

RU Safe

Spring

2006

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April 1, 2006 Public Safety Event

On Saturday, April 1st, the Radford University Police Department will hold their second annual VIN Etching event for students, Faculty, Staff and citizens of the New River Valley.

This years event has been expanded to provide many additional services and information. In conjunction with Virginia State Police, Radford City Police, Radford Fire Department and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, in addition to the **VIN Etching**, we will also offer **Child Identification** production, **Safety seat installation/inspection**, **RAD training demonstration/information**, **home fire safety** and **boating/water safety**.

THESE SERVICES ARE FREE!

Vin Etching- All vehicles carry a federally-assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Making sure those numbers are marked permanently on a vehicle's windows steers thieves away. Why? Well, for one thing, disposing of a vehicle whose windows have been VIN etched takes time, trouble and money, all in short supply for thieves. That's because the windows of stolen VIN Etched vehicles must be stripped and replaced before a thief can get rid of the car, a

costly and time-consuming process. And VIN Etching obliterates any potential profit professional thieves might have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows and windshields for parts via chop shops. Vin Etching is simple, fast, safe and won't mar the look of the vehicle. Numbers are etched into the glass with a chemical solution. And those numbers will be there for good. To participate in the VIN Etching, the vehicle owner must provide a valid driver's license and current vehicle registration.

Child Identification – This service is offered to any parent or guardian of a child sixteen years old and younger. It involves electronically finger printing and photographing the child and producing two photo ID cards, a large printed record and a computer CD containing the information. All information on your child is deleted upon the production of the IDs. These ID cards and file sheet can be used by the parent in the event of an emergency. The parent or guardian chooses how much information they would like to be included with the record. Documentation proving parental or guardian rights will be required and may be in the form of birth certificates, passports, social secu-

rity cards, photo identification, etc.

RAD– RAD is an acronym for Rape and Aggression Defense Training. This course teaches women techniques to defend themselves against an attacker. A certified instructor will be on hand to answer questions about the program and provide information on scheduling a class. For further information, please read the article on page 2.

Other displays and events scheduled:

Motorcycle Anti-theft display.
Police Vehicles. Police Bicycles.
Fire Truck.
McGruff, the Crime Dog.
H.E.A.T. Race Car.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.

Call RUPD at (540) 831-5500 for further information.

Special points of interest:

- April 1st Event
- Spring Break Safety
- What you should do
- Destroying Property

Safe Skateboarding

How to avoid injuries

Each year, more than 15,600 people in the United States need emergency room treatment for **skateboarding** injuries such as fractures and sprains, says the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

More alarming, some skateboarders are killed in collisions with vehicles or die as the result of falls.

Rocks and other irregularities in riding surfaces account for more than half of **skateboarding** injuries caused by falls.

Here is some **skateboarding** safety advice from the National Safety Council:

- Always do a safety check on your board before you ride.
- Wear proper safety gear.
- Never ride on the street, and obey all laws.
- Never ride in crowds of non-skaters.
- Only one person at a time on a skateboard.

- Don't hitch rides from cars or bicycles.
- Learn to fall. Practice on grass or other soft surfaces.

Complicated tricks and maneuvers require lots of practice in a designated area.

For more information, please visit the National Safety Council web site at www.nsc.org



R.A.D. Classes now forming!

The Radford University Police Department is currently offering a course for female students on self protection. The course is called R.A.D., short for Rape Aggression Defense, and is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques designed for women only. The course begins with awareness training, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance. The training also

builds on the basics of hands-on self defense in a controlled environment.



The course is taught by a group of certified instructors who will provide you with a course book and reference manual. The manual

outlines the entire program for future reference. Once you have attended the initial program, you can come back again for refresher training and practice on the skills that you develop.

Personal safety is a shared responsibility by everyone on campus. Let us help you develop your personal safety skills by attending this free course. For further information on course dates and times, contact Sgt. David Cressell at (540) 831-5500 or dcressel@radford.edu.

Spring break safety tips

Here are some safety tips to consider:

- Travel with a reputable travel agency. Know what kind of transportation, housing, and food and beverages are included in your travel package. If you don't know anything about the travel agency call the State Consumer Protection Division to find out if there are any complaints against the agency.
- Don't assume that someone you've just met will look out for your best interests. Keep in mind that more people are sexually assaulted by acquaintances than by strangers.
- Only accept drinks from a licensed bartender or drinks that you pour yourself. You put yourself at risk for receiving an altered beverage if you don't know the source of the drink.
- If a friend feels sick, don't leave them alone. If you feel sick, ask someone to look out for you.
- If a member of your group passes out, turn them on their side to prevent choking and call 911 immediately.
- Don't horseplay or climb on balconies. Never sit on railings and always keep both feet on the floor at all times. Falls from balconies, even those on lower floors, can be fatal.
- Don't carry all of your credit or bank cards in your wallet or purse. Carry the minimum amount of cash that you will need, including a little backup. Traveler's checks are your best bet when on vacation. If you have extra cash, leave it in your hotel room, hidden from sight.
- Make sure your friends and relatives know where you will be vacationing, when you will depart, and when you expect to return. Call friends or family members to let them know that you have arrived and returned safely.
- If you are robbed, don't resist -- give up any money, jewelry, or other valuables. You can always replace material things. Call 911 as soon as you can.

