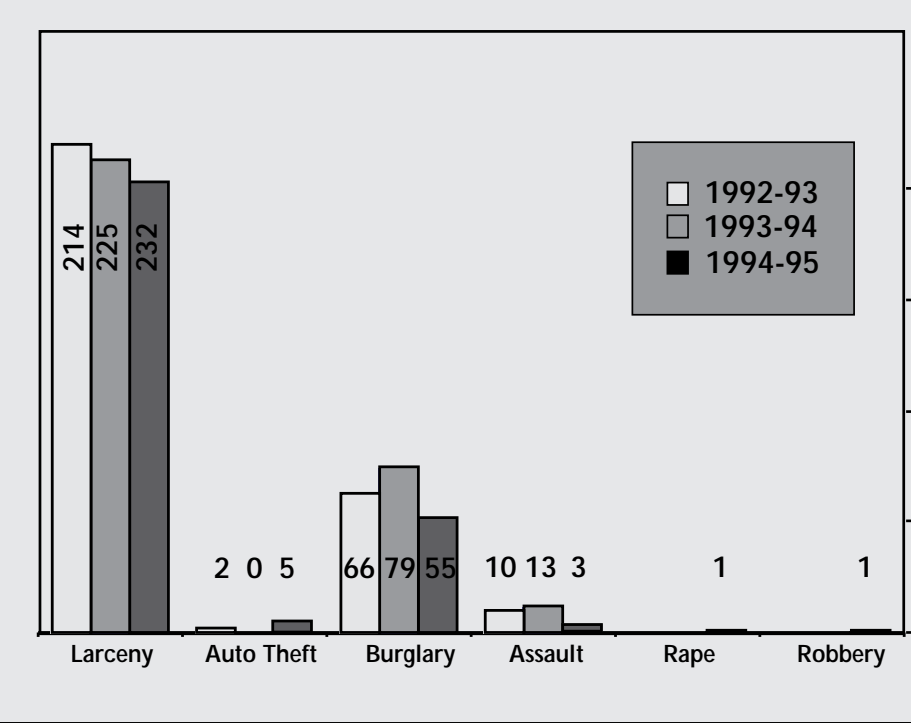
Winston-Salem police officers are occasionally called upon for crimes such as rape. Lawson said that Campus Police does not care who the crime is reported to, its only concern is that it is reported and the student is taken care of. "Our feeling is, tell somebody. ... So many sexual crimes go unreported because of peer pressure," she said.

According to Zick, there is an informal protocol shared by all universities in the area which report information about criminal activity to one another.

The university also receives *University Police* bulletins which inform colleges about criminals who have been committing crimes on campuses and the methods they are likely to use. This enables colleges to be more aware of potential problems.

One example of this was the incident in the spring of last year when two girls were abducted and forced to drive two men to an Automatic Teller Machine where they were robbed and were then later released.

Crime on campus in the past three academic years



Source: Campus Police

Joe Dobner/ Old Gold and Black

Zick said that crimes of this type were repeated at both Duke and Washington universities. At Duke University the kidnapping resulted in the death of a student. This connection between the universities gives officers a chance to prevent similar crimes from occurring on

training, but Lawson said she is trying to find some type of program that may be able to provide assistance.

The addition of several hundred ThinkPad computers to the campus next year presents a new security challenge. Lawson said the Campus Police realize that they are going to have to provide more equipment that students can use to secure their computers.

Some of the options they are considering are airport-type lockers for students to store their ThinkPads in when they do not have time to return them to their rooms. Student desk locking apparatus is another option under consideration.

