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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

NOT-SO-EASY BAKE OVEN



Electrical engineering freshman Tanuja Mouli (left) and civil and mechanical engineering freshman Ananda Higgins work on a solar-powered oven for their Engineering 102 class outside the Family and Consumer Sciences building yesterday afternoon.

UAPD starts program to curb campus crime trend

By Holly Wells
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The University of Arizona Police Department is launching a new Campus Watch program in hopes of increasing communication on campus and reducing crime.

The program is based loosely on Neighborhood Watch and will provide presentations on safety and security to the campus community, recommend changes to buildings to make them safer, release campus alerts to all departments and provide statistics on crime trends.

Officer Chris Scheopner, a crime prevention specialist, said the program was not started as a reaction to anything specific, but came about through a grant UAPD received that was geared towards establishing a program like Campus Watch.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesman, said the department has wanted to have something like Campus Watch for a long time and said the grant made it easier to establish.

"We're trying to increase the flow of communication and expect to see a reduction in crime," Mejia said.

Scheopner described the program as a formal network of communication geared toward the academic and business portion of campus.

He said the program deals mostly with employees' concerns, because students are the focus of other programs.

To reach out to student safety, UAPD created the campus liaison program, which assigns an officer to each residence hall and concentrates on a specific issue each month.

Colleen Chee, an undeclared freshman and resident of Graham-Greenlee Residence Hall, said she wasn't aware of the campus liaison program, but said she thinks Campus Watch is a good idea.

"I went to a program at orientation about crime prevention tips and I learned a lot from that," she said.

Scheopner said UAPD wants to be able to easily inform campus departments of crime trends and possible suspects on

Commencement to include safety checkpoints, marshals

By Jennifer Amsler
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

December's commencement will feature, for the first time, security checkpoints for graduates and members of the audience to

deter disruptive behavior to the university-wide ceremony.

In addition, undergraduates and faculty members will stand with graduates before and during the ceremony as marshals, a new feature the Commencement

Policy Committee hopes will hold as a tradition.

When the general December commencement ceremony was cancelled in September, UA President Peter Likins reinstated it in an agreement with ASUA President Alistair Chapman

to establish a set of guidelines to prevent unruly behavior.

After trying to create a fair balance between students and administrators for setting new commencement

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Garages safer than Zone 1 lots

By Holly Wells
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Three 18-year-old men were caught stealing from cars in garages Nov. 14, but Zone 1 lots remain the most prone to thefts, according to UAPD.

Miguel Santa Cruz, Santiago Espinosa, and Luis Flores were all arrested after witnesses saw Santa Cruz and Espinosa break into a white Honda Civic around 10 p.m. Nov. 14 at Cherry Avenue Garage, 1641 E. Enke Drive, UAPD reports stated.

A total of five cars were broken into that night, four parked in the Second Street Garage, 1340 E. Second St. and one parked in the Cherry Avenue Garage.

Santa Cruz and Espinosa were charged with two counts of third-degree burglary, Espinosa was also

charged with possession of burglary tools. Flores was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesman, said car thieves are usually hard to catch.

"We caught someone in the act. Normally with car break-ins, we don't hear about it until after the fact," he said.

But Mejia said even with the recent arrests, garages still have less crime than Zone 1 lots.

Between January and November this year, 16 cars have been stolen from Zone 1 lots and three stolen from garages. During the same time period there were 17 cases of break-ins of cars parked in Zone 1 lots and six cases in garages.

From September 2003 to September 2004, the south side of campus had the greatest amount of vehicle theft and vehicle crime. Honda Civics and Ford F150s were

among the most commonly stolen cars.

Lauren Mayes said her car was broken into the night the three men were arrested. She said she it was parked in the Second Street Garage.

"I had gone shopping earlier that day and all the bags were in my car. They took everything from my trunk," she said.

Mayes said one of her windows was broken and there was glass all over her back seat.

Although many of Mayes' things were returned after the arrest, she said she no longer feels safe parking in the garage.

"It's the reason I chose a garage; I paid a ridiculous amount of money because I thought it was more safe. Now I'm thinking about trying somewhere else," she said.

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Students head to their cars in the Tyndall Avenue Garage last week. Despite a number of recent break-ins at campus garages, UAPD claims they are still safer than Zone 1 lots.

CASSIE TOMLIN/Arizona Daily Wildcat