

NEWS

Greene Street crime raises concerns

BY PATRICK RATHBUN
STAFF WRITER

USC students are worried about the safety of the walking route from campus to Five Points via Greene Street.

News of recent muggings, and the darkness of the area, are the main causes for concern, although the lack of sufficient public transportation is also a concern.

Director of Student Life Jerry Brewer said, "It's definitely an area that needs attention with all that tree cover. Residents that live there and students who use the street need to make their feelings known."

A female USC student, who asked not to be identified, was recently mugged on Greene Street.

She said, "I don't feel safe on campus. Greene Street is very dangerous. It needs better lighting and better patrol. If someone is going to commit a crime, girls are the easier target. There should be a focus on better patrol."

Media arts sophomore Chip Boyes sees the Greene Street area as dangerous for males, also.

"Lighting could help because people are more prone to walk, thereby reducing drinking and driving," he said. "The more walkers there are, the less the danger."

Journalism sophomore Angela McCurry expressed her fear of the Greene Street route and the view that girls are not the only targets.

"I do think it's very dangerous, not just for girls, but for boys, as well," she said.

"I've heard stories about people stuck in bad situations, walking. Because of those things, it should be an alert to whoever's in charge to do something as soon as possible."

McKenzie's Pub's Bartender/Manager Craig Jeffries shared a concern for the Greene Street area and the effect it could have on Five Points' businesses.

"[I would be in favor of anything] that the city could do to make sure the [Five Points] area continues to prosper," he said.

"The general security of the area should be looked at. It's in the best interest of the city to focus on people that

cause problems, instead of just college students, so hard. The trolleys don't run long enough or have convenient enough stops for students going to Five Points, and the USC shuttles don't take into consideration students wanting to go to Five Points."

Village Idiot Manager Dustin Conley voiced similar concerns for Five Points businesses.

"I could see how the dangers of Greene Street would affect business," he said.

"I'd encourage the city to improve or upgrade the lighting system [on Greene Street]."

USC's Director of Law Enforcement and Safety, Ernie Ellis, encouraged any improvement of the area, saying,

"We favor and support anything that improves our service to the community, and lighting [of the area] would decrease the criminal element."

Lt. McGraw of District 4 of the Columbia Police Department said several crimes in the area went unreported.

"We had a phone call from a young lady at USC citing 10 instances of muggings a week and a half ago," he said.

"But, based on reports ... there are no concerns expressed, and no reports of incidents. If there's a need, we'll address it, but not at this particular juncture."

Lt. McGraw said he followed up and made inquiries regarding the reported muggings, but nothing came of it.

According to Patricia Phaup of Sexual Assault Services, the U.S. Justice Department said nine out of every 10 sexual assault crimes go unreported.

Phaup advised students under the influence to follow certain procedures when walking in potentially dangerous areas.

"Clearly when we are under the influence, the sixth sense is not in place. [Students should] use cab services, walk in groups or call Alpha Phi Omega [escort services]."

SAFETY

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the call boxes are more for mental security and less of a benefit to campus safety, USCPD Law Enforcement and Safety Director Ernie Ellis said he thinks there's another reason USCPD hasn't received many calls.

"Students are afraid to use them," he said. "Some students feel a catastrophe has to happen before using one [a call box]. If you are parked behind the Coliseum late at night, we'd much rather come to something like that [than not prevent a potential crime]."

"It's a service, as well as a use for emergency," Ellis added. "I've not talked to a police officer yet who minds doing that [escorting a student to a destination]."

Of the 95 no-show callers, some of

them have been caught crying wolf.

Richard Conant, chairman of USC's faculty senate Safety Committee, said, "I went out on a call one night, and we responded in 30 seconds. Of course, no one was there."

Ellis said, "To use the call boxes as a prank is a dangerous circumstance. This individual endangers the officer, so the discovery of any act of a prank can and will put the student up to the law criminally. They will be brought to the USC Judiciary Board as well as the state magistrate."

Garbade said, "We [the USCPD] don't like to go outside the campus area, but if Columbia [police] want us to, we could, technically. We are in a unique position here at the university, being a city within a city, but we really just look to protect our students here the best we can."

Garbade understands this problem and said that the call boxes are accessible and accurate, but they are useless if the stu-

dent is not willing to use one for help, even if it means just trusting his or her "gut instinct."

"Yeah, maybe I would use a call box, but I seldom think about that. I don't really know how to use one. And what if I'm not close to one when I'm in trouble?" said Hui Cao, a 2nd-year graduate student.

