Editorial:
More patrols required to stop recent auto thefts

Rider students have a lot to worry about. With class work, tests, extracurricular activities and the like, residents rarely get a stress-free moment.

Now those who live on campus have something new to worry about: auto theft. In the last two days, two teal Saturn SL-2s were stolen. One car had been parked in the Dukin Lot, by the baseball field, while the other was located in the Open Lot. The circumstances of these two cases are quite similar, suggesting that the person responsible for the thefts has a motive and no intention of stopping.

In addition, the University is currently planning to increase security measures in the parking lots. Cameras and additional lighting are both scheduled to be installed in the lots by the end of next week. The real question then becomes whether or not these new measures will stop the thefts.

These measures will certainly make it more difficult for the culprit to act again. The addition of security cameras will allow Security to positively identify this person as well as anyone else who may attempt to steal or damage residents’ cars. The additional lighting will help the cameras pick up clearer images while also acting as a deterrent for those contemplating committing such a crime.

However, the University will need to do more than simply install cameras and lights to catch an intelligent repeat offender, as the suspect in these two cases seems to be. While it would certainly not be easy, a system focused on the use of machines will not be able to compromise by a dedicated car thief. In order for such events to be stopped for good, campus Security and Lawrence Police Department (LPD) patrols of the parking lot area must be increased in addition to the University’s new technological advances.

The only way to stop a thief is to arrest him or her while he or she commits a crime. Without a human element, this can never take place. While campus Security can observe a robbery taking place with the new cameras, it is uncertain that it could respond in time to stop the crime.

In addition, the proposal to install cameras and extra lighting was made significantly before the University’s current situation. This suggests that these actions are being taken primarily to discourage possible perpetrators from ever following through on their plans.

However, the criminal responsible for the recent thefts has already acted twice and, therefore, will not be discouraged from striking again. The only thing that will make the culprit think twice about his or her actions is to be caught and punished.

The recent increase of the LPD’s presence on campus will help immensely in this goal. While serving as a deterrent for all those who have yet to commit a crime, they also threaten those who would continue their illegal activities with a swift response to their actions. This is the only logic that a hardened criminal will understand.

Campus security has instituted several additional short-term measures to deal with the problem directly. Those who own Saturn SL-2s will be permitted to park in the security parking lot. However, these steps alone will not be able to put an end to the current auto thefts. Only by increasing human surveillance and patrols of the parking lots can the problem be solved for good. In the meantime, however, Rider students will have something else to worry about.

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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A Student’s View:
Got soap? Not in Rider dorms

While living at college, residents have more of a tendency to get sick, as opposed to commuters. This is pretty common at most colleges across the country and certainly holds true here at Rider University. But why does this happen? The obvious answer would be that germs are easily transferred between students while residing on campus. In all probability, the easiest transfer of germs is from hand-to-hand. There is a way to limit this transfer by putting soap dispensers in the dormitory bathrooms on campus, but this University chooses not to promote it.

How nasty is it to hear the toilet and/or urinal flush and then the door immediately open? It’s awful. It is shown on campus that students, at least the males, tend not to wash their hands after using the bathroom. The fact that there are no soap dispensers in the bathrooms does not help either. In my opinion, people are less likely to attempt to wash their hands if there are no soap dispensers next to the sinks. Even so, if students were to wash their hands, how would they properly be cleaned without soap to get rid of the germs? And students wonder why they get sick. In fact, some fellow students and I did research on the issue of dorm improvements last semester for a project. According to our research, the American Society for Microbiology stated that only two out of every three people wash their hands. However, according to this research, 95 percent of people claim to wash their hands when only about 67 percent actually do. Based on this writer’s observations, I’d say that the 67 percent is actually significantly lower on Rider’s campus. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that hand washing is one of the most important ways to stop infection.

The combination of pure common sense and the facts brought forth by the aforementioned respected organizations should make you, the reader, realize that people should be washing their hands more. But washing their hands won’t solve the problem of germs at Rider without soap. Without soap, sickness will continue to spread from student to student.

Not only is it important to have the soap, but it is also imperative that everyone use the soap. Imagine yourself washing your hands, using soap and drying your hands off. Then, as you exit the bathroom, you grab the germ-infested door handle and all that hand washing was for nothing. This is the reason why everyone should have clean hands.

It is true that the University is beginning to put soap dispensers in select dorms, but they are not in all of them as of yet. The plan is to have every bathroom in the dorms complete with soap dispensers by this coming fall semester. Of course, that’s just a plan, so don’t get too excited.