You & Your Pets

Each year a large number of small pets are left unattended around the university community during spring and summer breaks. Just remember that your pet is your friend and needs care and attention while you are away.

There are a number of resources at your disposal when you leave for break or go back home for the summer. If you can't take your pet with you, leave it in the care of someone who will take care of the pet. If you can't do that, then put the pet up for adoption through your local SPCA. In addition, you can visit the local veterinary clinic and see if they have ideas about how to protect your pet. Mistreating and/or neglecting of animals by their owner,

including inadequate feeding, watering, shelter and care are criminal offenses in Virginia and can cost you up to \$500 for each offense!

Radford has a unique and wonderful organization to assist you with finding a home for your pet. **Pound Pals of Radford, Inc.** Visit www.radfordpoundpals.org/ or call them at (540) 731-3688. They are always in search of volunteers also!

For further information on your pets, visit the American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at www.asPCA.org.



Blogging

In an increasingly “on-line” social world, the advent of blogging has brought everyone closer together. For those still catching on, a blog is an online journal of personal thoughts, pictures, much like a diary. It is viewable by anyone who has a computer and access to the internet.

According to i-SAFE America, there are an estimated four million bloggers putting all types of personal information on the internet. While it is an innocent way of making and communicating with friends, it is also a haven for internet predators. Giving the personal sensitive and sometimes private thoughts of a person, may give the predator just enough information to strike!

Here are some safety tips about blogging.

1. Don't post places that you like to hang out.
2. Don't give out your address, school name, or email addresses in your blog.
3. Don't give out the same info on your friends.
4. Proof read your blog before you post it.

For further information about safe blogging contact your Internet Service Provider and visit www.isafe.org.



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RADFORD UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Don't become a victim of crime

Visit our website for
more safety tips!

What you should do:

- Blue lights and/or a siren mean pull over to the right where it is safe and where you will not block traffic.
- If it is dark, the officer will use a bright spotlight or flashlight to illuminate you and your car.
- Upon request, drivers are required to show their license, registration, and proof of insurance to an officer.
- Depending on the circumstances, officers may request identification from passengers as well.
- Remain in your vehicle, keep your hands where the officer can see them and follow his or her instructions.
- Avoid sudden movements, and do not reach for your license or other items until the officer requests them.
- It is reasonable and legal for an officer to require that you and your passengers get out of the vehicle, but do not get out until he or she asks you.
- Ask any passengers in your car to remain calm and comply with the officer's instructions.
- You may ask questions and provide an explanation of your actions, but arguing with the officer should be avoided.
- Unmarked police car?
 - If you are stopped by an unmarked vehicle and are not sure it is a legitimate police officer, please do the following:
 - Turn on your flashers.
 - Slow down and drive to a well populated area.
 - If you have a cell phone, dial 911 and ask the call taker to dispatch a uniformed police officer in a marked car.
 - Do not exit your vehicle - lower your window slightly and ask for the officer to show police identification.
 - Request that a uniformed police officer arrive before any further action is taken.
 - Once you are satisfied the officer is legitimate, cooperate with his or her instructions.

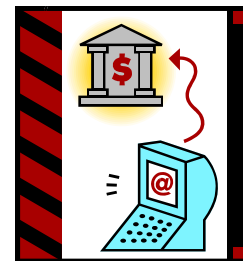
Internet Banking

With the increasing number of financial institutions offering on-line access to bank accounts you should be aware of some of the risks associated with banking on-line. Let's face it, who has time to set down and write out checks for bills, get stamps, and then go to the post office. At the computer, all you do is log on, point and click, hit the send button and your bill is paid. But be aware that you may become the victim of identity theft if you are not careful.

Here are some tips to make sure that you are sending out your money in a secure manner.

- Make sure transactions are encrypted. Look for the small lock in the bottom of your computer screen.
- Create a safe and unique password for your accounts.
- Change passwords frequently.
- Make sure your computer has virus protection.
- Print and store copies of your payments, deposits, and withdrawals.

For additional information on Internet Banking Security, visit the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at www.fdic.gov.



Destroying Property / Everyone Pays

Did you know that vandalism accounts for a large portion of the criminal offenses on campus each year? You may have been a victim of the crime by having a personal belonging such as your car or bike vandalized, but what most people don't realize is that vandalism to the campus itself makes all of us victims.

Each year some vandalism cases go unsolved and the amount of the property vandalized is not recovered. Vandalized property must be repaired or replaced and this creates a cost burden on all taxpayers in the commonwealth.

To help prevent vandalism, don't be afraid to report the crime if you see it happening. Contact your local police or the university police at 831-5500 if you see acts of vandalism occurring on university grounds or in your local community.

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www.radford.edu