

Editorial:**Deja vu strikes with new car thefts**

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Such was the lesson learned by the Rider University community this past week.

Two cars, both 1989 Honda Accords, were stolen from a parking lot on the Lawrenceville campus. This mirrors another robbery that occurred last semester, in which two other cars of the same model were stolen. Thankfully, four juvenile suspects have been apprehended in the most recent thefts, ranging in age from 14-17, while attempting to break into another vehicle.

So, what does this mean for Rider University? It means that we've grown lax when it comes to protecting ourselves. Students, first of all, must remember to lock their doors when they park in the lots. This should go without saying, especially since residents typically will not be checking in on their vehicles for a while. By doing this, you protect yourself from thefts by making it harder for criminals. While they will probably find a way to gain entry if they have been eyeing your particular vehicle, as in this case at Rider, casual burglars will simply move on to the next car instead. While locking your doors may not prevent all robberies, doing so is the first wave of defense students have against thieves.

Campus Security should also pay better attention to the cameras installed in the parking lots. At the start of the semester, the cameras were responsible for catching two criminals red-handed. One was trying to steal a car stereo and the other a construction sign. So, why can we catch someone stealing a sign but not a car?

The answer is not that more cameras are needed. The fact that one unit mounted on top of the Bart Luedeke Center can zoom all the way to the end of the O-Lot as well as the construction area with clarity proves that Security has the ability to monitor the entire parking lot. What we need is for these cameras to be used effectively.

The robberies were not caught on tape because many cameras were fixed on the construction site. This is absolutely inexcusable. Security's priority should be protecting student property, not the University's. True, it is important to patrol the construction areas, but not at the expense of resident security. When students park in the University's lots, they are putting their full trust in Security to do everything in their power to defend their property. Sadly, they seem to be more worried about the loss of a construction sign at this point.

Security could also be stricter with those entering the Lawrenceville campus through the South entrance. When two 1994 Saturns were stolen last year, Security cracked down on visitors, requiring them to present some form of picture ID as well as sign in with an officer. They also made it a point to thoroughly check each student's Rider ID card before allowing them to enter the campus. Sure, this was an inconvenience, but it made the community as a whole feel a lot safer.

Today, Security at the South kiosk is almost a joke. Almost anyone with an ID card of some kind can pass for a Rider student these days. Many times the gate is even raised before the approaching car comes to a complete stop. This is easily fixable, since all Security needs to do is go back to the way they did things before. It may be inconvenient in the short term, but it does make a huge difference.

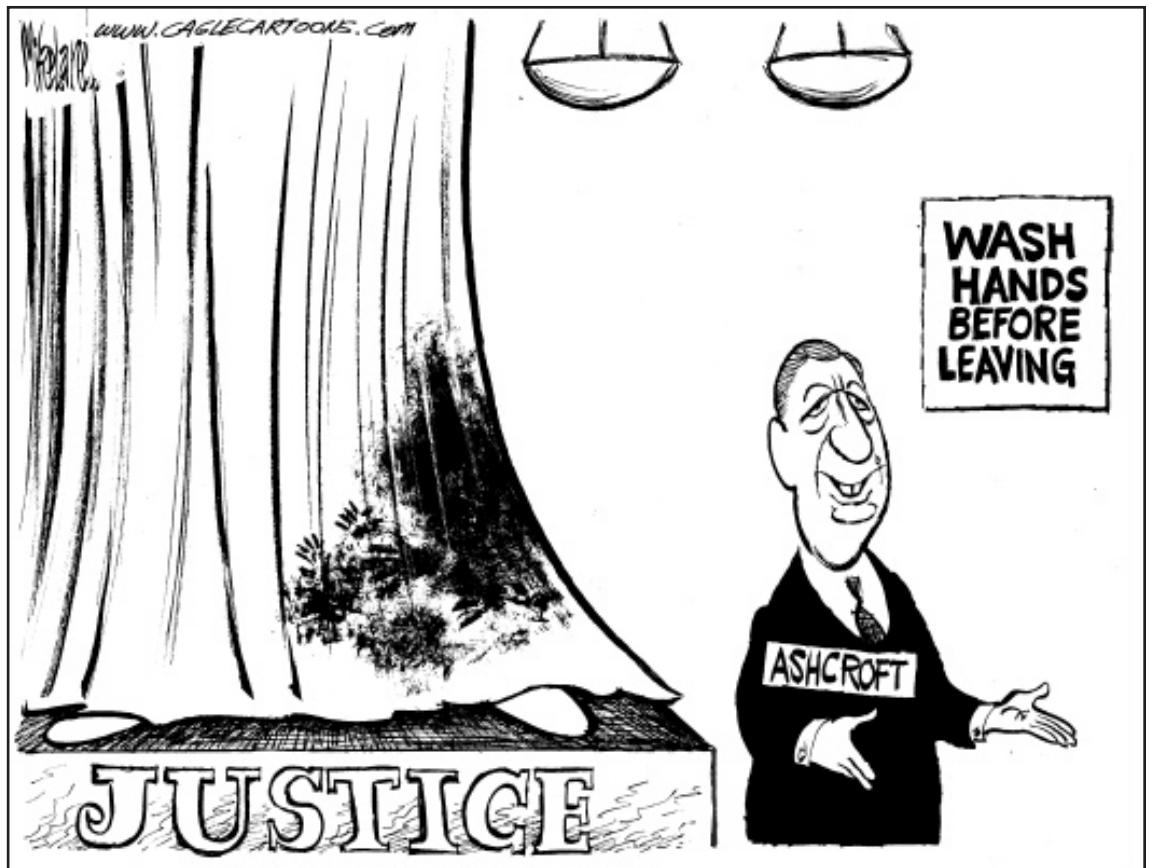
Rider has learned that history does repeat itself. Sadly, we had to figure this out the hard way, but hopefully these robberies will bring a bit of good to the community. After all, cars are more expensive to replace than construction tape.

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You've got a lot of choices. If getting out of bed in the morning is a chore and you're not smiling on a regular basis, try another choice."

— Steven D. Woodhull

**The Issues Explained:****Reports challenge democratic process**

Our beloved democracy was put to the test on November 2, 2004. Problems with voting were reported from all over the country. As a matter of fact, recent reports have come out that the Florida vote may have been hacked.

Visit http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/110804Z.shtml for the article and http://ustogether.org/Florida_Election.htm for the chart. On the chart, you can see that in a good amount of counties, around 75-85 percent of the people were registered Democrats, yet the Republicans received amounts of votes equal to the Democratic percentages.

History tells us that in previous elections, people vote along party lines 90 percent of the time. The chart and article say that it is easy to hack those voting machines because they are like regular PCs with the votes in spread sheets. You can merely flip the columns on the spreadsheets and give one party's votes to the other. If you do that in the counties with more registered Democrats, the numbers match the exit polls which favored Kerry overwhelmingly in the battleground states. The chart and article at the above links go on to say that if the computers

were indeed hacked, it could have swayed the election. Investigations are beginning to take place.

No matter what, Kerry conceded and Bush carried 51 percent of the popular vote, a change from 2000. As the returns came in, projections were made on some states with only 60 percent of the vote in.

Tom Brokaw called Ohio for Bush early with only 80 percent of the vote in. Other networks like ABC, didn't call it until Kerry conceded the next day. Do we rely on the media too much to make early projections without all the votes counted? Yes, with the provisional ballots in Ohio, statistics show Bush still would have won Ohio. However, shouldn't we give the states a week or however long it takes to count all of the votes and not rush it?

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