Garbade said, "At the most, it should take a student 10 to 15 seconds to run to one [a call box]. The call is then put out over the radio, and the microphone can pick up a good 50 to 60 feet. We'll hear what's going on, and by the time the call is picked up, someone's already on their way, regardless of what we can hear in the background."

"We do not feel the blue lights [call boxes] are very effective only in the night, but in the day, as well," Garbade said. Calvin Gallman, Victim-Witness Co-

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BICENTENNIAL

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"Each college ... has a development officer, and they focus on the alumni and friends of that college," he said.

Phlegar said it costs the university about 5 cents to raise a dollar.

"We're very proud of that," he said, noting that the national average is 16 cents for every dollar.

However, the university doesn't spend all the money it takes in, according to Jerry Brewer, director of Student Life.

The money usually isn't spent immediately, and some of it may never be spent. The money that isn't spent is invested, and the income from that money is spent.

For example, with an endowment, the university never spends the original donation, but only the income from the investment's return.

Some donations are given on the condition the university will never spend the principal.

Brewer said the money has supported many projects, such as the Strom Thur-

mond Fitness and Wellness Center and the Dobson Community Service Internship Program.

The internship program will begin in spring 2000.

Under the internship program, the university will sponsor students who want to do a semester or more of community service. Brewer said the program received \$1 million, though it wasn't immediately clear how many students would benefit from the program.

"That one is still being developed and evolved," he said.

Brewer said the funds would also have an effect on the university's Master Plan. "It certainly moves it along a lot quicker," he said.

Snyder said the funds would also help the school's drive to enter the American Association of Universities, since they go toward scholarships, academic program enhancement and faculty enhancement.

"All three of these are key elements toward AAU status," he said.

The campaign may have also helped in the university progress in U.S. News and World Report, Snyder said.

The university climbed from a third

USC's satellite campuses have raised more than \$25 million of the \$236 million the USC system has raised during its bicentennial campaign.

USC Columbia: \$210 million
USC Aiken: \$8.6 million
USC Lancaster: \$8.4 million
USC Spartanburg: \$4.8 million
USC Beaufort: \$1.9 million
USC Salkehatchie: \$1.2 million
USC Sumter: \$1.1 million
USC Union: \$250,000

tier school last year to a second tier school this year in the magazine's annual ranking of public and private schools across the nation.

It shows that people have confidence in what the university is doing, he said. Phlegar said he hoped the university would continue to raise funds at the \$50 million and above level. "The needs are certainly there," he said. "They're very great."

POWER

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The maintenance department could not be reached for comment.

The department of Energy Services provides electricity for the entire USC campus.

Stevenson said there are power ca-

bles underground all over campus.

"We distribute power from the coliseum to the Roost," he said.

"We are actually like a small power company," Stevenson said, "and it [power failures] is something all power companies have to deal with from time to time. It happens to companies like SCE&G all the time."

The department of Energy Services will submit on Thursday a plan to the Board of Trustees to upgrade the power

cables and electrical switches on campus.

USC's Facilities Master Plan calls for the expenditure of an estimated \$1.7 million to replace most of the underground cable and some transformers, as well as older electrical switches.

The upgrade is needed, Stevenson said, because the current cables are getting old.

"The upgrade will make power outages less frequent" Stevenson said.



Mandatory Renewal & Treasurer's Workshops

All registered student organizations must be represented by the President, or designated executive officer, at a Renewal & Treasurer's Workshop to continue to be recognized as a registered student organization at the University of South Carolina (even if you do NOT receive student activity funds). All Treasurers of organizations that receive, or are planning to receive student activity funds during the 1999-2000 school year, must also attend a Workshop.

Renewal & Treasurer's Workshops will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, September 9	3:30-5 pm	Russell House 322/326
Monday, September 13	3:30-5 pm	Russell House Ballroom C
Monday, September 13	5-5:30 pm	Russell House 322/326 (for GREEKS only)
Monday, September 13	6-7:30 pm	R. H. Ballroom C (for SPORTS CLUBS only)
Tuesday, September 14	3:30-5 pm	Russell House 322/326
Wednesday, September 15	3:30-5 pm	Russell House 322/326

An Executive Officer must attend a workshop and submit a registration form by Friday, September 17, 1999!

For more information about Renewal/Registration, contact the Campus Activities Center at 777-5780.

Any questions concerning funding should be directed to Student Government at 777-2654.

