

SEAC

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about the amount of needless trash that we created," Battaglino said. "I knew that it could be changed, so I started talking with the people in ARAMARK to see what the available options were. We ran into a few difficulties at the beginning, but once we established that there was substantial support among the student body, Mr. Bellefeuil was very receptive."

One of the problems that arose in the early stages of planning was the expense. Bellefeuil said that the Pit had offered silverware in the past, but, for a number of reasons, the supply was quickly depleted. However, Bellefeuil said he was eager to consider SEAC's proposal if the organization could determine a way to convince students to take responsibility for their waste.

The group accomplished this by collecting more than 1,500 signatures of students supporting the effort and agreeing to help by not discarding permanent silverware. After seeing the results, ARAMARK quickly took action.

"Once we found out that there was an interest among the students, we had to actually decide whether to pursue the idea," Bellefeuil said. "Last August we had 4,500 pieces of flatware, and it had all disap-

peared within eight days. People were taking their food back to their room, or going to sit outside or even just accidentally throwing away their silverware. We can't afford to keep replacing nice silverware, so we had to make sure that students were going to make an effort to see that it gets returned after they eat. We already have the flatware in; right now it's just about raising awareness."

SEAC promoted the idea through a series of flyers posted around campus. Battaglino also worked with Kristie Bell, ARAMARK's marketing director, to discuss other ways to publicize the environmental aspect of the project.

One of the ways that the group decided to do this was through a reusable mug that they created in conjunction with Aramark. Designed by SEAC, the mug will be available later this spring.

The mugs can be purchased with Dining Dollars, an aspect of the project that Battaglino considers integral in the appeal they will generate.

Fifty percent of the proceeds generated by the mugs will go to funding for future SEAC projects.

Battaglino said she is excited about the project's success and amazed at the group's ability to concentrate its efforts so efficiently.

"I couldn't believe that we were able to get it done in one semester," Battaglino said. "The people in SEAC and SG that supported the idea really made it possible.

Everyone in SEAC helped out with the petitioning process, and (sophomore) Erin Butler was especially helpful in publicizing the project. We also got a lot of help from (senior) Eric Roberts, who helped us convince ARAMARK that the idea was also economically beneficial."

If the project runs smoothly, ARAMARK expects to reduce its expenditures substantially in the future.

"Right now we go through about \$1,300 worth of paper products on an average week. The cost of the silverware and china is \$5,000, which is the smallest amount that I could buy," Bellefeuil said. "Since this is sort of an experiment we didn't get too much, but, in theory, this order should last for close to the rest of the semester."

Although ARAMARK expects some of the flatware to break, it should be able to cut its consumption of paper products by 25 to 50 percent, Bellefeuil said.

Because the Benson University Center is not equipped with a dishwasher, it will continue to offer only plastic silverware. Also, to accommodate students who are in a hurry, the Pit will continue to offer disposable utensils.

Bellefeuil said that he is enthusiastic about the plan, and hopes to see a positive response from students.

"I'm hoping that this will be well-received, and I think it will even add a nicer touch to the dining hall. I'm also very pleased about the environmental implications," Bellefeuil said.

WORLDWIDE

El Niño chases migrating butterflies from Mexico

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican government blames El Niño for the massive depletion of the butterfly population this year.

The butterflies migrate from Canada and the United States every year to their winter home in Mexico's western mountain range, and although two years ago they could be found inhabiting an area of 42 acres, that number dropped to 32 acres last year.

However, a Mexico-based environmental group called the Group of 100 said that the enormous amount of butterfly death is actually a result of damage committed to the Mexican fir forests.

Red spray paint gives town uplifting addition to name

AGRA, Kan. — All it takes to turn some towns into a Viagra-friendly zone is a can of spray paint. The north-central Kansas

town of Agra was unofficially renamed when a mischievous character climbed the water tower and painted a "v" and an "i" in front of the Agra. "As far as I'm concerned, it'll be there until (the water tower) gets painted again," Mayor Merle Barnes said. "I'm not going to go up there and paint it."

Man ordered to pay bill for biting troopers' dog

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Marvin Stemmons was ordered to pay \$2,263 to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol for a veterinary bill.

Troopers had stopped Stemmons and allegedly discovered four kilograms of cocaine in his car. Stemmons tried to escape, but Dak, the troopers' dog, bit him in the ear. Stemmons retaliated by kicking Dak, then biting his head, shoulder and underportion of his chin. Stemmons pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine.

