

Weekly Police Blotter



Theft & Burglary

Aug. 31—Computer discs were stolen from a building on College Grove Ave.

Aug. 31—Car stereo, stolen by unknown suspect Aug. 26 from Parking Lot D, east of Flora Dungan Humanities Building, was reported.

Sept. 2—Unknown suspect took banquet table from a hallway in FDH.

Car Vandalism

Aug. 28—Vehicle was damaged by an unknown suspect in Parking Lot E, east of the Moyer Student Union.

'Get Them on the Rolls, Get Them to the Polls'

(CPS)—Democrats want you. Republicans want you. Rock stars and celebrities want you. Public affairs organizations want you. Politicians want you.

What those organizations want from you is simple: If you are 18 years old or older, you can vote. But to vote, you must first be registered. And if you are the typical college undergraduate, between the ages of 18 and 24, you represent a segment of American culture that is perceived as being not likely to vote or to participate in the political process.

So college and university campuses nationwide have been targeted by private and public interest groups to register students and to get them to the polls on Nov. 3.

"Students tend to feel left out. Candidates don't appear to be addressing issues that are of concern to students," said Becky Cain, president of the National League of Women Voters. "On the 20th anniversary of the right for 18-year-olds to vote, this group has the least percentage voter turnout than any other age group."

"Get them on the rolls, get them to the polls," said Mike Dolan, field director for the California-based Rock the Vote, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has organized student voter registration drives nationwide.

Top issues of concern to college students at the national

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Five bikes stolen during first week

by Tricia Ciaravino

Each semester brings bike thieves to campus and this semester is no different. Five bikes have been stolen since school started.

A mountain bike was stolen from one of the residential life buildings between Aug. 26 and 27. Two 10-speeds were stolen on the morning of Aug. 31, one from the Health Sciences building, another from the Marjorie Barrick Museum. A 12-speed bicycle was stolen from the Claude I. Howard Student Health Center on Sept. 2.

On Aug. 25, a mountain bike was stolen from the Carlson Education Building. University Police are particularly concerned about this theft because the bike was secured with a U-bolt, the best lock money can buy.

"Bike thieves have become sophisticated," said University Police Detective Sgt. Lonnie Barrett.

Although it's rumored that Freon was used to shatter the U-lock, Barrett said it's an unlikely method because of the time and effort it takes.

The U-lock manufacturer offers an insurance policy but requires the lock to prove the bike was stolen. Because thieves usually take the lock with them,

and owners can't collect the insurance.

Last semester 38 bikes were stolen. The average value was \$400. Most thieves concentrated on mountain bikes but racing bikes and 10-speeds were also taken. Most were secured with chains or cables.

Barrett said bike theft at UNLV is low compared to other campuses. In the month of January 1992, 100 bikes were stolen from the Stanford University campus. But he admitted UNLV has a problem that must be solved.

"Arrests for thefts have increased but the thefts haven't decreased," Barrett said. "We barely dent the number of thefts occurring. It's obviously more than one person (stealing bikes). In the past, we've responded to bike thefts with plain-clothes surveillance and uniformed officers."

Barrett said this year University Police will try a new approach: education. He is organizing a bike theft prevention program which will include a videotape display and demonstration of the proper way to secure bicycles.

University Police will place warning cards on improperly-secured bikes.

Barrett recommends using

a U-bolt lock with reinforcement bars and a collar over the locking device. He said many students don't want to invest a lot of money in safety precautions, like the lock, and have their bikes stolen as a result.

"It makes no sense to protect an \$800 mountain bike with an \$18 lock," he said.

Barrett also suggests learning the proper securing techniques. Most bicycle dealers will demonstrate how to use locks and reinforcement devices.

Less thefts occur at the larger bike racks than others on campus. Racks in well-traveled, well-lit areas are also safer. Bikes chained to poles and trees are not as well protected.

Barrett also recommends registering bicycles with University Police. It's free and students are given decals or punches to put their number on the bike. University Police keep serial numbers and owner names on file. Registration is important because it's proof of ownership. Also, police can't return a bike if they don't know who it belongs to. Save receipts, take a photograph of the bike and keep them available.

Always report bike thefts immediately.

"Nothing can be done if they don't report it," Barrett said.

House cuts higher education programs

WASHINGTON (CPS)—The ink had barely dried on a new bill to boost college assistance to middle-income families when lawmakers started slicing money from current funding levels, citing an unexpected budget shortfall.

A leading education advocate criticized the move soon after Congress embraced an expansion of education programs in the Higher Education Act.

"It is the grand irony," said Arnold Mitchem, president of the Committee for Education Funding, which represents more than 100 organizations.

On July 23, President Bush signed into law the Higher Education Act, which extends the life of federal higher education programs, including student loans, and authorizes spending of \$115 billion over a five-year period.

The Higher Education Act (HEA) sought to raise the maximum Pell Grant from \$2,400 to \$3,100 next year and permit more aid to middle-income and part-time students.

Every American "deserves the chance to get on the ladder of opportunity and climb up," Bush said.

However, the House voted July 28 to cut the maximum Pell Grant from \$2,400 to \$2,300 next year and reduce funding for a wide range of politically popular higher education programs, dimming hopes for the larger increases envisioned by Congress.

Lawmakers blamed the Bush administration for the problem, saying it failed to recognize a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall in the Pell program until this summer.

"I can only repeat what my colleagues have said—this is the most difficult year I can remember," said Rep. William Natcher, D-Ky., who chairs the House's education appropriations subcommittee.

Although the bill seeks to address key problems in education, health and human services, "we don't have the resources that should be invested in these areas," Natcher said.

Mitchem said the gap between the HEA bill and current budget realities was striking. "Both Republicans and Democrats are quite uncomfortable with what they've done," he said.

Mitchem blamed Congress for not transferring more money from defense to domestic programs, given the current economic conditions. Lawmakers defeated such a move last spring.

"Once Congress decided to value defense spending and defense jobs over education, it became difficult, if not impossible, to achieve any gains," he said.

Overall, the Pell shortfall will drain \$704 million from the education budget in 1993 and a similar amount in 1994.

The Pell Grant shortfall took many lawmakers by surprise during the past two months. Previous estimates had pegged the shortfall at about \$332 million, Natcher said. The Education Department now blames such a large shortfall on higher-than-expected use of the program in 1991 and 1992.

"The shortfall is a direct

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The Rebel Yell

The Rebel Yell is the student newspaper of UNLV. It is published by Nity Nickel, Inc. every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year except holidays.

Opinions expressed within these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the UNLV student body or faculty.

Comments, questions, complaints or letters to the editor may be sent to: The Rebel Yell - STS, 4505 S Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas NV 89154; or delivered to The Rebel Yell offices in Room 302 of the Moyer Student Union (third floor). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. The Rebel Yell reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.

The Rebel Yell Offices: (702) 739-3478, 3479 and 3678.

Display Advertising: 739-3889.

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