Union targeted by auto thieves

By Ellie Evans
Editor-in-Chief

How long does it take a professional thief to make off with your car? A recent hit movie says it’s 60 seconds, but Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Safety and Security Larry Ross disagrees. “A professional thief can take a screwdriver and pop the lock, pop the ignition switch and crank the ignition switch in 30 seconds,” said Ross.

Two Chevrolet pickup trucks were stolen on campus, the first on Feb. 8 and the second on Feb. 19. As of Feb. 23, two other Chevrolet and GMC pickups have been stolen in Jackson.

Bart Damons, microcomputer systems manager, had his 1999 red Chevrolet Silverado stolen sometime between 8 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. on Feb. 8.

Freshman David Zarecor’s truck was stolen between the hours of 8:40 a.m. and 9:55 a.m. on Feb. 19. Zarecor said the first thing he said to himself was, “I know I parked right there.”

Security catches suspects on foot

During the early morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 24, four male juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17 stole items from vehicles parked in the dorm parking lots.

The four boys stole items such as cell phones, CD players, CDs and articles of clothing.

A resident of Hurt complex noticed the disturbance, and reported the incident to Pam Shock, resident director of Hurt complex. She notified the security guards on duty and they responded to the call.

Security guards Chris Siler and Richard Bragg caught two unarmed juveniles in a foot chase and held them until the police arrived. The other two fled on foot. One was caught Monday by a Jackson police officer and the other has been identified, but has not been apprehended.

No damage to vehicles has been reported to the Office of Safety and Security, but reports have been filed on the stolen items. Ross said that the majority of the stolen items came from unlocked vehicles.

Ross also said that he does not view these two criminal incidents as connected. “I don’t think this had anything to do with the theft of the other vehicles. I could be wrong about that, but I don’t think so.”

If a person was to see something suspicious, Ross suggests calling the Office of Safety and Security at 661-5018. Ross said that security officers are happy to take calls even if they end up false.

New policy bans campus smoking

By Scott Bryant
Staff Writer

After a unanimous decision from the president’s cabinet, a campus-wide no-smoking policy will be in effect beginning Fall 2001.

“The decision is not motivated by spiritual checklists. It is not an attempt to impose some new legalistic standards for our campus,” said President David S. Dockery. “What drove us was more of an aesthetics approach. It was mostly a matter of keeping the campus nice. For some people, it is an issue of purity, but for us it was for campus aesthetics.”

Despite Dockery’s assertion on purity, many student smokers contacted for this story refused to comment.

“There are two reasons why we want to enforce this policy. One being the health issue, and the other is to make the campus more beautiful,” said Kimberly Thombury, Dean of Students. “As we get more national, we want to attract more diversity to our campus.”

“I don’t think the policy will effect too many people and it will improve the workload of housekeeping,” said Dockery. If a student is caught smoking, he or she will be reprimanded by letter followed by a meeting with the dean of students or even a financial penalty.

Students have mixed emotions about the policy. “Even as a nonsmoker, I feel that the majority of the campus is over 18 and it is not illegal, therefore it should not be illegal...”

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