Compiled from news services.

POLICE BEAT

Underage students found drinking alcohol

Several incidents of underage drinking were reported to University Police, all of which were forwarded to Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and the dean of student services.

In the first incident a student found another student who was sick from consuming alcohol at 10:14 p.m. Jan. 29 in Collins Residence Hall.

University Police responded to a call about an unconscious student lying under a tree on Magnolia Court at 1:04 a.m. Jan. 30.

In the third incident, a resident advisor in Polo Residence Hall found an intoxicated and ill student sitting against the wall in a hallway at 1:04 a.m. Jan. 30.

Damage

A bench was turned over and trash was scattered around Poteat House courtyard between 3:30 p.m. Jan.

29 and 6:40 a.m. Jan. 30. Damage was estimated at \$500.

A wooden sculpture belonging to a student was damaged between 5 p.m. Jan. 29 and 6:15 p.m. Jan. 30. The sculpture was located near Lot Q, adjacent the Scales Fine Arts Center.

A water hose, which was turned on, was put into the exhaust pipe of a student's parked vehicle at approximately 1:10 a.m. Jan. 31. The vehicle was parked in Lot Q.

In Bostwick Residence Hall, an unidentified person used a student's computer without obtaining permis-

sion and left a message on the screen at approximately 12:40 a.m. Jan. 27.

Theft

A student's university identification card was stolen from an office in Reynolda Hall between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Jan. 22.

Gifts belonging to a university employee were taken from a locked office between 12:30 p.m. Jan. 22 and 8 a.m. Jan. 25. The items were worth \$25.

Miscellaneous

An unidentified driver hit a student's vehicle and left the area without reporting the incident be-

tween 4:30 p.m. Jan. 24 and 2:30 p.m. Jan. 27. The vehicle was parked in Lot J, behind Collins.

A student was issued a state citation for leaving the scene of an accident after backing into another student's vehicle at 1:40 p.m. Jan. 29.

A student was getting out of her car, which was parked along Gulley Drive, when another student backed into her car and drove away. The student recorded the license plate number and contacted University Police. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

A student living in Efirid Residence Hall received a threatening voice mail between 3:22 a.m. and 6 a.m. Jan. 31.

A university organization was discovered storing alcoholic beverages in a Davis Residence Hall

lounge on Jan. 29. This incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

An unidentified person attempted to enter a Faculty Apartment residence through a window between 11:30 p.m. Jan. 25 and 12 a.m. Jan. 26.

A student entered a Davis room through a window between 8:50 p.m. Jan. 29 and 3:47 a.m. Jan. 30. Nothing was reported missing from the room. The incident was forwarded to the dean's office.

A student, who was found unconscious from consuming alcohol, was taken to the hospital between 9:49 p.m. and 10:16 p.m. Jan. 29.

University Police handled 36 calls from Jan. 25 to Jan. 31, including 16 incidents and investigations and 20 requests for service.



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The Benson University Center hosts a free monthly "live" talk-show program held in the 3rd floor lounge (Tuesday, 11am-12pm) featuring special campus and community guests. Here's a sneak preview of our upcoming series!

Spring '99 "Discovery Series"

Fathers & Daughters (February 9) - Let's take another look at the special and sometimes challenging way fathers and daughters relate to one another. Can fathers understand and meet the needs of their daughters? How do daughters view the role of their fathers in their lives? What enhances or gets in the way of how fathers and daughters relate to one another? Our guests are: Mike Ford (Student Life), Paul Ribisl (Health and Exercise Science), Simeon Ilesanmi (Religion), and Linda Nielsen (Education).

Heaven Can Wait: Getting A Second Chance (March 2) - Our special guests were given a "second chance" to live after experiencing near-death situations, come and find out about their stories and how their lives have changed. One of our guests will include Pete Brubaker (WFU Cardiac Rehabilitation Program).

What Is The Good Life? (April: TBA) - What constitutes the "good life" and how do we sustain a higher "quality of life" index? Is the "good life" determined by our daily spiritual practices, our outlook on life, or our "good works?" Where can we find our "peace of mind" or redemption? Our guests include: Andrew Cross (Philosophy), Jay Ford (Religion), Batja Mesquita (Psychology), Jan Caldwell (English).



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