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**IN TOUCH** with the Office of Public Safety

**OPS Director hopes new security measures will make campus a safer place**

Drayton speaks on dorm lockups and student safety

**C**arey Drayton, director of the Office of Public Safety, has held that position for little more than a year, and sees himself as a facilitator of the educational process.

For two reasons, Drayton's position is unlike that of a municipality's chief of police: Students are a more homogeneous group than the population of a city and personal safety with the OPS is not the consideration it is within a police department.

"My life revolves around campus policing as a profession," Drayton said explaining he had been a student in uniform working on a college campus. "I bring a student perspective to policing. I show the reason we need police on campus."

Drayton doesn't believe that the several cautionary fliers concerning safety are causing some students to be unnecessarily fearful—even paranoid—about campus crime as some students claim.

"The fliers are not a signal of more crime," says Drayton. "They indicate that the directors of housing and safety and the dean of students are working together to send a clear message that the campus is not a place absent of the social ills of our society."

He says that these three key positions have been filled within a about a year's time. "We're new here and working together to inform students, staff and faculty of their roles in security on the campus."

Drayton admits that his philosophy regarding law en-

forcement differs from some students'.

The OPS director suggests that the decline in enrollment, rather than fear, has resulted in there being fewer people out on the campus at night. "To say that those fliers cause people not to go out at night is taking a narrow viewpoint," Drayton said. A sidebar on the most recent flier sent to all dorm students reads: "Walk with a friend. Walking alone may be hazardous to your health."

He explained that the crime rate on the campus is indicative of the crime in the city that surrounds it. He also cautioned that violent crime statistics between different schools are misleading. Larger schools don't necessarily have higher crime rates, just more crime because the student populations are larger.

Drayton would like to have all resident halls locked 24 hours a day.

Following the in-house rape in Hamilton complex last year, residents now vote on the lockup policies of their individual dorms. "I think 24 hour lockup is not only necessary, it's imperative," he said and elaborated by explaining that resident halls are students' homes and homes start at the front door.

Drayton cites cases in which non-resident students from off-campus housing entered dorms, ostensibly to use laundry facilities. "I'd like to think everybody has a golden heart and nobody would steal, but I've been in this business too long."

Many dorm residents have expressed feelings about the inconvenience of living in a constantly locked dorm and having to constantly carry keys. "Personal safety comes at the price of inconvenience," Drayton answers.

*I'd like to think everybody has a golden heart and nobody would steal, but I've been in this business too long.*

—Carey Drayton, Director OPS

To Drayton having resident hall doors unlocked during the daytime is the same as having them unlocked all of the time "because we're creatures of habit," he says. "If the door is open during the day, then when students go out at night, they don't want to take their keys and they prop door open with can or bottles."

He believes that only full time lockup will condition students to use keys.

According to an OPS memorandum dated April 7, crimes reported so far this fiscal year are: 442 — theft; 49 — criminal mischief; 45 — burglary; 43 — hate crime; 22 each — fraternity crime and trespass; 10 — sorority crime; and one report each for bomb threats, rape and sex crimes.

OPS has five areas of responsibility: law enforcement, safety, parking, keys and locks and environmental health—the latter involving manifesting radioactive materials and hazardous wastes, monitoring air quality and operating respirator and hearing protection programs.

Drayton aspires to make OPS more responsive and helpful to the community it serves, but admits that frequently he expects too much too fast.

