

THE BATTALION

Students Stealing 'Everything'

Campus Police Say Thievery Surplanted Militancy

By TERRY RYAN
Associated Press Writer

Campus police say thievery has supplanted student militancy as the No. 1 security problem at colleges and universities across the country.

"They steal everything, even if it is nailed down," said Roberta Duran, detective sergeant at the University of California at Los Angeles. "They take bulletin boards off the walls. They take office equipment that is chained or bolted down."

In a recent survey by the Burns Security Institute, 58 campus police chiefs said they were more concerned with combating thievery than demonstrations and bomb threats.

A sampling of campus police

chiefs by The Associated Press indicated disagreement on whether students or outsiders were responsible for the upsurge in stealing and on how much campus drug use contributes to the problem. Open campuses, coed dormitories and the tendency of students not to lock their dormitory doors were cited as major causes of the thievery.

There are no national statistics on the increase in campus thefts, but reports from around the country indicated the extent of the problem:

—Incidents of larceny have increased from 134 in 1969 to 239 so far this year at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

—Bicycle thefts at Florida State University in Tallahassee

went from 361 in 1968 to 907 last year.

—Personal property worth \$103,600 was reported stolen in the first 11 months of last year at the University of Michigan. During the same period this year, thefts totaling \$150,121 were reported.

College officials have responded to the plundering in a variety of ways. Locks were put on doors of the residence houses in the Harvard Yard this year. Campus police now patrol inside the dormitories at Indiana University. Ultrasonic alarms have been installed in the academic buildings at Stanford University.

Wallets and watches are the ever-popular staples of the

campus thief, but stereos and cameras are increasingly popular targets in dormitory rooms. Typewriters and adding machines are stolen from administrative and classroom buildings. The snatching of expensive 10-speed bicycles has reached epidemic proportion at some schools.

One item seems immune from theft. Textbooks.

"I don't know when I last heard of someone losing a book," said Ernest Quinton, chief of security at San Jose State College.

Most campus police officials blamed outsiders for the rocketing theft rates first noted in 1970. A few, however, said students have always stolen from each other and are just doing more of

it now.

Some security officers said drug users who steal to support their habits are responsible for the increase in stealing. Others, arguing on the basis of arrests they have made, said drugs played little part in pilfering on their campuses.

Dormitory students have borne the brunt of the increase in stealing.

The free access granted everyone on the open campuses and in the coed dormitories of today was cited by many campus security chiefs as a significant factor in the upsurge of thefts.

"When you have doors open around the clock, when you have men and women living in the

same dorm, it is no longer easy to tell who belongs in there," said Marvin Herrington, director of public safety at Stanford University. "It is a simple thing for an outsider to go through them now."

Underlying all explanations for the increase in stealing, according to many campus officials, is the persistent notion that the campus is an ivory-towered fortress isolated from the world at large.

"It is naive, but there are many students who feel the campus does provide a sanctuary," said L. B. Kankowski, deputy director of public safety at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland. "The students have a tendency to trust everyone. As a result, they get taken."

Teachers Also Opposed To War—Morally

Alternative Features Service

"College students and faculty tend to oppose American involvement in Vietnam on moral grounds. They criticize U.S. devastation of a foreign country and cite the deaths and injuries that have resulted on both sides. The public at large has become disenchanted for a more practical reason: our failure to win."

These conclusions were drawn by Professor Howard Shuman of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research after a detailed analysis of various nationwide polls, opinion surveys and in-depth interviews. For example, Shuman discovered campus opposition to the war increased most after American escalations in Indochina and reports of heavy civilian casualties. The initiation of the bombing of North Vietnam and escalation of such bombing, the Cambodian invasion and the media exposure of the My Lai massacre all produced high levels of anti-war sentiment on the campuses.

On the other hand, these events did not materially influence opposition to the war by the general public. However, public anti-war sentiment increased markedly after communist victories during the 1968 Tet offensive.

Shuman's research also revealed that peace demonstrations did not increase public opposition to the war. In fact, general approval of Nixon's handling of the war, as measured by the Gallup poll, rose by six per cent after the largest peace marches in November, 1969.

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