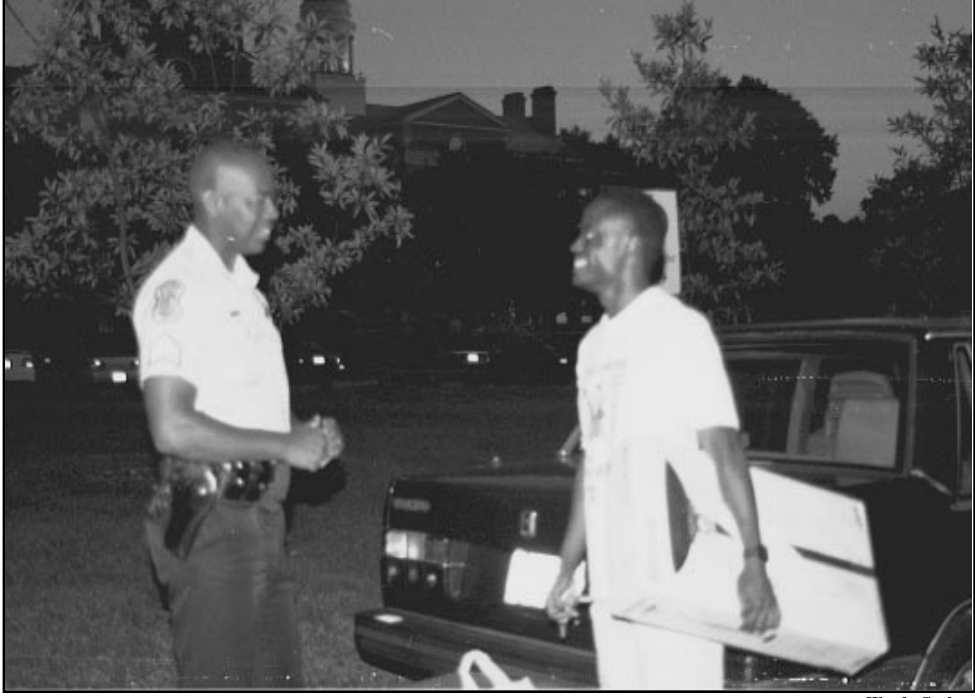
Key locations are also going to be necessary, she said, for locations such as outside the Magnolia Room.

Zick commented on the role of ThinkPads in security next year. He said that ThinkPads are expensive and easily stolen. "That makes us more attractive to outside crime elements," he said.

Zick said that the majority of crime prevention will have

to be done through precautionary measures and that the campus will have to be made aware of the threat. He also said, "[The university must be able to provide mechanisms for students to take care of these.]"

Another type of prevention Zick would like to see offered is outreach type programs. One that was offered last year, Rape Awareness Defense was a 5-day program that helped students learn ways to defend themselves from being the victims of crimes. Zick said he felt the program was a great success and that it was the kind of outreach program they would like students to take part in.



Wendy Coulson

Sergeant Robert Fisher converses with a student. According to Regina Lawson, chief of campus police, all police officers make an effort to get to know the students and to become part of the community. She feels that this helps with crime prevention.

additional equipment and more sophisticated technology such as automatic ticketing machines that enable officers to ticket cars more easily and quickly, steps have been taken to both enhance officer's powers and to make their jobs easier.

Police officers undergo rigorous training both before and after their employment at the university. Every police officer must comply with basic law enforcement standards. In addition to the basic training they undergo to become police officers, Campus Police officers also have numerous sessions during the year to keep their training updated.

All officers must attend annual legal updates to learn how laws have been changed and to participate in additional defensive driving and revolver target practice.

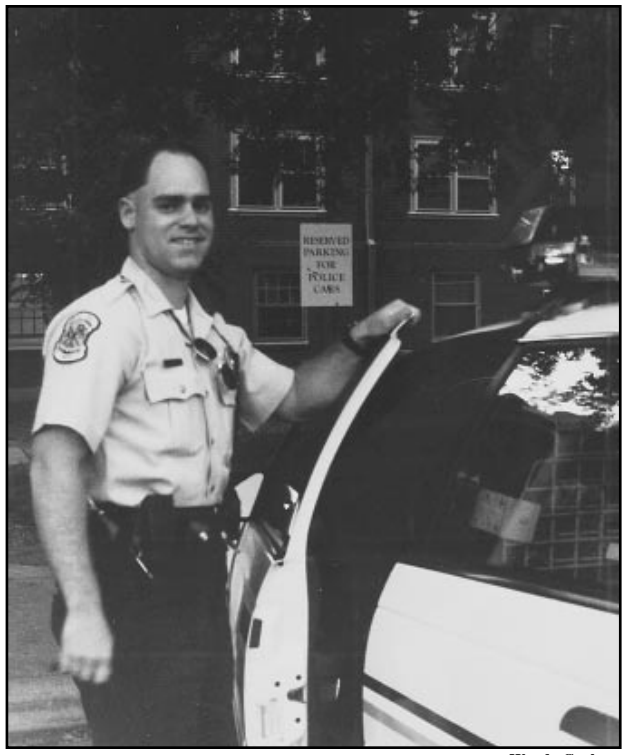
Personal relations training is also required, along with training about treatment of bomb threats and CPR training. Cultural diversity is also addressed in the training sessions. Regina Lawson, the chief of campus police, said that dealing with people from a foreign nationality is often challenging for officers because, in many countries, people are taught to fear police officials.

