

Nine arrested for Toyota thefts

by Tricia Ciaravino

Nine juvenile suspects have been arrested for the recent rash of Toyota thefts, according to University Police.

Fifteen Toyotas have been stolen since the semester started. All but one were parked on the north side of campus. Fourteen vehicles have been recovered from various areas in the city.

Detective Sgt. Barrett said they believe it is a ring of suspects because the thefts haven't stopped with the arrests.

"We have some ideas of who they are and we know how they're doing it," Barrett said. "We're recovering the vehicles much faster now. We're making more arrests at this point but we

don't believe this has stopped."

Because the thefts are not confined to the campus, University Police began working with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and Clark County School District Police to stop the crimes.

The three agencies are using surveillance teams and sharing information. Barrett said they have been able to solve the problem in a more efficient manner since they began working together.

Barrett said the suspects are using the cars in combination with other robberies and burglaries.

University Police request students who drive Toyotas refrain from parking on the north side of campus.

TESTING

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"You don't test to get rid of the problem," he said. "It's a way to identify student athletes who may be experimenting with drugs and identify those who are already having problems with the use and misuse of drugs."

Athletes are tested randomly by urinalysis. They're notified just before practice and tested directly after. Students who test positively enter a

counseling program and are then tested more frequently.

Those who test positively a second time are suspended from practice and competition for seven days. They must enter a treatment program and are tested more often.

Athletes are suspended for one year and provided with assistance after testing positive three times.

DRUG USE

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problem among campus problems," Barrett said. "Look at the number of bars surrounding the university. Who are they catering to?"

Barrett said alcohol is a contributor to a large number of other crimes.

"Alcohol acts as a catalyst. Every date rape I have ever investigated involved the use of alcohol," he said. "It makes us lose our ability to reason. We've seen people

do some pretty foolish things under the influence of alcohol."

Driving while under the influence is a misdemeanor with a punishment of up to six months in prison, a fine from \$200 to \$1,000 and a certain number of hours donated to community service. A second offense, within a seven-year period, is still a misdemeanor. The punishment includes at least a 10-day incarceration, six months in prison and a \$500 to \$1,000 fine. A

third offense is a felony. Punishment includes a one- to six-year term in prison and a \$2,000 to \$5,000 fine.

According to Barrett, these punishments are not negotiable. Students who try to contest the charges do not usually receive leniency. What they do receive is usually a bill for about \$4,000 for attorney and court costs.

SMALL TOWNS

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you get over the fact that you are in a small town," she said.

McIntosh and Wright agree on the fact that there are plenty of activities in small towns. McIntosh said you make your own fun. And Wright agreed, "You can have fun anywhere, it's up to you."

McIntosh and Wright both had a dream of coming to the city. McIntosh said, "I couldn't wait to get out of the hell hole of the world and I always had a dream of being a city girl."

Wright always looked up to the people from the city he met through his athletic activities. Now that they are away they

both appreciate what they had in their small-town life.

All three students like the closeness of the people in small towns. The family atmosphere appeals to them. McIntosh said, "I could pass 15 cars on the road and know everyone."


McIntosh and Wright dislike the crime in Las Vegas. All three students want to protect their children from crime and gangs. As Wright said, "I want to shelter them from the bad, and expose them to the good." They all believe that by raising their kids in small towns they can accomplish this.

The first memory McIntosh

has of Las Vegas was when she was 12 years old. She went through the airport on her way to Phoenix, Ariz. and thought it was the coolest thing in the world. There were people all around in sequins, "You just don't see that at home," she said.

According to Wright, there is a stereotype of people from small towns.

"We aren't mutants, we look like everyone else," he said. "I don't think people from big cities should look down on people from small towns because everywhere you go, there are people who are ignorant," he said.



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