



The Lion's Eye

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A matter of safety

Delco security gets an OK grade, but some issues remain

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Walking between the campus and the parking lots. Leaving your schoolbag unattended. Leaving your automobile unlocked. What do they have in common? Any one of these acts may render you a victim.

Have you ever wondered about the security on campus? Ever find yourself walking extremely fast to your car after your night class? If so, you are not alone.

It is true that Penn State Delco is not a closed campus — anyone may enter and exit at will because the library, bookstore and the tennis courts are available for the use of the public.

Does that make the campus unsafe?

"Since the security department has a limited amount of resources," said campus Security Officer Dave Horevay, "we have to rely on the campus community to notify the department when they see something questionable."

"I think the campus is safe," said student Dave Way. "I think more about being late to my class than about my safety."

According to Penn State Delco's crime statistics for the 2000-2002 academic years, larceny, traffic violations and vandalism have the greatest number of reports. In order to not become a statistic in either of these categories, Horevay suggests that students should not leave schoolbags or purses unattended, leave personal items viewable in their cars, or leave their automobiles unlocked.

"I feel safe during the day," said student Ashley Podracky, "but for my night class, I wish I could park in the teachers' spots, since they are closer."

Horevay says that the campus is "exploring" some ideas to



Photo by Anteia Consorto

A student makes his way to his car in the dim light of the parking lot near Vairo Library after a night of studying on a recent evening.

make the campus more secure. One example is having call boxes installed around the campus.

"I submitted proposals twice to the Student Allocation Committee concerning call boxes," said Horevay.

Unfortunately, he said his proposals were also rejected twice. Even in the era of cell phones, if you're for some reason without one, there are no pay phones inside any of the buildings.

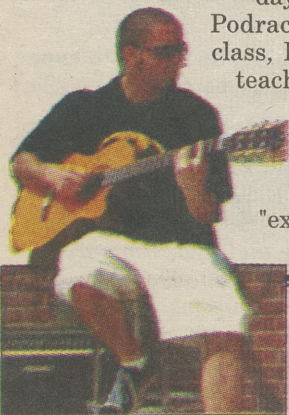
"I think call boxes would be a great idea," says student Matt Haldeman. "They could be really useful in case of an emergency."

If you would like to find out more about security and crime statistics for Delco, visit www.psu.edu/dept/police/. And if you feel uneasy in a situation, Horevay emphasizes "not to be afraid to ask for an escort or contact the department at (610) 496-2522."

You make the call

The Lion's Eye asked students if emergency callboxes around campus would improve security. Here are some answers:

- Sure, it would be rough if you had an emergency and there were no phones around. — J.D. Unangst, freshman
- No, the campus is too small for that. — Drew Renzi, freshman
- They should be installed, but it is not really necessary since everyone has cell phones. — Annette Taylor, junior
- Yes, they are needed. — Alisha McCray, junior
- It would be a nice security measure, especially at night. — Laura Heeney, junior
- Not right now since there has not been any history of problems. Besides, could use the money toward other expenses. — Tim Michalski, junior



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