

Five-finger discount...

Student theft poses big issue in school

By Kara Knutson

Due to the recent advances in technology, music and information has become available to students with the push of a button.

Although these advances have been helpful, to students that didn't learn the "if it's not yours, don't touch it" policy in kindergarten are having a field day.

Among the 1550 students attending Antioch Community High School, a large percentage of them often fall victim to theft on school grounds.

From gym shorts to CD players, these students are usually left clueless as to who would stoop to such low levels.

"It's [ridiculous] and unfair that these kids get away with theft," said Wes Laudenslager, senior at Antioch Community High School, "My PSP was stolen out of my gym locker and will never be found." Wes reported the stolen possession weeks ago and has yet to find any leads as to who stole it.

Students find that the place and time of day that many possessions are stolen is after school during sports sessions, and in the locker room areas. Many P.E. teachers or athletic coaches are burdened with the responsibility of helping students recover stolen items.

"The students come to us immediately but there is only so much we can do for them," said Kathy Kelly, Dean of students at ACHS.

Fortunately, with the improvement in surveillance at ACHS, it is becoming more difficult to get away with stealing on school grounds.

Cameras are now found all over the school, enabling the administration to go back to any incident at any time.

"Some theft cases are solved, but not all of them," said Kelly, "Most theft occurs in the locker rooms and there are no security

Prevention Tips

Since the rate at which valuables have been stolen has gone up, Officer Rick Moritz has some advice for students on how to protect their belongings.

"First of all, if you don't need it, don't bring it. Second of all, store things like phones or wallets in your street locker where it is under surveillance," said Moritz.

The most important piece of advice that Moritz can give:

"Don't give your combination to anyone, not even your best friend."



Police Liaison Officer Rick Moritz

cameras in there. Some thing that many people don't realize it takes a lot of time to solve these cases."

The punishment for theft can be harsh at ACHS. According to Kelly, the first action taken when a student is caught stealing is arrest, the second is suspension.

"It's pretty sad when you can't trust the people you go to school with.

**-Ryan Mehaffey
ACHS sophomore**

There is a class that most students are ordered to take by the courts, but [ACHS] offers it for free." The convicted students must go to court to deal with legal consequences as well. A lesson learned by most students is to leave important possessions behind at home due to the lack of respect of other students.

"I never feel safe bringing my Ipod or CD player to school," said Alexi Florian, junior at ACHS, "I leave that stuff at home because there is good chance it can be stolen."

Gym lockers seem to be the main target when it comes to student theft.

Ryan Mehaffey, ACHS sophomore, has also had a run in with the physical education bandits.

"It's pretty sad when you can't trust the people that you go to school with," said Mehaffey.

The thieves don't just stop at open lockers they break into closed ones too.

"I guess they broke off my lock somehow and stole my wallet and Ipod. Then they put on a new lock," said Mehaffey. "I felt pretty violated."

Many students that have fallen victim to theft are at a loss as to what can be done to retrieve their stolen property.

"Since the beginning of the school year, there have been more instances of theft," said Officer Rick Moritz. "The items that are stolen the most are Ipods, wallets, CD players, DVD players, cell phones and calculators."

Advice given from teachers to students is that the issue of theft may never go away. In order to prevent theft, leave belongings at home or in your locker.



Photo courtesy of Brett Hinrichs

Hinrichs wins MVP award

Honor awarded to ACHS senior for outstanding musicianship

By Kelly Holcomb

Young and talented musicians have flooded the stage.

The last concert brought tears to some of the senior's eyes as they hear the applause from family and friends.

One student in particular has shown an outstanding involvement in the Antioch Community High School music program throughout his high school career and this senior is Brett Hinrichs.

Applause roared across the auditorium as the John Philip Sousa Award was presented to him last Thursday night.

The ACHS seniors in the music program voted Hinrichs as the recipient. "I've always tried to be the best musician I can be- I know it sounds cliché, but it's true," stated Hinrichs.

The John Philip Sousa Award is given to talented musicians in high schools across the country.

According to John Olisar, ACHS band director, there are no true requirements to receive the award.

The senior students choose who is the most involved, who shows the most effort during

band practice, and who has positive attributes that contribute to the band program at ACHS.

"I think that [Hinrichs] has a lot going for him, he's smart, spiritual, and talented; that's why the students chose him," said Olisar. "He's the perfect choice."

Olisar suggests that being a part of the band program is an experience and the times spent

at practice and the friendships built can last a lifetime.

"Music isn't about winning," continued Olisar, "it's about the experiences made as a

"I've always tried to be the best musician I can be..."

**-Brett Hinrichs
ACHS senior**

group."

Katie Miedona, ACHS senior, was drum major and Hinrichs' section leader during the marching band season.

"His talent has shined through on every solo performed during his four years with the band program," said Miedona. "He always gives 100%."

Hinrichs plans on continuing his music at Augustana College in the fall where he will study to become a band director.

"Music has been such an outlet for me in expressing myself. The gift of music is such a blessing and I feel honored to have such an experience," replied Hinrichs.

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