

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, Ext. 7-2000

September 2000

Summer 2000 Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

Actually, the selective summary which follows includes incidents from the end of last semester when students were still here. This summary differs from the usual format, however, in that it includes only those incidents for which a **formal** report was written, not ALL incidents which have come to the attention of the Dept. of Campus Safety.

It has been a busy summer with many instances of dorm rooms being burgled. Several burglars have been caught and arrested, reminding us that The Colleges are a magnet to thieves because of the opportunities to steal. Predators DO target us! Unfortunately, we probably have a reputation for carelessness and obliviousness when it comes to securing our buildings, vehicles, dorm rooms, offices, and personal property wherever it is.

Last year in the first two months of the Fall semester we suffered the theft of 33 bikes, 11

wallets, purses and backpacks, more than 8 laptop computers and a variety of other items including cash, CD's, cell phones, electronic equipment, clothing, games, sports equipment, golf carts and 4000 condoms. (There's always something a little different each year.)

Usually, the yearly patterns follow quite closely so you know, now, what you have to prepare for in terms of securing your property.

We usually also have students, in the beginning of the year who inflict themselves with alcohol poisoning. Already, there have been two such incidents, during "dry week". Of even greater concern are sexual assaults (to use a generic term for sex crimes) which occur much more frequently, we believe, than are reported to us — often in the first few weeks of the new semester before the risks of alcohol use are fully realized. Again, there are predators out there, but in the case of sex crimes, they are not usually "outsiders", for the most part. We are often informed of the horrible trauma suffered by the survivors of rape or sexual assault. Typically, their lives are very disrupted. However, since sympathy for survivors doesn't seem to dissuade sexual assailants, we should also consider that the lives of many young men who have committed sexual assaults, whether or not they were under the influence of alcohol or other substances, have also been severely disrupted by reputation tarnishing, college expulsion, criminal history, if not jail time, which precludes many public service employment opportunities. Modifying a

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quote supposedly from Sam Levenson: "It is so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid [to do] . . . , then don't ... [do] it." "Forcing oneself" on a woman in this environment would be very stupid!

Selective Incident Summary, May 1 – August 31, 2000

- A Toyota Camry was stolen out of a campus parking lot on the first day of this reporting period.
- A Toyota Camry in a different campus parking lot was affected by ignition tampering and a cell phone was removed from the vehicle, in the same time period as the previous entry.
- A student reported the theft of an athletic parka from a dining hall where she had left it briefly.
- The license plate from a Toyota Camry was stolen from a staff person's car parked on campus.
- A sanitary napkin dispenser was stolen from an administrative building women's restroom.
- A laptop computer valued at \$2700 was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- Two male subjects in their 20's were reported by a student as having robbed him of cash after entering his dorm room under a ruse of using his bathroom. He said one of the subjects threatened him with a gun and he was hit on the back of the head with something. CPD took a report.
- Female sunbathers at a campus pool filed internal harassment charges against a student peering at them with binoculars from inside of the pool enclosure. A male student interceded, when the subject refused to stop, and took the binoculars away and threw them into the pool.
- Male students got into an altercation, and were warned against further disputatious behavior.
- A thief took a bike, locked to itself, from a residence hall patio.
- Exterior patio umbrellas were damaged by unknown vandals who pulled the umbrellas to the ground causing approx. \$500 damage.
- Staff reported the theft of an antique scientific gas generator from a display case in a science building. The glass case had been broken.
- A female student reported being sexually assaulted by an off-campus male she had invited on campus.
- A student's cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- Two rings were stolen from a dorm common bathroom when left there by the owner.
- An unlocked antique (1940's) Schwinn bike was stolen from outside of the library.
- A student's vehicle was "keyed" while parked in a campus lot.
- A student reported the theft of a wallet and contents from an unknown location. It had last been seen at a service station.
- A student's bike was stolen from a dorm rack. It may have been unlocked.
- A professor reported the theft of a computer CPU, valued at \$6100, from a locked music studio. CPD took a report.
- A group of male students were seen by Safety officers fleeing in a stolen utility cart. The cart was abandoned.
- Students reported a loud crash on the 2nd floor of a dorm. An RA found two washing machines and a dryer tipped over, causing damage to the machines.
- A safety officer reported an apparent theft attempt of Campus Safety's utility cart. Officers responding found three off-campus males and several instances of vandalism damage in the area. CPD officers who responded found that one of the subjects had someone else's drivers license; one had a marijuana pipe and alcohol and the other was arrested for possession of brass knuckles.
- A female student reported that a white male and black male had attempted to steal her bicycle. Safety officers caught the subjects and CPD officers took the subjects into custody following a citizens arrest by the student.
- A Safety officer observed a fire in a planter at a dorm being fed paper, books and magazines, by students. The officer extinguished the fire but not before the tree in the planter was destroyed.
- A thief took a student's refrigerator when he cleaned out his room and put the refrigerator in the hallway.

