Campus Police Responds to Rash of Bicycle Thefts

By Steven S. Wang

In response to the recent increase of on-campus bicycle thefts, the Campus Police Crime Prevention Unit released a bulletin of theft-prevention suggestions last week.

Thirteen-nine bicycle were reported stolen in September, according to the bulletin written by Sergeant Cheryl Vossmer. From Oct. 1-26, there were another 18 reports of stolen bicycles and four reports of stolen parts, the bulletin said.

Most of the thefts occurred on Thursdays and Sundays, Vossmer said. The value of the stolen bicycles ranged from $40 to $1,200 and included various styles from three-speeds to mountain bicycles.

In order to prevent bicycle thefts and aid in recovery of stolen bicycles, Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin recommended that students register their bicycles, use good locks, and report suspicious activity to the police.

Registering Bikes Is Important

"The best thing students can do to deter theft is to register bicycles with the Campus Police," Glavin said. The police keep a record of bicycles and their serial numbers, which help locate the owner if the bicycle is found, she said.

Kem had an Iron Horse AT50 mountain bicycle which was registered with the Campus Police.

"Another thing the students can do is to use good quality locks, not cables or chains," Glavin said. The police keep a record of stolen parts, the bulletin said.

Theresa V. Luzzolino, a former member of the Graduate Student Council, said that having students present at decision making, "is impractical for the planning stages were through, we don't want student input until after the decision is made," said Jason W. Solinsky '95, a CSL member. "If we don't approve a motion asking for two undergraduate representatives on the UA Executive Committee to the UA Council, the UA Executive Committee might be impractical for the students and the committee," Kermoda suggested asking the committee for progress reports or minutes from meetings as another way of keeping informed.

"The problem with that is we want to be involved in the decision making process, not be told the decision once it is made," said Theresa V. Iuzzolino '95, a former East Campus resident.

Students deserve representation on the committee because the issues being considered by the committee have a serious impact on student life, said Jason W. Solinsky '95, Senior House representative to the UA Council.

After the conclusion of the discussion, Hollywood said he would ask the UA Executive Committee to approve a motion asking for two undergraduate representatives on the planning committee.

Grad students also concerned

Kem had two other GSC officers expressed concern over the housing proposal's impact on graduate students in a letter to The Tech. "GSC Feels Ashdown Plans Insultative Graduates' Plan," she said.

"There appears to be a lack of concern for the impact of any housing changes on graduate student life at MIT," wrote Kem. "There is a fine of $25 to $50 if you handrail or in a hallway, Vossmer said. "We are also working with other college and local police departments to identify suspects," she said.

"People can register at Campus Police headquarters between 8:30 and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, Glavin said.

"Another thing the students can do is to use good quality locks, not cables or chains," Glavin said. The police keep a record of stolen parts, the bulletin said.

Vossmer suggested using a high security U-lock fitted with a security collar or a plumber's T. Students with Kryptonite U-locks can get a free collar from the Campus Police, he said.

Vossmer advising securing both a wheel and the frame to a stationary object, with the lock placed as close to the ground as possible.

Since Oct. 28, Campus Police have increased the number of uniform and plain clothes patrols, Vossmer said. "We also working with other college and local police departments to identify suspects," she said.

"We know from past arrests we have made, and from comparing notes with other university police departments in the area that most of the thieves are not students but career criminals," Glavin said. "Our officers have been informed to keep an eye out for [those individuals]."

Institute regulations prohibit the securing of a bicycle to a stair handrail or in a hallway, Vossmer said. There is a fine of $25 to $50 if the bicycle is left for more than 24 hours.

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