Race relations is also addressed, according to Ken Zick, the vice-president for student life and instruction resources.

Recently, the entire staff was required to attend a racial sensitivity program. "In our environment it is extremely important that

trust of the police makes a difference when it comes to crimes being reported. "Anytime you're more aggressive and more infiltrated into campus, there's going to be an increase in crime report," she said.

The concept of the campus police being a



Wendy Coulson

Officer Tim Shortt prepares to go out and patrol campus. The police have had marked cars for about three years.

community-oriented department is one Zick encourages. He said the role of the police is to protect the campus from outside crime and to address students as educators. "I think that's the philosophy we want to have and embrace as a university police," he said.

Campus Police: NOT JUST A SECURITY FORCE ANYMORE

By DANIELLE DEAVER
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Regarded alternatively as fascist or protector, Campus Police is one of the most talked about organizations on campus. Few other groups have as much interaction — positive and negative — with students as these officers do. The role they play in university life is diverse and fluctuates according to the student needs of the time.

Campus Police officers are real police officers. They go through training that is like that of any police academy, and in Officer T.W. Slater's opinion, better than the training offered to city police officers.

The police corp attained police status years ago after attending Company Police, a school administered by North Carolina law enforcement. It is the same school, training and tests that sheriff's department officers, wildlife officers and highway patrol officers must go through. All groups have the same authority and powers of arrest, although in different areas of specialization. Regina Lawson, the chief of Campus Police said, "We have our special jurisdiction, which is the campus."

Six years ago the university's security force consisted of one person on patrol at a time. They

wore black blazers, gray pants and a white shirt. The only insignia of any kind was an embroidered University Security patch. Their guns were tucked into their belts or were carried in a purse.

Equipment was limited and discreet. Security possessed two cars, both unmarked — one was a used highway patrol car and the other was a plain, black Jeep. A total of seven patrol officers were employed.

Lawson said, "[There was] limited operating space. ... It was very low-key." The security office was without a computer system; all reports had to be done manually on a typewriter. The records system consisted of a filing cabinet. The security department did not even have a switchboard. All calls for security had to go through the university switchboard.

The necessity of a change in university security became apparent in the years before the switch to an official police department, as several violent crimes occurred on campus.

According to old issues of the *Old Gold and Black*, approximately eight violent crimes were reported in the newspaper in 1988 to 1989, including stabbings, a rape, and several parking lot assaults.

Because of this rise in crimes and other factors, university security was drastically improved in 1989. "We started trying to plan and prepare," Lawson said. She added that one of the factors leading to the improvement was the increase in crime in Winston-Salem. This increase meant more work for city police, diverting them from campus concerns.

The department increased to 12 patrol officers and in January 1992 the officers received new uniforms that were styled in a more police-like manner.

Marked cars were added to the university police department later. According to Lawson, the marked cars were a big deterrent.

This change in security procedures was received with a favorable reaction from most people.

Sergeant R.D. Johnson, a Campus Police officer who has also worked at Winston-Salem State University, approved of the change in uniform. "We looked good, but we weren't efficient," she said of the old security system.

Ken Zick, the vice-president for student life and instruction resources, said the change in security was

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caused mainly because of an escalation of crime in the community surrounding the university.

He said an increased number of threats to the campus made the change imperative. Zick added that a desire on the part of university security to be perceived differently also caused the change. "I think it was because (Campus) Police wanted to be known as a service unit," he said.

Zick also said that the change in name from university security to Campus Police was mandated by the Attorney General of North Carolina Mike Easley, who said last year that all campus security units had to be known as university police.

Some people had mixed feelings about the change in uniforms. Leon Corbett Jr., a vice president and the university counsel, was in charge of the security force before it changed into a less discreet unit.

He cited the rise in crime in society as the reason for the change in security, but added that he felt the change had been unfortunate. "A large part of what security people had to do deals with students."

He said that when the police do put on their pistols it was "...more like cops and robbers. ... There's a very limited populous that we would like to shoot," he said. Discreet security was an efficient means of protecting the campus in different times, before the world became more violent.