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# 09/02/1992 - Security Report

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN PUBLISHES CAMPUS SECURITY REPORT

CHARLESTON, IL--According to Eastern Illinois University Police Chief Tom Larson, on-going efforts by the university to educate the campus community about crime prevention and safety awareness have resulted in Eastern having one of the lowest campus crime rates in the nation.

Eastern's crime statistics from calendar years 1989 to 1991 and other information about the university's security policies and procedures are contained in the recently published 1992 Campus Security Report.

The report was printed in accordance with the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act requiring colleges and universities to provide current students, applicants for admission and employees information about their security policies and procedures.

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Larson said there were fewer burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, drug abuse violations and weapon possession infractions reported to campus security authorities during 1991 than in 1990. The number of reported sex offenses (1) and robberies (1) remained the same, while the number of liquor violations increased slightly because of stricter enforcement of underage drinking, Larson said.

A breakdown of the number of other reported incidents, per offense type, for 1991 as compared to 1990 figures (shown in the parenthesis) is: aggravated assault 3, (2); burglary, 25 (36); motor vehicle theft, 1 (3); liquor law violations, 193 (162); drug abuse violations, 6 (12); weapon possession, 1 (3); and murder, 0 (0).

Larson said a comparison of 1991 figures to 1989 statistics reveals a decrease in the number of offenses in five of nine classifications.

"Eastern is concerned about the safety and welfare of all campus members and guests. Because no community, including a campus community, is free from all crime, Eastern has developed policies and procedures that are designed to ensure that every possible measure is taken to protect persons on campus," Larson said.

He said the installation of emergency call-box telephones and improved lighting throughout campus are other measures Eastern has taken to protect its students and staff and campus visitors.

Larson explained that campus prevention programs aimed at minimizing criminal opportunities and encouraging students to be responsible for their own security have also contributed to Eastern's low crime rate.

The University Police Department also presents more than 50 crime prevention and safety awareness programs annually to Eastern students and publishes a monthly campus crime statistics bulletin. Theft prevention, residence and street safety, alcohol and drug abuse and date and acquaintance rape are among the program topics.

Larson said maintaining one of the lowest campus crime rates in the nation would not be possible without Eastern's experienced police force, comprised of 20 armed and commissioned officers who have full arrest power, are graduates of the Illinois Police Training Institute and are responsible for enforcing state laws and university regulations, especially those pertaining to drug, alcohol and weapons policies.

The university provides on-campus housing for 5,600 of its more than 10,000 students in 14 residence halls, 17 apartment buildings and 12 fraternity/sorority houses.

The housing staff includes professional live-in counselors and graduate assistants who are on call 24 hours a day, and undergraduate resident assistants who reside on each residence hall floor. All undergo thorough training in upholding residence hall security policies.

Outside residence hall doors are locked from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Guests are allowed to visit during visitation hours only, and all guests of the opposite sex must be escorted by the host student to and from the room.

From midnight to 5 a.m., during the time when the university is in session, the police force is augmented by student night assistants who aid in maintaining security in the halls and are in radio contact with the police dispatcher.