## Automobiles...

## Computerized locking system disables car, locks doors, raises windows to prevent theft

m has come up with a device it ys disproves the belief there is no re-fire way to protect a car from a rofessional thief.

Officials of Keycon Corp. say their new computerized device cks and disables a car so effectively renders other antitheft devices rtually obsolete.

"We even consulted with some -car thieves, and they said the sysn would delay a thief so long he obably would give up and go find nother target," company president onald D. Richardson said at a rent demonstration of the device. The Keycon system consists of a all electronic computer fitted beind the instrument panel which aumatically locks the doors, hood

United Press International and trunk, disables the engine, DETROIT — A small Detroit raises all windows and closes the sunroof when the driver emerges ous, skilled thief who can crawl befrom the car.

The system is activated when the nect it." driver removes the ignition key, gets out of the car and closes the door. If the keys are left in the ignition, the device sets off the horn and prevents the doors from locking.

Richardson said Keycon improves systems. upon the "limited features" of antiufacturers and could go a long way toward reducing car thefts which total more than a million a year. Richardson said other systems

the cost to repair the same automobile would vary so drastically

from one city to another or even

ese, it is almost not worth repairing

a car with moderate damage particu-

larly if it is three of four years old.

"Facing repair costs such as th-

within the same city," he said.

neath the car and attempt to discon-

The Keycon system, he said, disables the engine from the top and can be tampered with only by opening the hood — which is locked.

revents the doors from locking.

The car becomes operable again said took 10 years to develop, is deonly when the driver unlocks the signed primarily for luxury cars door with the regular key and slips a specially coded plastic card into a slot on the dashboard.

slot on the dashboard.

slot into a signet primary to rickly cars the most frequent targets of professional thieves — equipped with automatic windows and central locking tomatic windows and central locking

Cars with manual windows and theft devices offered by auto man-ufacturers and could go a long way scaled-down system that would dis-

able the engine. Richardson said production of the sports cars and foreign cars.

be sold through franchised au-tomobile dealers and independent Keycon dealers. (The suggested retail price of \$359 includes installation.)

The company is trying to convince automobile manufacturers to purchase the device for use as original equipment in some models. It said the device meets or exceeds specifications in a proposed federal regulation that would require antitheft devices in all automobiles

manufactured after Sept. 1, 1980. Richardson said, "However, we anticipate a tremendous demand for lation, particularly among owners of the more expensive luxury cars,

#### \*ALTERATIONS\*

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### Cost of auto repairs shows vast variance

AUSTIN, - An insurance indusofficial Wednesday said a survey wed vast differences in what

me body shops charge for repair-g damaged automobiles. Jerry Johns, president of Southstern Insurance Information rvice, said estimates to repair a maged 1977 automobile taken om eight body shops in Dallas and wen in Houston ranged from a low Dallas of \$391.76 to a high of 032.31 in Houston. "It is difficult to understand why

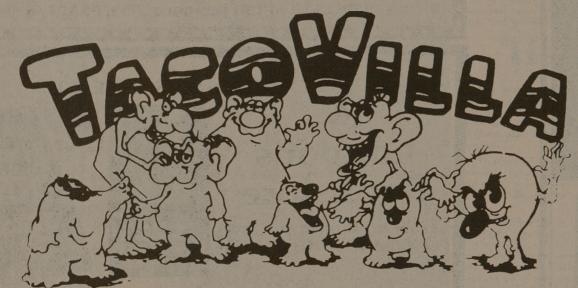
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