MIT cars "soft touch" for thefts according to patrol chief Olivieri

By Stephen Blatt

While there has been a reduction in the number of auto thefts, which has remained at a constant level of 136 per year (1 per month) for the past few years, the crime rate has remained high. In December, 26 cars were stolen, compared to 20 in January and 14 for the first three weeks of February. To fight this rise in car thefts, Olivieri is working with the Cambridge Police Department to provide more protection for the high crime areas.

According to Olivieri, a number of auto thefts could be prevented by simple preventative measures. "MIT is a soft touch" when it comes to car robberies, and part of the problem is the carelessness of car owners. "People just leave their cars unlocked and then until they find one that is unlocked, they just 'jump' the ignition and drive off."

The cars that are stolen most often are Ford and Mustangs. "These are the easiest models to make a key for, and there are not many, so we can see them around the windows and hook onto the bottom," Olivieri says.

Of the cars that are apprehended, the majority are fifteen to nineteen-year-olds who are within two miles of MIT. The primary purpose of the thefts is for "joy rides."

The majority of auto thefts occur on Memorial Drive and Ambient Streets near the West Campus dorms. Other high-theft areas include the parking lots on Arsenal Street near the National Magnet Laboratory and near the cyclotron. While the largest number of thefts occurs during the evening (51 of the last 113), as many thefts occur during the daytime (30 and 32 respectively) out of the last 113.

The reductions in other crimes are due in part to the Campus Patrol Escort Service, to Operation Identification, to the formation of a bicycle compound and to increased patrol coverage on campus, Olivieri said.

The Escort Service is for the benefit of those people working in remote areas or during non-peak hours. These people may, by calling the Campus Patrol or obtaining a patroloman to escort them from their office to parking areas or bus stops. Operation Identification, involves engraving ID numbers on pieces of equipment and has reduced the theft of such items as typewriters.

A bicycle "parking lot" has been established near building 15, where people can park their bikes from 8am to 8pm. The bikes are guarded by student employees.

The number of police officers patrolling the campus has beenincreased. There are now 3 patrolmen on West Campus and 4 on East Campus, up from 3 and 2 respectively. "By increasing manpower we were able to reduce patrol time, make our response time faster, and raise our deterrent ability because of increased visibility of officers," reports Olivieri. The two women officers recently added to the Campus Patrol staff give the Campus Patrol "better effectiveness in dealing with problems involving women."

Olivieri has also aided in reducing crime. "The Police Booster of The Tech is very helpful — people in the community should be aware of what's going on and what precautions they have to take," says Olivieri. Special Bulletins, which are posted in areas where a large number of similar crimes have been taking place (for example in a dormitory), are "an on-the-spot report of what's happening specifically tailored to a particular location."

Other problems facing the Campus Patrol besides auto thefts include the "open building" policy of MIT, master keys and live-ins. The fact that MIT buildings are open 24 hours a day, while advantageous to people working all night, makes difficult to reduce the number of similar crimes happen, especially of the vending machines, according to Olivieri. Special Bulletins, which are posted in areas where a large number of similar crimes have been taking place (for example in a dormitory), are "an on-the-spot report of what's happening specifically tailored to a particular location."

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The continued use of illegally duplicated master keys, despite an amnesty period last year when all such keys were supposed to be turned in, "we find very cheery" with regard to the personal property factor as far as the dorm system is concerned," reports Olivieri. The live-ins and freestudents in the dorms also make it difficult to deter people from living on campus, because they belong in a particular place and outsiders.

**NOTES**

- * Notice to students applying to medical school for September, 1974. Please inform the Preprofessional Advisor about your decision.
- * Kaleidoscope is coming April 19.
- * Notice to students applying to medical school for September, 1974. Please inform the Preprofessional Advisor about your decision.
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