

'Tis the season for easy thefts

By BRIAN HANNON
Collegian Staff Writer

Many students will leave State College for Christmas break without any thought to protecting and securing their homes, apartments or residence halls.

But when they return for classes, they may be in for a surprise if they fail to take certain precautions.

David H. Caster, crime prevention specialist for the State College Bureau of Police Services, suggests that students take valuable items such as calculators, televisions and stereos home with them over vacation.

"It might also be worth their while to engrave valuable items with their

driver's license number," Caster said.

Thieves tend to stay away from items that are engraved, and there's "a better opportunity" to recover stolen property when the items have the license number on them, he added.

Both State College and University police have engravers who will engrave items for residents who are willing to take the precaution.

Robert McNichol, supervisor of University Police Services, said the residence halls are padlocked, and maintenance personnel must obtain access into the halls from University police.

Caster said State College police try to have more patrols out over the semester break, since close to 90 percent of the students living off campus are away.

"There are good and bad years," Caster said. "The number of burglaries is based on our availability and what the students do to protect their property."

Other suggestions Caster mentioned included stopping mail and newspaper delivery, and making sure all doors and windows are locked.

The Organization for Town Independent Students and managers of apartment complexes are also trying to help prevent possible break-ins.

Preventive efforts by OTIS have

included handing out a crime-alert sheet to students who enter the OTIS office and running a crime prevention ad in the final edition of *The Daily Collegian* on Friday, Marjorie Utt, OTIS President said.

OTIS and Kissinger, Leonard and Brower Realtors, 245 S. Allen St., offer some additional suggestions to ready apartments for holiday vacancies:

- Turn the heat back to between 55 and 60 degrees.
- Move items off the floor in case of water damage.
- Have friends who are staying in town occasionally check on the home.
- Make the apartment look like someone is living there.

Holiday time brings the subletting season

Along with the holidays and finals week comes one of the more dreaded seasons for many University students — subletting season. Numerous fliers and classified ads are an indication that the final nail-biting days have arrived.

"It's getting down to the wire for students who are trying to sublet for the spring," said Marjorie Utt, president of the Organization for Town Independent Students.

Utt said, however, that there is still time because most new students who need housing will not

arrive on campus until the start of Spring Semester.

Both Utt and Madeline Weaver, manager of Park Forest Apartments, stressed that students trying to sublet should check first with their landlords about the specific sublet procedures required by the apartment owner.

"Problems happen when there isn't a written agreement stating who is going to pay the rent or when the student subletting doesn't tell their

present roommates that they are going to be subletting," Utt said.

Weaver recommended that students advertise in the local newspapers and contact OTIS in order to improve their subletting chances.

OTIS helps students by providing a subletting bulletin board with subletting information located in 101 HUB. OTIS also writes contracts between the subletter and the new tenant for subletters whose apartments do not allow leases to be signed by the new tenant.

— Brian Hannon

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Collegian photo by Judy Stecher

Holiday cheer

The residents of this room in Ewing Hall have found a new way to get into the holiday spirit, as seen in this creative window display.

PSU post created

The Aluminum Company of America has donated \$300,000 to fund the University's first professorship in solid state science.

"We're delighted (with the gift)," said Eric Cross, director of the University's Materials Research Laboratory. "I think it expresses a level of confidence in our abilities to couple with the private sector."

ALCOA's donation is unusual because it comes from the company's lab funds and not out of the usual donation funds, or "gift pocket," Cross said.

The program, he said, is a practical one between the company and the University, because ALCOA is interested in research results, not just education.

The professorship will fund research, education and travel expenses and provide salary supplements for the professor, four graduate assistants and secretarial help. No one has been named to the professorship, but Cross said someone from the materials lab will probably be chosen.

—by Patricia Roach

The Daily Collegian Monday, Dec. 8, 1986-3

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