

Officers respond to multiple calls

By Kayloni Wyatt
Editor

According to campus police on Jan. 14 an officer arrested an occupant of a vehicle who was driving while drinking and with a suspended license. The arrest happened in Courtyard Apartments.

The officer charged the occupant with a DWI and driving with a suspended license. The driver was also transported to the Robeson County Jail.

On the same day, campus police assisted with shutting down a party at Courtyard Apartments. About 200 people were inside of the apartment. Officers shut down the party and two occupants of the apartment were charged.

Campus police broke up another party in Courtyard Apartments on Jan. 22. Two students were charged with underage consumption of alcohol.

An accident occurred near the Business Administration Building on Jan. 28. Three campus police officers responded to the accident and the occupants of the car involved were transported to Southeastern Regional Medical Center. One of the occupants was charged with a DWI.

A residence adviser reported that a suspicious smell was coming from a room on the third floor of Pine Hall on Feb. 7. Campus police responded to the call and charged the student on campus level. Also on Feb. 7 students called campus police about a student in Village Apartments with a knife. Police arrived and stated the situation was under control.

Campus police responded to a controlled substance violation on Feb. 9 in Wellons Hall. Officers charged two students with a campus level citation.

Shepard discusses her son, the impact of hate crimes

Continued from 1A

some of the topics Shepard touched upon while speaking.

She passionately talked about how hate is a conscious decision and that our society breeds and teaches it. Shepard said the two men who murdered her son, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, were taught by society that it is okay to hate when it comes to dealing with hatred, bias and bullying, Shepard said.

"Matthew is no longer with us because two men learned to hate," she added.

"We have become a SIC society, S-I-C: Silent, Indifferent and Complacent." She focused on the fact that, as a society, we need to stand up and take action when we see social injustice occur.

Shepard used her overwhelming grief to create a foundation in her son's name to honor him and to

promote equal rights for the LGBT rights. The foundation was created shortly after his death.

The foundation promotes understanding, acceptance and equality of those in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"Ignorance," Shepard said, "is what drives a lot of bias and prejudice, even hate, against the gay community." To get rid of this ignorance, Shepard's advice is to speak up and share it with the world. By doing this, she says, those who are ignorant will see how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are just like them.

Shepard said the reason why she talks so much about ending hate is "not just because I don't want there to be anymore Matt Shepards, but because I don't want there to be anymore Russell Hendersons or Aaron McKinneys either."

Shepard's profound story of love, loss, acceptance and compassion touched the hearts of those in the audience and she received an enormous applause as her speech came to a close.

She shared her victim impact statement, a document by the victim or the victim's family asked by the court to express what they've lost. In the statement she spoke kindly and warmly about her first born son.

"He was a loving, vibrant, and kind young man," she said.

Shepard has been featured in various Public Service Announcements about hate crimes.

Last year, University Players performed the play, "The Laramie Project," a play depicting the night of Shepard's death.

A video about hate crimes was shown before Shepard took to the podium.

SGA members speak to NC representatives at Student's Day

By Hillary Akers
Staff Writer

On Feb. 9 three UNCP SGA representatives attended Student's Day at the State Capitol, where they spoke with North Carolina representatives and senators from Robeson County, Cumberland County and Iredell County, according to SGA President Arjay Quizon.

The meeting was about the UNC system's legislative priorities, including minimizing budget cuts, af-

fording the UNC system flexibility to where necessary reductions are made, requesting \$48 million (recurring) for enrollment growth to aid in increasing enrollment and retention and requesting \$71.2 million (recurring) for need-based financial aid to meet increasing student need, according to information from Quizon.

There have been more than \$620 million in UNC System appropriation cuts made in the past four years, according to Quizon.

More than 90 percent of the cuts have been made in administration, causing the loss of more than 900 positions.

The System expects additional cuts would harm the academic core, including the loss of an additional 2,000 positions, the removal of 6,400 course sections, reductions in tutoring and academic advising programs, reduced operating hours for campus libraries and computer labs and lower student retention and graduation rates, according to Quizon.

The System requested the funds for enrollment growth and financial aid in hopes of securing the economic future of North Carolina, Quizon reported.

According to the System, by 2018, an estimate of 32 percent of all NC job openings will require a four-year degree or higher.

More than 50 percent of in-state graduates of the UNC system depend on some form of need-based financial aid, Quizon said.

The System reported that campus financial aid

offices are unable to meet the demonstrated student need with current resources.

Quizon was one of about 50 student leaders from the 17 UNC system institutions who attended the meetings.

The student leaders arrived at the State Capitol at 9 a.m. and spoke with the representatives and senators until around 5 p.m.

The University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments organized the Student's Day.

The Pine Needle

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O.M.M.A

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL & MINORITY AFFAIRS

African-American Read In:
"A Literacy Program"

February 24

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Crystal Kuykendall
UC Annex Assembly Room 6:30 p.m.

Diversity Education Cafe

"India Cultural Program"

March 2nd

Multicultural Center, Room 129 5:00 p.m.
Facilitated by:

UNCP's East Indian Faculty and Staff
Professors John and Margie Labadie

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