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University safety addressed through various means on, around campus

By Liz Glazier

Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

While looking at schools to attend, many students take the reputation, the social aspect and cost of the college into consideration.

But one thing that some students may not look into deeply enough is how safe the campus is.

Safety on campus is an issue addressed by the university, and administrators are constantly coming up with new ways to keep the campus as safe as possible.

"Safety didn't play a big factor for me, but it did for my parents," said Sara Wessel, an 18-year-old freshman elementary education major.

Although new, some freshmen already feel at home on campus.

Chris Durick, an 18-year-old freshman biology three-plus-three major, said that he hasn't felt unsafe around campus so far.

"They do a good job informing us what to do if there is an emergency," Durick said.

Students should rest assured that the campus police are going to great lengths to keep students, faculty and visitors safe.

Looking around campus, one of the first things people may notice are the various emergency phone stations located in numerous spots around SRU. The purpose of these stations is to enable people to contact the police with the press of a button if a student ever feels unsafe.

"I remember on the campus tours, they told us about the emergency phones and how police would be there in like, a minute," Wessel said. "It was good to know that it was available."

Captain Windy Stafford of the University Police explained that it doesn't take long for an officer to respond to a call.

"The call comes to dispatch, and we automatically get the location over the phone," Stafford said.

If a student is being harassed or feels unsafe at any time, they can press the button on the station, and the police will be immediately notified. Help will come and police will take care of the situation or escort that person home.

Stafford also said on an average weekday, there are three on-duty officers on campus. There are also three officers available on weekends, unless there are certain events that require more security.

Another issue that SRU addresses is visitors in the residence halls. Last year, each dorm had a certain color tag that

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DAN KLEIN/THE ROCKET

Driving up Main Street, parents, students and faculty are welcomed to SRU with a large "Welcome to the ROCK" banner.

Starting Fresh

While returning students get back to their lives at The Rock, largest freshman class finds out what college is all about

By Chris Schilling

Rocket Contributor

It is not debatable that the most stressful moment for any new college student is leaving their homes, their friends and their families and arriving at a new school where they have to meet new people and begin a new journey in their lives.

However, despite more than 1,500 students moving into campus over the weekend, a lot of the incoming freshmen not only felt relieved at how well the transition went, but a lot enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people and feel like a kid again for just one more weekend before college classes began on Monday.

While it may have been difficult to commute around campus last Friday, it was quite a scene to see the largest incoming freshman

class in 10 years move their belongings into their dorms and set up their new homes for the next eight months.

And while a lot of colleges usually leave it up to students to meet new friends, SRU's "Week of Welcome: Oceans of Opportunity" program not only helped students unload their belongings, but also helped freshmen get to know other freshmen from all over campus through various games, events and activities.

Week of Welcome: Oceans of Opportunity, which was organized by the Office of Student Life, was staffed by SRU faculty and student volunteers who helped with various programs throughout the weekend.

After the students moved in on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

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STEVE REED/THE ROCKET

During common hour on Thursday, students gather in the quad to catch up with each other and discuss their summer adventures.

Back-to-school moving creates both hassle, excitement



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sophomore communication major Katie Kurylo packs her dad's car to the brim before leaving her hometown of Natrona Heights, Pa., and heading back to the Rock on Sunday.

By Katie Kurylo

Rocket Contributor

- 9:00 a.m. – Alarm goes off.
- 9:30 a.m. – I consider getting out of bed.
- 9:36 a.m. – I remember I never packed my suitcase of clothes the night before.
- 9:56 a.m. – Finish packing suitcase of clothes.
- 10:04 a.m. – Stumble across a whole pile of things I forgot to pack.
- 10:05 a.m. – Sigh heavily.

I was thoroughly disgusted and my day had only just begun. Running around my room, trying desperately to remember where I had put my hair dryer, I wished that I could just climb back in bed and start the day over again. Maybe the second time around I would get it right.

As I was busy packing and carrying very heavy objects up and down the stairs, I realized again how much I loathe moving.

All the packing, hefting and lifting that goes with moving is just really not my cup of tea. It was as though all the tightly arranged boxes in my dad's car felt the need to remind me just how much I hate moving, you know, just in case it had slipped my mind since last May.

I know I'm not alone in my loathing of the whole moving-in process. I've not found one person to say that they actually like physically moving in.

But what some may not realize is that there is some merit to be found underneath all the grunt work. It's what happens after the cleaning and unpacking that

has a kind of magic to it.

Now please understand, I'm not speaking of Cinderella's "turn back into a pumpkin at midnight" magic, but of the overall feeling that is present at the start of every school year. A sort of electric atmosphere settles over campus, one that's very different from any other time of the year.

It is certainly different from the sluggish, after-Christmas blues of the second semester and it varies from the post-spring-break buzz, too. It is an almost-tangible emotion that holds its own next to the nearly euphoric freedom of summer.

It takes many different forms and hides behind many different faces. Sometimes it's in the

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