BICYCLE CRIMES 5:05 P.M. 10/29/17 N. LUKASAVITZ

 In a series of thefts involving bikes, bike parts, and bike accessories, both on campus and in the River Falls community, a stolen bike lock is to blame for one student’s minor back injury.

Nathan Lukasavitz (LUKE-us-av-its) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:32 Q: “…LUKASAVITZ.”

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: LIKE MANY STUDENTS ON CAMPUS, RIVER FALLS SENIOR SARAH KNACK HAS A BUSY SCHEDULE AND RELIES ON HER BICYCLE TO HELP SAVE TIME IN GETTING PLACES. RECENTLY, KNACK WAS FORCED TO PUT THE BRAKES ON HER BIKE RIDING ROUTINE AFTER FALLING VICTIM TO A RIVER FALLS THEFT TREND.

SARAH KNACK: WENT TO GO TO MY NEXT CLASS AND MY BIKE WAS THERE FALLEN OVER, BUT THERE WAS NO LOCK. AND THEN SINCE I DIDN’T HAVE A BIKE LOCK, I ACTUALLY HAD TO TRY TO DRAG IT UP FIRE STAIRS TO MY APARTMENT. I’M LITERALLY DRAGGING THIS THING, AND AT ONE POINT I HAD TO SPIN IT OFF THE RAILS TO TRY TO THEN OPEN THE DOOR AND THEN MANEUVER INTO MY APARTMENT, AND I PULLED THE RIGHT SIDE OF MY BACK MUSCLE. IT’S BEEN SORE THE LAST WEEK.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: ACCORDING TO THE UWRF CAMPUS POLICE CHIEF KARL FLEURY (FLEER-e), THIS PARTICULAR TREND OF INCIDENTS IS NOT ONE THAT THE CAMPUS USUALLY FACES IN TERMS OF CRIMES.

KARL FLEURY: SOMEBODY FOR SOME REASON WAS TAKING BICYCLE PARTS OFF OF DIFFERENT BIKES, SWITCHING THEM AROUND, AND DOING DIFFERENT THINGS. WHETHER THEY THOUGHT THAT WAS AMUSING, IT’S JUST NOT THE NORM.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: DESPITE HOW UNUSUAL AND/OR AMUSING THE TREND MAY BE, IT IS COINCIDING WITH THE MORE COMMON TREND OF STOLEN BICYCLES.

KARL FLEURY: WE’VE HAD SINCE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR 37 BICYCLE THEFTS, BUT WE’VE RECOVERED 16 OF THOSE BICYCLES, SO THAT LEAVES A TOTAL OF 21 OUTSTANDING BICYCLE THEFTS.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE CONCERNED THEY MAY ONE DAY FACE THE POTENTIAL OF HAVING A MISSING BICYCLE, IT IS IMPORTANT THEY MAKE NOTE OF THE BIKE’S SERIAL NUMBER, WHICH IS A CRUCIAL PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ASKS FOR WHEN TRYING TO RECOVER A MISSING BICYCLE. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M NATHAN LUKASAVITZ.

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