

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, Ext. 7-2000

September 1999

August Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

Although this reporting period covers August, we are including elements from the first 9 days of September in this section of the report. The most significant negative trend is a quick start on bike theft. At least 12 bikes have been stolen since the students moved back.

Safety officer surveys of bike racks disclose that about 1/3 of the parked bikes are improperly locked to racks, if they are locked at all. Additionally, of those locked properly (combining at **least** one wheel with the frame and the rack), many are locked with cables which are very vulnerable to the bolt cutters commonly used to steal bikes in our area. (Our recommendation is to use a high security/quality U-lock — in the \$40.00 price range) If anybody has any questions about what locks to use or how to lock a bike call or see any Campus Safety officer for instruction and help.

Selective Incident Summary Aug. 1 — Aug. 31, 1999

- An exterior mounted air conditioner heat pump was cut loose and stolen from the

campus telephone office.

- A tree limb on Dartmouth Ave. fell on a parked vehicle. City services were called to handle the removal and damage adjustment with the vehicle owner.
- A staff person reported a female pedestrian walking in the middle of the street shaking her fist and cursing at vehicles. CPD officers responded and took custody of the person for a psychological evaluation.
- A Macintosh G3 CPU and a flat studio display monitor were stolen from an office building.
- Staff reported a registrar's office suite door latch taped. The tape was removed but staff found the door window broken the next morning. A week or so earlier, a registrar's office on another campus also had a taped entry door.
- A mounted, strapped and secured VCR was stolen from an auditorium audio visual room.
- Safety officers stopped two white males between the ages of 30 – 40 who had been reported casing bike racks while riding bikes. They were interviewed with the assistance of CPD and were advised of trespassing regulations.
- Another tree branch from a city tree fell on another car on Dartmouth. City services handled the follow-up.
- The following day another city tree branch fell. This time it "took out" a power line to a house leaving a hot wire on the street while the branch fell on a campus staff person's car. City services handled the call after Campus Safety's initial response.
- Various items which comprise an an interferometer, some kind of laser device, valued at \$5000, were stolen from a lab.
- A student reported the recent discovery of stolen check blanks from a dorm room last semester when she was notified, over the

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summer, of the depletion of her savings and checking accounts.

- Summer program staff reported the theft of several hundred dollars from envelopes kept inside of a locked file cabinet in a locked office.
- A briefcase was reported stolen from an unlocked office in a science building. It was later discovered that a thief had attempted to cash checks and transfer funds from the victim's bank using information from stolen checks in the briefcase. A bank teller described the person trying to cash a check as a short, Hispanic male who grabbed the check when she asked for I.D., and fled with it.
- A thief cut a cable lock and removed the bike from an academic building rack between 1250 and 1530 hrs. on a Friday.
- A student reported the theft of an unlocked bike from outside of a dorm overnight.
- A contractor reported the theft of a cell phone and a bolt cutter from his utility cart on campus. The area was near the previously reported bike theft in which the cable was cut.
- An electronic, top-loading balance, valued at \$1395 was stolen from a locked science lab.
- A student reported the theft of a desk shelf.
- A student reported the theft of an unlocked mountain bike from a dorm rack. A Safety officer noticed a known bike thief in the area but he was riding a different bike.
- A student reported that three Hispanic males in a black Ford Explorer followed her and her friends home from Pasadena and then to the dorm. Safety officers were UTL (unable to locate).
- Three black, fire lane bollards were removed from a campus, reported stolen, then discovered on another campus by that campus' grounds crew.
- A nearby resident reported a fire on the Bernard Field Station. LACFD and CPD responded and the fire was extinguished. Suspicious circumstances involving the fire ignition are being investigated by CPD.
- A bike, cable-locked to a dorm rack, was stolen overnight.
- Between 1615 — 1940 hrs. a bike cable lock was cut and the bike stolen from a dorm rack.
- At 0001 hrs. a dorm fire alarm activated. Responding officers found a disco ball hanging

where the smoke detector should have been, using the detector's wiring to support the ball.

- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.

Crime Prevention Strategies/Tips

A quick review of the foregoing log entries shows that there are thieves roaming the campus looking for opportunities to steal. They have been especially successful stealing bikes and things from offices and labs. With bikes — the answer is not so simple. However, for offices, labs, dorm rooms, etc. the answer is to lock the doors when the room/building is unoccupied. If it has to be open, at least lock the valuables in a closet, file cabinet, desk, etc. and secure the keys.

For bikes — necessary instructions are manifold:

1. Buy and faithfully use a good quality U-lock or thick metal stock lock or a super thick cable which cannot be cut with a bolt cutter. (bolt cutter jaws have limited expansion, depending on the size of the cutter.)
2. Absolutely capture the frame with at least one wheel in the lock loop when securing it to the bike rack. (Locking the front wheel only guarantees easy theft — with or without the theft of the wheel itself)
3. If possible remove the quick release front wheel and combine it with the rear wheel and the frame — capturing all three in the lock loop attached to a sturdy rack.
4. Do NOT lock the bike to a sapling, chain link fence fabric, vines, street signs small enough to lift the bike over the top, or other insecure objects. The thieves attack the weakest "link".
5. If you HAVE to use a handrail — at least put the bike on the OUTSIDE. If it is

found blocking a pedestrian walkway, handicapped ramp, etc. the maintenance dept. will cut it off.

6. Most cables and chains can be, and are being, defeated with a bolt cutter.

7. Take quick release seats, accessories, etc. into your room if possible. You can also take your front wheel into your room and lock the rear and the frame if you don't want to combine the front wheel with the rear and frame.

8. Do not use or rely on racks which hold the front wheel and do not allow the frame to be captured in the lock loop.

9. Register your bike as soon as possible (at the Campus Safety Station) so Safety officers and police can at least identify it if someone is stopped while riding it away.

August 1999 Statistics

Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
ADW (assault w/deadly weapon)	0
Disturbance	0
Hate Incident	0
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
<i>Other</i>	0
Arson	0
Burglary	0
Theft (From Auto)	0
Theft (Bike)	2
Theft (Building)	2
Theft (Other)	4
Grand Theft Auto	0
Trespass	0
Vandalism	0
<i>Other</i>	0

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