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Police official: On-campus negligence helps thieves

By MICHAEL RAULERSON Reporter

Theft — especially of item's such as computers, bicycles and back-

packs — is a continuing problem at Texas A&M, but a police official says students' can avoid the carelessness that invites theft. Negligence of students and custo-

dial workers — leaving windows, dorm room and office doors unlocked - has caused thefts to increase slightly, says Bob Wiatt, A&M's director of security and traf-

"If people would take care of their property, the burglars would have to work harder," he says.

Computers have become a cov-eted item for fencing, as well as for personal use, Wiatt says.

A majority of computers being stolen from the campus are being used in the home or apartment, he

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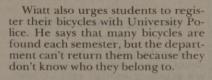
The users of computers on campus must do something about the problem of theft, Wiatt says.

He suggests securing the units by attaching an alarm system or putting them in a room with solid core doors and walls that don't stop at the ceiling tiles.

"We (University Police) talk secu-rity to all the departments," Wiatt says. "It's up to them to implement

Bicycles are another favorite of theives on the campus, Wiatt says. He urges students to lock their bicycles securely to an immovable object with strong locks and chains. Wiatt recalls a case in which peo-

ple were stealing bicycles with the wheels locked to frames by picking made lock and chain or are not locked at all, he says.



Backpacks left in dining halls, in hallways and outside the bookstore are easily stolen, Wiatt says. He suggests using a drop area, but cited a possible problem in identifying the owner when the backpack is claimed.

Wiatt says the parking lots are pa-trolled frequently to deter such thefts. He says plain-clothes officers sometimes patrol the lots.

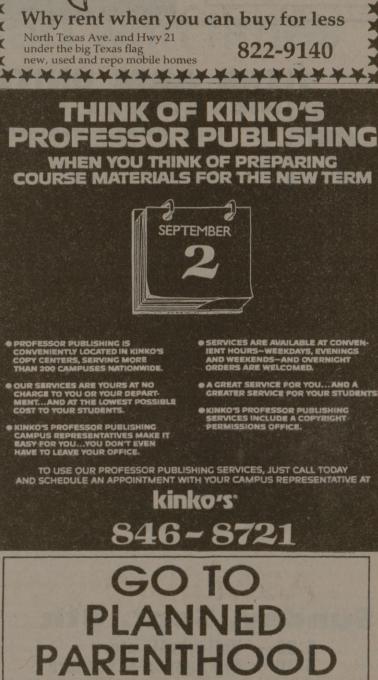
them up and putting them in the trunk of a car. Many bicycles that are stolen are locked with a cheaplymen, and officers speak periodically to groups on campus about security.



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