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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Two cars stolen at North Campus

By Brianna Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

On the morning of Oct. 12, biology major Amelia Cayman, a junior, thought she had simply forgotten where she parked. Instead, she walked out of her residence hall Monday morning to find her car missing, becoming one of two students at the university whose vehicles were stolen that weekend.

Cayman said she parked her 2020 Hyundai Elantra in the lot behind North Campus around 8 p.m. on Oct. 11. By the time she returned the following morning, around 8 a.m., the car was gone.

"I walked out there, and I was like, 'huh, maybe I didn't park here for once,'" Cayman said.

That uncertainty quickly turned into alarm when she noticed her personals belongings scattered across the parking lot.

Cayman said she immediately contacted campus police, who told her surveillance footage showed someone breaking into her vehicle and driving away at approximately 6:30 a.m.

The footage showed a person removing the door handle and the surrounding area near the lock to gain entry.

"I was like, 'So you caught it on camera, but you couldn't stop them,'" Cayman said.

Police were unable to identify the person, and Cayman said she was not allowed to view the footage.

University Police filed a report, provided her with a case identification number and entered the vehicle into a national database of stolen cars. Cayman said she was advised to contact her insurance company while police continued looking for the vehicle.



PHOTO | AMELIA CAYMAN

The 2020 Hyndai Elantra owned by biology major Amelia Cayman, a junior.

However, she said the interaction left her wanting more information about what would be done to prevent future thefts.

"I was just kind of like, so you guys know this isn't a surprise for you, and you're not going to be patrolling the parking lots more or anything?" Cayman said.

Cayman later learned that another student's car, a Kia, had been stolen that same weekend. She questioned why additional patrols or other preventative measures had not been communicated to students.

"They know that this is New Haven, and they know the area isn't the best, and they're not gonna take procedures to make sure we're okay?" Cayman said.

The theft was particularly upsetting because this was Cayman's first year living on campus.

"I paid for it. I worked really hard in high school to get it," Cayman said. "I've had it maybe two years, and it's already been stolen from me at my school that I live at, that I'm supposed to be safe at."

Cayman also criticized a university email providing vehicle safety reminders, saying it made her feel as though the responsibility for preventing theft fell on students rather than addressing broader security concerns.

The email from University Police Chief Kenneth Rahn, sent out to the campus community on Thursday, Oct. 15, encouraged students to take preventive measures to protect themselves from theft.

"Kia and Hyundai have discontinued their prior program of giving out steering wheel locks for the targeted model years," Rahn said in the email. "However, both offer a free software upgrade to restrict unauthorized operation of vehicle ignition systems."

However, Cayman said the university's message left her feeling that the responsibility for preventing theft was being placed on students rather than on the university to address broader campus security concerns.

"It pretty much feels like they're just blaming me for getting my car stolen," Cayman said. "It's giving off like oh you should have done like this and that for your car and that's it."

Chief Rahn said the thefts are part of a broader trend involving certain Kia and Hyundai models, which have been targeted because of vulnerabilities in their ignition systems.

"Unfortunately, there has been a trend throughout the state, throughout the country, with certain vehicles," Rahn said. "There were certain year models that, because of the design of the ignition, they were very easy to override the ignition and steal them."

Rahn said University Police have tried to prevent these thefts by sharing safety information and distributing free steering wheel locks to students and staff last semester.

Lt. Richard Anderson added that there are recent trends in the community with car theft.

"There has been an uptick in the area, not just you know those two cars for us, but the area in New Haven County, so I can be honest. They hit us, and that's what happened," Anderson said.

Cayman said she wanted to hear more about what the university planned to do in response to the thefts.

"It's them knowing that there's an increase in carjackings and like people breaking into cars, and they're not doing anything about it, like adding more patrolling or more cops just going around, which is really sad," Cayman said.

Cayman said she hopes the university will take greater responsibility for addressing vehicle thefts and provide students with more reassurance that their safety and property are protected.

"It's frustrating that we're supposed to live on campus and feel safe having our cars here," Cayman said. "They're assuring us that we're safe, but we're not."

