

Students deliver pumpkins to retirement center

■ Sweetser residents made the donation as a gesture to give back to the community

By David Weaver
for the Emerald

Amidst all the Halloween preparations for this weekend, one group of students decided to bring some cheer to a group of residents at the Farmington Square Assisted Living Community.

On Thursday, a group of nine

students from the Sweetser residence hall in Hamilton Complex, led by Resident Assistant Haley McCall, took five carved pumpkins to the facility in an effort to give back to the community.

McCall said the Sweetser Residence Council decided to donate the pumpkins two weeks ago.

She said the group later decided to carve the pumpkins after some residents showed interest in doing the activity.

"It worked out really nicely be-

cause a couple people got really inspired to carve them," McCall said.

She said that many of the residents decided to participate in the carving. McCall added that she hopes that other halls will take up other charitable causes as well.

Gayle Stott, activities director at Farmington Square, said she was excited about the unexpected visit by the students.

"I think it's fantastic," Stott said. "It was such a wonderful sur-

prise." Stott said the carved pumpkins were precisely what the community there needed. She said that many of the residents of the facility had not seen a carved pumpkin in years.

"I think it brought back some of their childhood," she said.

Preston Joiner, a University graduate who was visiting a resident at the facility, said that it was a good experience for the residents as well as the visiting students.

"It shows a lot of thought and care," Joiner said. "I think it gives insight [to the students] about what growing old means."

Austin said he hopes that by reaching out, college students can improve their image in the community.

"It's a great community activity," said Sweetser resident Dan Blunell. "We got to do something really fun and help the community out."

Skateboards, rollerblades can cause damage and create hazards

■ Office of Public Safety warns skaters to consider others' safety or else maybe get their boards impounded

By Jessica Blanchard
for the Emerald

Skateboarders beware. While skateboarding and rollerblading are allowed on campus, performing stunts is not.

The University Office of Public Safety recently reprinted its "survival guide" for skates, blades and boards on the University campus. The brochure stresses safety, courtesy and caution as guidelines for

skateboarding and rollerblading and lists the fines for breaking the school's rules.

The University allows students to use skateboards and rollerblades as an alternative means of transportation, as long as the user obeys traffic safety rules. However, one of the most common uses of skateboards is for "stunting" — doing tricks mostly involving the skateboard leaving the ground — which the University has forbidden on campus.

Rand Stamm, OPS parking and transportation manager, said stunting has the potential to cause property damage as well as pose a

risk to pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.

"We don't have the facilities for [stunt skating]," Stamm said. "The concrete work here is designed for pedestrians, for bicycles, for looks, but not designed to be hammered on by somebody jumping their skateboard."

Stunting can also be dangerous. So far this school year, OPS has had to transport one skater to the hospital after he injured himself while attempting a jump in the EMU Amphitheater, said Joan Saylor, an OPS administrative lieutenant. The student was not wearing safety gear.

"A lot of people think the gear doesn't look cool," Stamm said. "You can't force them to wear the gear, but if they ever wipe out, it's not a pretty sight."

While the officers said they have not been ticketing skaters yet this year, they have talked with some students about their skateboarding use.

Pete Cho, a junior undeclared major, is one such student. Cho said he was stopped recently, but only received a warning.

"They were okay about it," he said. "But I don't understand why we can't stunt skate — do they think we'll get hurt and sue the

school or something?" "Part of me thinks it's good clean fun, but another side of me gets really annoyed," she said.

Students who disregard the rules may run the risk of having their skateboards impounded, said Saylor.

"There's this kind of a free spirit that goes along with skateboarding," she said. "We're not here to interfere with folks. We try to be patient with them and get them to comply, but there have been a few circumstances where we've seized skateboards and told them they can get them back from the Office of Student Conduct."

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