The Cambridge Police are to be commended for the timely capture of the suspected "bankyard bandit," accused of the armed robberies of six people, including two MIT students, at automated teller machines on the outskirts of campus. Cambridge Police actively pursued the investigation and worked closely with the victims to build a profile of the suspect. Based on this profile, a Cambridge police officer was able to recognize the suspect during a house break-in last Tuesday evening.

While the Campus Police lack the mandate or manpower to follow up robberies with a large-scale investigation, they can and should warn the MIT community about any specific threats to their safety, both on and off campus. However, the Campus Police failed miserably in this task in the ATM robbery. It is inexcusable that they put the safety of the MIT community further at risk because of their failure to communicate relevant information promptly.

In response to the first armed robbery of an MIT student at 365 Broadway, the Kendall Square ATM, the Campus Police ineffectually responded by sending out a year-old list of safety tips. Your awareness will help eliminate the opportunity of becoming another victim of a crime," the document read. The Campus Police made no attempt to increase the awareness of readers beyond a list of general safety tips. No mention was made of the reason for the bulletin, and no warning was provided about the suspect or the known locations of the robberies.

About the only useful on-campus response to the armed robberies was the extension of the hours of the ATM room in Lobby 10, announced after the arrest of the suspect. Still, the extension is only until 5 p.m. and the machines remain closed on weekends.

The ATM robberies have made two things readily apparent. First, the Campus Police seem to be much more effective in disseminating relevant, specific information about serious criminal activity, and second, safe, indoor ATMs must be made more convenient for student use.

For All We Pay, They Still Can't Schedule

By Matt Neimark

I think I've gotten over most of my gripes about MIT: relentless professors who pretend that their subject is the only one you've ever taken, dull classes, the "impossible" assignment, brutal winters filled with dirty snow you have to trudge through to get to classes, and, of course, inept classmates. Yes, I've gotten used to this, and I might even say that I like it, for all the damaged robbers of six people, including two MIT students, at automated teller machines on the outskirts of campus. Cambridge Police actively pursued the investigation and worked closely with the victims to build a profile of the suspect. Based on this profile, a Cambridge police officer was able to recognize the suspect during a house break-in last Tuesday evening.

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