Celebrating 'Immigration Week'

By Emma Gonzalez
Contributor

Students at the university found ways to appreciate culture and immigrants, connect with others and learn about different experiences during "Immigration Week" with the UndocuAlly Student Alliance.

Starting Oct. 12 and ending Oct. 16, an event was planned each day with different opportunities to celebrate culture and identity and learn and connect with the community.

"It's a fun event to start off the week," business administration major Jeremiah Parra, a senior and president of UASA, said, "talking about our heritage, painting it and winners ultimately got prizes."

The first event, which took place on Oct. 12 from 1–2 p.m., allowed students to create art and convey a story of their own through the artwork.

The second event took place on Oct. 13 from 2:30–3:30 p.m., which was the "I Stand With Immigrants" tabling event, where students tested their knowledge with a myth or fact game, and were able to learn more about the community.

"We've been doing this one for three years now, it's like our go to," Parra said.

The following day, Oct. 14, from 2:30–3:30 p.m., the "For Our Community with Care" event was active, where students could put together care packages for community members affected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The packages consisted of hygiene and health products and students could add personalized messages showing support and love.

"We wanted to make care packages, we wanted to give back, this is what our club is about, so we thought it would be perfect," Parra said.

The final event, "What We Call Home," which took place on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 2:30–4:30 p.m., was the biggest event, with food, music and multiple events to participate in.

"This one, we wanted to end it off with a bang, we thought this would be the perfect way to end off our Immigration week."

Different clubs and organizations joined the celebration with their own tables such as the Social Work Organization, the African Student Association, Delta Phi Epsilon and the Organization of Latin American Students.



PHOTO | EMMA GONZALEZ

The UASA executive board poses for a photo at the "What We Call Home" event on Thursday, Oct. 15.

"When it comes to immigrant students, I feel like a lot of people forget that it can be African student as well, it's not talked about as much," psychology major Eva Khan, a sophomore and event coordinator for ASA, said.

At the ASA table, there was an activity where students could take a sticker and place it on the map, representing where they are from.

"You're learning about other cultures too, so it's like you get to see a little bit of everybody and a bit of everything," Khan said.

At the SWO table, there was a take a message, leave a message activity where students write words of encouragement, leave it in a basket and then take one for themselves.

"Social workers work in that field a lot, we work with people from different cultures and we work with cultural humanity, so I feel like events like this are important to us," social work major Jada Abel, a senior, said.

At Delta Phi Epsilon's table, there was a painting activity where students could paint small wooden houses and let them represent a childhood home.

According to the American Immigration Council, 16.2% of Connecticut residents are immigrants, and make up 19.5% of the workforce.

For more on this story visit the southernnews.org

Clery Report shows spikes in referrals

By Brianna Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

Drug-related disciplinary referrals at university increased more than fivefold in 2025, rising from 27 to 138, according to the university's 2025 Clery Report.

The report, released Oct.1, outlines reported crimes and campus safety statistics from 2023 through 2025. The increase in drug referrals was among several trends in the report, which also showed slight increases in weapon and liquor law disciplinary referrals.

"The way the Clery numbers come about, there's a combination of reports that come to us and reports that go to Student Conduct from Res Life," University Police Chief Kenneth Rahn said. "We're not involved in a majority of those reports."

Chief Rahn said the increase in drug infraction could be tied to the growing accessibility of marijuana-related products, though he could not identify one definitive cause.

"Since the decriminalization of marijuana, we have slowly seen a progression of more instances of it," Rahn said.

Lt. Richard Anderson said that this trend is also credited to Residence Life taking a more active role in documenting violations.

"Res Life has really kind of taken a stance that they're taking those reports a little bit more this year," Anderson said.

Liquor law disciplinary referrals also increased, rising from 65 in 2023 to 76 in 2025.

Anderson said the university generally handles these cases through its internal disciplinary process rather than making criminal arrests.

"We don't want to be arresting people for those minor crimes when we can actually handle it in a different way," Anderson said.

Rahn said some alcohol-related referrals occur when resident advisers, desk attendants or residence hall directors encounter students who appear intoxicated.

"They're going to refer to those individuals mostly so that they can make sure that they're in the right state of mind. Also, get them to see counseling," Rahn said.

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