Editorial: Security succeeds

Last week, a rash of thefts struck Rider’s campus. Wallets, cell phones and cash were stolen from rooms in Ziegler, Switlik, Poyda, Hill and Kroner residence halls. It seemed as if a new disturbing trend could be growing on Rider’s campus, but thanks to the efforts of Campus Security, the Lawrence Police Department (LPD) and the students at Rider, the situation was stopped before it got out of control.

Dexter Stinson, 28, has been apprehended and charged with three counts of burglary. Stinson had been staying with his girlfriend in Hill Residence Hall since Valentine’s Day and was spotted near a burglarized student’s room around the time of the robbery. Security was able to quickly track Stinson back to his girlfriend’s room, which allowed the LPD to make the arrest.

The closer partnership between these two organizations has proven quite beneficial to the University. Security has displayed an ability to track illegal activity quickly and efficiently while the increased presence of the LPD on campus has allowed for faster responses to student complaints. Without both of these organizations working in tandem, finding the culprit of these robberies would have been quite difficult.

In addition, new policies that have been put in place regarding visitors to residence halls played a crucial part in apprehending Stinson. Currently, all those who wish to stay overnight in a residence hall must be registered with a Resident Advisor. While Stinson obviously disobeyed many of these regulations, most notably that a guest may only stay for two nights, Security might not have been able to track him as efficiently if he hadn’t been forced to sign in.

Students have also been quick in reporting violations to Security. This gives Security more time to investigate and track suspicious occurrences, which in turn allows for better accuracy and speed in apprehending violators.

In the case of the recent thefts, students reported the incidents shortly after they had occurred and one student even got a look at the alleged perpetrator, Stinson. This does nothing but make Security’s job easier and allow for a much safer University.

It also appears that problems such as these robberies can be attributed to many more visitors than Rider students. This has several implications.

First, Rider students seem to respect their fellow classmates and their property. This helps to make Rider a great institution in which to live and work. If a student had been behind these thefts, Rider’s residences might have become an uncomfortable place for many students, who don’t need to be worrying about their next-door neighbor breaking into their room.

However, students also need to be more cautious about what visitors they host. Visitors seem to have committed a great number of recent disturbances on the Lawrenceville campus, including the recent thefts as well as last year’s Cavalla Room shooting. By carefully choosing those they allow to stay over night, students can further aid Security and the LPD in avoiding crime.

The arrest of Stinson in regards to the recent thefts has shown that Campus Security, the LPD and Rider students can crack down on crime by working together. It remains to be seen what Rider’s future will hold, but with this partnership in effect it is certain that robbery will not be a part of it.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider News via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to Ridge House. All letters must be received by midnight Monday preceding publication. The Rider News reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

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