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Staff Photo--Casey Baluss

Undergraduate research

University of Minnesota student Hwei-Cheng Cho was one of over 400 participants in the Undergraduate Research Conference. See related story on page 4.

Rash of burglaries plagues Highrise

By Julie Ball
News Editor

Campus police have no leads concerning a rash of break-ins and burglaries which have occurred at the Highrise in recent weeks, according to Arnold Jones, assistant director of campus police.

"Four out of six rooms on this hall have been robbed," said freshman Popia DebRoy who lives on 1st North of the Highrise.

The first break-ins occurred April 17, according to DebRoy whose room was broken into on this date. "They climbed in through the window," said DebRoy. "There were footprints all over the place," she said.

Missing from DebRoy's room was a stereo, some tapes and \$5. DebRoy estimated the value of the items to be \$250.

The burglars also took a camera belonging to Judy McCrary from a room connecting DebRoy's. "We didn't really miss it for a few days. She thought one of her friends had borrowed it," said sophomore Nancy Ray who is McCrary's suitemate.

Ray estimated the value of the camera at \$200.

Another burglary also occurred on April 17, according to Jones. Rhoda Cates reported some jewelry and some other items missing, he said. Cates also lives on 1st North. Jones said the estimated value of the items was \$921.

Thieves struck again April 21 as freshman John Mullin's room was burglarized. "We noticed the window was open, and the screen was laying on the bed," said Mullin.

A camera and some clothes were missing from the room, according to Mullins, who estimated the value of the items to be \$200.

Neither McCrary, DebRoy nor

Mullins had insurance covering the thefts.

"There is no way the university can be responsible for thefts," said Pete Williams, director of housing. "In the housing contract it states that the university is not liable," Williams said.

Students are encouraged to take out some kind of "renter's" insurance, according to Williams.

"Our things are not going to be returned. Pete Williams refuses to do anything," said DebRoy.

There is not much likelihood of recovering the items, according to Jones. "We don't know if it's the same person because there are no leads at this time," said Jones.

"Just about all of them have the same MO (method of operation)," said Jones.

"We would advise that students be more cautious about how they leave their rooms," said Jones.

"We've tried to do a number of things. There's increased patrolling behind the Highrise. We've asked students to close windows when they're not there," said Williams.

Some students expressed dissatisfaction with the university's handling of the situation.

"I feel like security should be tightened. I mean we're paying for it," said Patricia Hudson, DebRoy's suitemate. "It's getting hot, and people shouldn't have to close their windows every time they leave," said Hudson.

"It seems like if our tuition is paying for campus police, it doesn't seem like we're getting the protection we need," said Mullins.

"When you leave personal belongings laying out, the word gets around that it's (the campus) easy pickings," said Jones.

Atmospheric Science gets new director

By Julie Ball
News Editor

Amid controversy, a search committee has chosen a new director for the atmospheric sciences department. Dr. James Heimbach of Montana State University will replace Dr. Ed Brotak as director of the

program next fall.

Heimbach is currently Research Meteorologist and Associate Professor of Meteorology at Montana State University. Heimbach has worked with weather modification and air

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