

CAROLINA NEWS

COMPARING CAROLINA

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Homicide, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson are the first tier crimes. Schools must also provide statistics for second tier crimes, listed as liquor law violations, drug abuse violations and weapons possessions, whether arrests are made or campus disciplinary action is taken.

Keeping a campus safe is the first priority of the different law enforcement divisions and police departments at universities.

USC Law Enforcement and Safety Director Ernie Ellis said most of USC's crimes are larcenies. And he said that the best way to combat crimes of this nature is to educate the population.

"Most of the crimes at USC are from leaving bookbags lying around, and things of that nature," Ellis said.

Alcohol-related incidents aren't going to show a high arrest record in the crime statistics, Ellis said. He said alcohol is treated more as a contributing factor to other crimes.

"Alcohol contributes to domestic issues and destruction of property," Ellis said. "Its affect is pretty far reaching."

Maj. Jeff McCracken at UNC Chapel Hill said the biggest problem the UNC Department of Public Safety faces is also larceny.

But he said the UNC Department of Public Safety doesn't deal too much with alcohol-related crimes. He said the city

police deal with alcohol incidents.

If a UNC police officer files a report dealing with an alcohol crime, it is forwarded to Student Affairs, McCracken said.

He also said that UNCPD has changed its philosophy of patrolling campus.

"We now divide our campus into sections. A squad is responsible for one part of campus for 24 hours a day," McCracken said.

Like at USC, the most common crime on the Florida campus is theft, according to Joe Sharkey, a UFPD spokesman. He said alcohol-related crimes are the second most prevalent.

"Everything else, thank goodness, we don't deal with too much," he said.

According to 1998 statistics, USC has 59 officers. USC police officers are sworn in by the governor and have constable status, meaning they have statewide jurisdiction.

"But, by policy," Ellis said, "we restrict them [USCPD officers] to the university and surrounding areas."

USC police officers might also be dispatched if public events are happening near campus or in campus facilities like the Carolina Coliseum, Ellis said.

Of those schools *The Gamecock* looked at, the University of Florida had the highest number of property crimes and the second highest number of violent crimes. UF also had the highest number of sworn police officers of the schools in

the study.

Ellis said that the size of the department doesn't depend on the number of students in the university.

"We have done studies to see if there is a national formula to hire officers," he said. But, he said, there is no correlation between the size of the university in square miles or population and the number of officers required to keep the university relatively crime-free.

"We look at the amount of service we want to provide," Ellis said.

Clemson University had the highest frequency of violent crimes in 1998. They also have the smallest police department. But Clemson had the lowest number of property crimes in 1998.

Officers aren't the only weapons universities have to keep campuses safe. Call boxes, distributed around campuses, alert police when activated.

The USC PD has been nationally accredited, and has just completed the accreditation process again, Ellis said. The USC Police Department is now being reviewed by the full accreditation commission. Ellis said USCPD should be awarded re-accreditation at that time.

Statistics on campus crimes can be found on the Security on Campus Inc. Web site at www.campusafety.org.

APPLICATIONS

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to my attention. I have nothing to hide here.

"We know we have failings, but we're working to correct those failings," Moore said. "We'll always strive to make [the process] as close to perfect as we can. If it has failed at all, it's because some academic units have been less than enthusiastic in supporting it."

The graduate school's total enrollment from 1994 to 1999 is down nearly 32 percent, the number of degree-

seeking students has fallen 12 percent, and the non-degree enrollment has fallen by almost 77 percent, according to the winter 1999 edition of the graduate school's newsletter. During the same five-year period, the graduate school's production of doctoral degree holders has seen an increase of 20 percent, according to the newsletter.

Although Moore recognized the on-line admissions process' faults, he didn't blame the service for the graduate school's declining enrollment. USC's graduate enrollment fell from 8,534 in the fall of 1998 to 7,324 in the fall of 1999. Moore said the decline is part of a national trend, and he said he didn't wish

to speculate on why graduate school enrollment is falling.

Markland said the enrollment decrease is associated with the economy's strength.

"The economy is so good that students are reluctant to leave where they are and return to graduate school," he said.

Purohit explained the decline in enrollment by citing demographics and the strength of the American economy, too.

Edgar also said the economy affects graduate school enrollment.

"People are pursuing things other than graduate school," he said. "They're going straight to the work force."

Pennsylvania legislators react to college fire, propose bill to improve campus safety

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Pennsylvania lawmakers reacted to a triple-fatal fraternity house fire at Bloomsburg University with a proposed bill designed to improve campus fire safety.

Rep. Michael Michael McGeehan, a Democrat from Philadelphia, on Monday announced proposed legislation that would require private and public colleges and universities to install sprinklers in all student housing within five years.

The bill also provides a loan program that would help institutions pay for the sprinklers' installation.

The bill doesn't address off-campus, private buildings like

the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house that burned Sunday, killing three 21-year-old students: former star wrestler Kristofer Polhemus, Cliff Vail and Marcus LaBuda. But lawmakers said they envision future legislation aimed at off-campus student housing.

Even before Sunday's fire, which burned the TKE house to the ground, Pennsylvania legislators were studying the possibility of requiring sprinklers in college dormitories and high rises.

State senate members agreed to do so after a fatal dormitory fire at Seton Hall University in New Jersey that killed three first-year students two months ago.



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