

Crime awareness must be raised

By Patrick G. Veilleux
Editor in Chief

Two suspects were arrested on Sunday, Jan. 27 with charges for car break-ins in the area. Given the recent thefts from both offices and vehicles, people may be wondering if these suspects are responsible for the thefts around campus. It's too soon to tell, but it's smarter to err on the side of caution. A reasonable assumption is that there are other thieves out there.

BCE Lab Instructor Ralphene Rathbone said, "I don't think these two are responsible for the break-in at my house; I don't think they're responsible for my wallet. I certainly think they're still out there."

At the end of the fall semester, Rathbone's office was broken into. Following the theft of her wallet, the burglars broke into her home and cleared out several thousand dollars worth of personal items. Insurance will cover a great deal, but some of the lost items were emotionally priceless family heirlooms.

"I've lived here for fourteen years and I've never had these problems. I think we are only being made aware of more now," she said. "Once this kind of thing has happened to you and you start talking with other people you find out how many more people have had it happen to them. More than a few of them have moved as a result."

Members of the community have become concerned that the college is an easy target for off-campus criminals. Rathbone believes this is because of how often students, faculty and staff leave cars and offices unlocked. She said "These thieves are crawling through open windows."

As a college community, we're not putting in the individual effort to keep this from happening. When doors are closed, they need to be locked. We all have the belief that 'oh this couldn't happen to me.' I thought that too until it happened, and I lost so much. They didn't miss anything in my house; they were thorough."

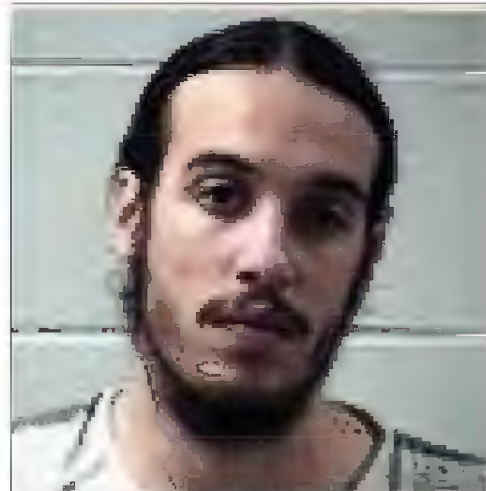
Now is an important time for the BC Community to work with Campus Security. If you see someone suspicious walking around, don't be skittish about calling it in. Our security group's number is posted around

campus, it is 828-577-9590. Rathbone has said that the suspects from the investigation

seemed to be 17 or 18, and she has given the authorities a more complete description.



KEVIN A. HARMER



CHARLES "CJ" MOORE

Harmer and Moore are the men who were arrested in connection to vehicular crimes across the Brevard community.



King's Creek was making an effort to turn Boshamer Gym into a floodplain on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Amber Heck