

News

BPD investigating recent on-campus thefts

by Joseph Chilton
Editor-in-Chief

The Brevard Police Department currently has two detectives working on solving a rash of thefts across campus over the past few weeks, Brevard College Head of Campus Security Stan Jacobsen said Tuesday.

The campus wide kleptomaniacal craze began several weeks ago, when six car break-ins were reported on campus in a four-day span from Oct. 8-11.

The thefts continued with a desktop computer being stolen from the computer lab in Dunham on Oct. 15, over \$1300 worth of video game equipment and cash being taken from a South Village dorm room over fall break, \$180 being stolen

from a dorm room in Beam Hall on Oct. 28, and three mountain bikes being lifted from the courtyard between North Villages 1&2 on Oct. 30.

"I don't think that there is one person stealing all over campus," Jacobsen said.

"Police are interviewing on each case separately, but looking for some sort of tie-in if they are related."

The Dunham break-in has resulted in the computer lab being locked, with a list of Music majors being the only students allowed into the lab. The students on the list must be let into the lab by faculty or by campus security.

Jacobsen believes that some of the thefts were perpetrated by students, but isn't so sure about others.

"I don't think that the bikes that were stolen from the Village were stolen by students, since the bikes were customized

and the students who owned them would be able to recognize the bikes if they saw somebody else with them on campus," Jacobsen said.

"It is fairly obvious, though, that the break-ins in the dorms were done by students."

According to Jacobsen, Brevard College has not seen such a brazen rash of larceny since five years ago, when a disgruntled former college employee used a pass key to break in to a number of rooms in The Village.

That criminal was caught and is now in state prison, but tracking the current thieves will not be as easy.

"These cases are funny because they are scattered," Jacobsen said.

"If any students have any tips, we would encourage them to come to campus security.

The future of education in the United States

by Radosav 'Backo' babic
Foreign Correspondent

A newly selected president of United States, Barack Obama, seems to have effective plans regarding education, besides many others. As someone who has struggled throughout his life while seeking to receive the best education he could in one of the best institutions in the nation, President Obama understands the challenges many young and motivated Americans are facing.

The economy is going down and cost of colleges and universities have been constantly increasing (grown around 40% in the past 5 years), which made it hard for many to afford college education.

However, President Obama has a plan with which he plans to solve this problem.

He will create what he calls a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. It will be worth \$4,000, each student will be able to receive in exchange for community service. This sum is supposed to cover approximately two thirds of tuition cost at an average public institution, which is equal to the full tuition cost of many community colleges. This won't only enable students to continue with their education after high school, but would also help forming a better and healthier community, as well, because the recipients of the credit will be obligated to complete 100 hours of service.

As many are at times confused by the application process of financial aid, Obama has thought of changing that, as well. He will get rid of the existing

federal financial aid application; instead, families who will be willing to apply could simply check a box on their tax form, which would ultimately allow tax information to

be used, and there will be no need for a separate application.

President Obama believes that in order for one to receive a solid education, he needs to be taught and lead by good teachers and professors. Therefore, he will focus on recruiting, preparing, retaining, and rewarding future and current teachers and professors of this country. He plans on doing so by providing scholarships (four years of undergraduate and two years of graduate school), making sure each new teacher/professor gets the solid trainings through a voluntary national performance assessment, by increasing mentoring programs, which will combine experienced and new teachers/professors, and finally by increasing the salaries for these devoted and enthusiastic educators.

Even as a State Senator of Illinois, he tried to improve early childhood education and make college more affordable. However now, as a new President of United States, Barack Obama has more power in his hands to make the progress; and with the attitude "YES WE CAN," nothing seems impossible any more.