—Sue Bright

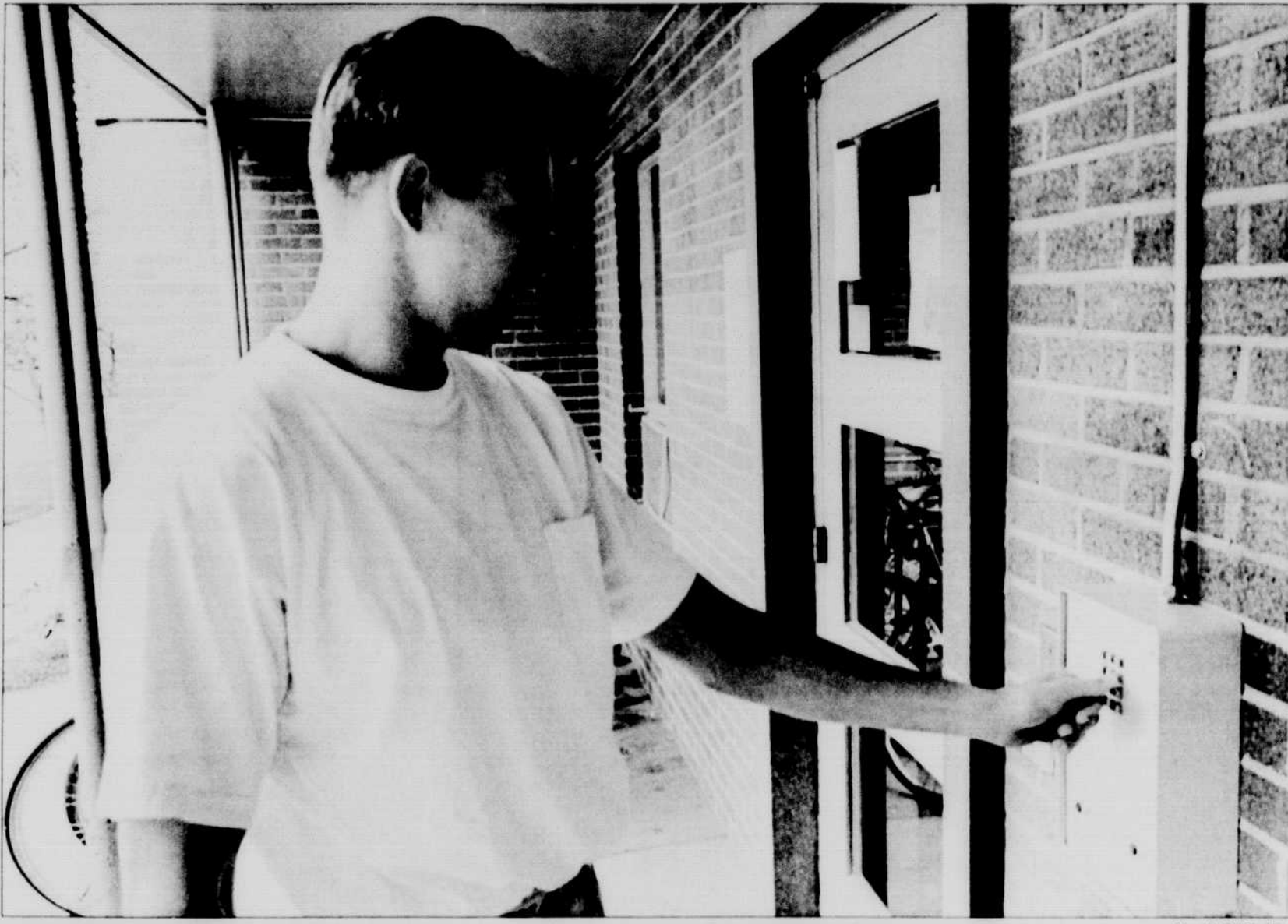


Photo by Sol Neelman



OPS Director Carey Drayton (left) is committed to spreading his words of safety to the campus. With 24-hour dorm lockups, University junior Jeff Meyers (above) must use a new speaker phone installed at the door to gain access.

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**IN TOUCH STAFF**

**Editor:** Mike Freeman  
**Contributors:** Sue Bright, Ming Rodrigues, Sarah Pagliasotti  
**Photographer:** Sol Neelman, Michael Shindler  
**Advertising Sales:** Scott Dana, Leslie Fial, Jennifer Huckins, Tom Leech, Randon Riley, Sharon Vaz  
**Production:** Susan Head, Ingrid White

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