

Vizas Emphasizes Security Precautions

A money bag was stolen from the hospital a few months ago. So were several typewriters, adding machines and a number of ladies' purses.

But these were not TV-type midnight break-ins.

The money bag was left unguarded by an elevator. The office equipment was taken from an area that was either unlocked or had the key left on top of the door frame. The purses disappeared from tops of desks or chairs in plain view of passers-by.

Christopher J. Vizas, newly appointed director of security for the University, is trying to put a stop to such thefts.

"Most robberies at Duke occur as a result of employes who are negligent, careless and inconsiderate plus an innate human trait to try to do things the easy way," Vizas explained. "We have very few actual break-ins."

He explained that many of the articles are taken from easily accessible areas. "We have found first-floor windows unlocked or open at night and one evening we counted 27 keys left above office doors in Baker House alone," he added.

"Often, employes come back at night to pick up something they forgot or to do some extra work and accidentally leave the door open when they leave.

"We're trying to get people to understand that one minute of personal security every time an area is left unguarded will save hours of headaches replacing lost articles," he said.

Most of the losses are personal belongings, Vizas said, especially ladies' handbags and men's rings accidentally left on washbasins. The security office's uniformed officers and plainclothesmen have also investigated reports of such unusual thefts as window air conditioners and even several wheelchairs.

The director noted that articles stolen by professional thieves are difficult to track down. "I have been advised that last winter several typewriters were stolen from the entire University Complex, including the Medical Center, transported to Washington, D. C., and sold," Vizas said.

Vizas gave the following suggestions to hospital employes to aid in the prevention of thefts:

1. Don't leave personal belongings such as pocketbooks on or under desks or chairs. Put them in a drawer or cabinet, preferably a locked one, when you leave the office.

2. If possible, bolt down typewriters and other office equipment to desks and tables, or secure them in locked vaults or storage closets if available in your work areas.

3. Keep a record of the serial numbers of all Duke equipment in your area to aid security in tracing items if anything is ever stolen.

4. Report any broken locks to the security office and maintenance immediately, even if nothing has been taken.

5. Challenge any strangers in your area, especially in the evenings. Ask them what their business is there. If you do not get a satisfactory answer, call the security office.

6. Call the security office as soon as you discover a theft. **DO NOT DELAY.** It could mean the difference between recovering the article and letting the thief get away.



NIGHTLY ROUNDS—H. C. Medlin, a patrolman with the security division, checks doors near the Main Lobby to make sure they are not open to burglars. (photo by Bill Boyarsky)

20 Med Techs Now Certified

Twenty recent graduates of the School of Medical Technology at Duke have passed their national certification examinations.

The announcement was made this month by Dr. Thomas D. Kinney, director of medical education and director of the school, and Dr. A. Wendell Musser, associate director of the school and director of Allied Health Education.

Passing the examination, given by the Board of Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, makes the graduates eligible to use the professional designation MT (ASCP).

The 16 women and four men completed Duke's twelve-month course in medical technology in July. In addition to classroom work, the students spent several months in clinical practice rotating through the various laboratories in the Medical Center.

The new medical technologists and their hometowns are:

Michael Beard of Monroe, La.; Miss Cammie Cribb, Georgetown, S. C.; Miss Carolyn Cruz, Houston, Tex.; Norman Eller, North Wilkesboro, N. C.; Miss Susan Erickson, Chagrin Fall, Ohio; Miss Marjorie Gibson, Greenville, S. C.; Miss Karla Goodale, Muncie, Ind.; Mrs. Betsy Griffiths, Chambersburg, Pa.; Miss Terrie Hazard, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Mrs. Barbara Matherly Poole, El Dorado, Ark.; Miss Wanda Morris, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Willie Newell, Louisburg, N. C.; Mrs. Dianna Newsom Lett, Newport News, Va.; Mrs. Patti Pace Linkous, Macon, Ga.; Mrs. Nancy Parker Oppedal, Prophetstown, Ill.; Michael Phaup, Bessemer City, N. C.; Mrs. Jerri Phillips Phaup, Durham, N. C.; Miss Frances Prigden, Hobucken, N. C.; Mrs. Signe Rozneck, Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Miss Jeannine Smith, Corunna, Mich.