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(Via email to Letters@nytimes.com)

Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor,

"How to Steal A.T.M.s: Two Guys, a Crowbar and Brute Force," NYT 12/02/19, inspires a simple mechanism to prevent such thefts entirely, that would also reduce the cost of free-standing ATMs.

Most banks already have "dye packs" in currency bundles in their cash drawers which, when activated, spray stolen currency with a permanent dye so the currency is valueless (except to its proper owner, who can have it replaced by the Treasury).

An even simpler device built into the ATM, or added inside an existing ATM, could trigger (like a car's airbag) by sensing tilt, shock, or acceleration when the ATM is attacked.

New ATMs can be much cheaper and lighter if protected against theft in this way-- a double win.

/ Richard L. Garwin /
Scarsdale, NY

Sincerely yours,

/ Richard L. Garwin /

Richard L. Garwin

Dear Editorial staff,
[Please see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dye_pack]

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