

Incoming freshmen hit with campus card scam

**1.5 million
sold in 1997
at \$20 per card**

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A scam has been unveiled dealing specifically with campus identification cards.

A company called the National College Registration Board (NCRB) sent out millions of junk mail letters to graduating high school seniors urging them to purchase a Campus

Card in preparation for their entrance into college.

"What they did was send out letters all over the country telling the incoming college freshmen that they could use this card as a certified college ID, meal and bookstore debit card," said Jennifer Sutton, director of the ECU One Card department.

Approximately 1.5 million cards were purchased in 1997 at \$20 apiece. National colleges and universities have not acknowledged the Campus Card, therefore making NCRB's card worthless. Freshmen purchasing the card may enter college expecting to use their new card, but will end up having to obtain a

special card for their institution.

Many college representatives have filed law suits against NCRB in petition.

"What has been done is a Cease and Desist letter has been forwarded to the company on April 24," said Ben Irons, university attorney. "We have asked them to inform us of the remedial action they are going to take to clear up the confusion."

However, the web site of NCRB, www.campuscard.org, looks quite authentic. The main page is emblazoned with an intellectual reef donned with a book in the middle of it. The site also has a mission statement that boasts that the company

"endeavors to improve the daily lives of college students across the country by providing them with as many unique benefits and services as possible." The company promises that the card can be used to get discounts at participating stores, but the stores are limited to NCRB's home state of New Jersey. The company has added a disclaimer to the site in response to negative feedback from universities that it falsely accepted the card.

According to Irons, the university will not take any action against NCRB if they make the necessary corrections. However, if they refuse to take ECU off the list of universities that supposedly support the

card, officials will contact the Consumer Protection division of the attorney general and file for an investigation. Irons said he is still awaiting a reply from NCRB.

Both Sutton and Irons said that for now, the main issue is protection of incoming freshmen. Irons said that there has been discussion of a letter mailed out to all incoming freshmen alerting them of the scam, and a distribution of information to local high school seniors.

"What I'm going to do is contact the guidance counselors at the area high schools and tell them to inform their students of the scam going on," Sutton said.

Student drinking patterns consistent with national average

**1,200 students
randomly selected
603 replied**

NATASHA PHILLIPS
SENIOR WRITER

A recent survey administered by the Division of Student Life, the CORE Institute Alcohol and Other Drug Survey, contradicted what has been said to be a party atmosphere at ECU.

The results have supplied new

light on the actual number of students who drink at ECU.

"The results of the survey are very comparable to peers nationally," said Ronald Speier, dean of students.

This is the first time a survey like this has been administered at the university.

A total of 1,200 students were randomly selected and sent a survey to complete. Of the students, 603 replied. There were slightly more females, on-campus residents and freshmen who responded than are represented within the population.

ECU drinking patterns are consistent

with the national average. Nationally, 16 percent of college students did not drink in the past year, 21 percent only drank on six or fewer occasions during the last year, and 38 percent reported binge drinking "in the last two weeks."

At ECU, 17 percent did not drink in the past year, 20 percent have drunk in the past year, and 39 percent have reported binge drinking "in the last two weeks."

"Students perceive students drink more than they do in reality," Speier said.

Now that the survey has been completed, administrators are able to decide on their greatest points

of concern and what they plan to do about them.

With the release of this survey students should be more accurately informed about the actual drinking habits of their peers.

"To help people understand the results of the survey and to portray a more realistic view of our campus, we will be involved in a media campaign this semester to help our campus and community understand the truth about student involvement with alcohol," said Dr. Donna Walsh, director of health promotion and well-being.

If one is going to drink, drink responsibly. Don't drink more than

one to two drinks the first hour. Sip the second and skip the third. Avoid drinking games; don't drink quickly and eat first. Learn more about how alcohol affects someone your size and gender, and consider the consequences of being intoxicated.

Over-drinking may lead to legal problems, unplanned pregnancy, transmission of STDs, acquaintance rape, assault and/or death.

For more information about binge drinking, alcohol, drugs, sexuality, or general health and safety issues, please stop by 210 Whichard or call Walsh at 328-6793.

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