- While a student was transporting personal property to storage he left his bike in the dorm lobby. It was stolen while he was gone.
- LACFD responded to extinguish a burning couch with wooden pallets added being watched by students.
- At 0205 hrs. Safety officers trying to handle a noise complaint emanating from an unruly crowd at student apartments saw a dumpster and couches stacked nearby ignite, suddenly in flame. An RA spotted the arsonist whom Safety officers and CPD officers apprehended after a chase. The subject, a student at an adjacent campus was arrested for arson.
- Someone stole a staff person's purse and contents from an auditorium during commencement exercises.
- A make-up bag and contents, valued at over \$240, was stolen from a dorm bathroom.
- Magnetic nameplates on academic building office doors were changed to the wrong locations and some of the plates were stolen.
- Staff reported finding a bullet hole in a large picture window of a staff/faculty dining facility. CPD took a report.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from an exterior dorm hallway.
- Housekeeping staff noticed two subjects removing a large TV and a carpet extractor from a dorm lounge. The subjects said they were taking it to another building. When the housekeeper checked with a maintenance supervisor the subjects, who had already loaded the TV into a van, discarded both items and fled. A construction supervisor working on a nearby dorm advised authorities of the names of the suspects because they had applied for work on his project earlier in the day. They were arrested later.
- Unknown subjects removed two radios from a housekeeping locker where they had been kept for safekeeping.
- A student reported the theft of a Palm Pilot, other electronic items, clothing and other personal property from his unlocked dorm room while he slept.
- A student reported the theft of his cable-locked bike from a dorm rack.
- Two cars parked on the same side of the street were sideswiped by a hit-and-run vehicle, breaking mirrors and causing other body damage to both.
- Burglars unbolted and stole a video projector valued at \$4900 from a classroom ceiling.
- A large commercial BBQ was stolen from a dining hall loading dock.
- A Safety officer who stopped illicit skateboarders was assaulted by one male subject who pushed him with both hands and feigned a strike at him with the skateboard before fleeing into "the village".
- A VCR was stolen from an unlocked conference room.
- CPD took a theft report from the Bookstore following the disappearance of a substantial number of new books. Suspect information was developed and corroborated with other campus bookstores where the books had been "bought back" .
- A summer conference attendee reported the theft of Nintendo game items and medication from her locked dorm room.
- A thief took money from a wallet left on a locker room bench while the owner was in the gym.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from a campus center bike rack.
- A parked student vehicle in a lot suffered hit-and-run damage.
- A summer resident reported the theft of a laptop computer, possibly by a suspect who engaged the victim in conversation in the room and later called him by phone from a downstairs phone. The suspect may have stolen the room key earlier.
- A backpack and contents was taken from on top of a piano in an administrative building common room.
- Two visitors to the campus left a wallet and watch in a dorm lounge, forgetting about the items. Later the watch was found but the wallet remained missing.
- Staff reported the theft of numerous track and field electronic and video equipment items valued at over \$15,000 stolen from a stadium storage area where a door may mistakenly been left open.
- A professor reported that someone was entering child porn web pages from faculty and staff computers and possibly ejaculating in the area. Safety officers on extra patrol caught the

male subject with downloaded child porn in his hand. He pushed an officer and fled but was identified from information developed by CPD when they were advised by Safety officers about a suspicious vehicle parked near the facility, which turned out to be owned by the suspect. At last report the suspect had been informed by mail to report for a criminal hearing.

- Baseball equipment in a bag was stolen from an athletic facility machine room where it had temporarily been stored.
- A staff person in a golf cart crossed a campus street from a sidewalk and was struck by a motorist using the campus as a detour away from construction on other nearby city streets. The employee was slightly injured and the cart was damaged.
- A wallet (and contents) was stolen from a purse left in an unlocked fourth floor dorm room.
- Within the same time frame as the previous report, another wallet was stolen from an adjacent dorm 3rd floor unlocked room.
- A Safety officer on patrol noticed a white male subject apparently stealing bike parts from a locked bike in a dorm rack. He apprehended the suspect who was cited by CPD. The bike wheels were confiscated and returned to the owner later when bike ownership was determined.
- A young, foreign summer conference attendee took a golf cart, drove it in circles on the grass, then ran it into a wall. Appropriate authorities were notified.
- One of two juvenile females, apparently staying in the room of a student with his permission were arrested for forgery by CPD who were informed by a cab driver that she had paid his fare with a forged check.
- The wheels, front shocks, handlebars and seat were taken from a locked bike in a dorm rack.
- A summer conference attendee's room was entered via an adjoining bathroom and her computer, printer and cash were stolen.
- A car parked in a student lot was "keyed" on both sides.
- A license plate holder was reportedly stolen from a vehicle bumper and the bumper was scratched.
- Cash, sunglasses, radios and various personal items were stolen from three summer conference victims in two different dorm rooms.
- Another vehicle parked in a campus lot was "keyed" on both sides.
- A male subject found in a dorm by a Safety officer was arrested and found to be in possession of personal items reported stolen from three conference attendees the previous week. He confessed to burglarizing three different rooms including the theft of a laptop from one. The following week an associate of the suspect was also apprehended by the same Safety officer, on campus and he also, had stolen items in his possession and was identified by CPD as the person who had pawned the laptop in an adjoining city.
- Two conference attendees reported the theft of cash, radio and concert tickets from a locked dorm room.
- Safety officers stopped intoxicated students who had stolen a golf cart and rammed trash cans, driving recklessly. Three were identified and the cart was confiscated for safekeeping.
- A swim program attendee's wallet and contents were removed from an unlocked pool locker room. A friend of the victim's also suffered a similar loss during the same time frame.
- Safety officers questioned an off-campus male subject who had been "hanging around" with summer conference children. CPD responded and assisted. He was escorted from campus.
- A laptop computer and suitcase were stolen from a dorm room. A roommate had moved out while the victim was out of state for a week, and it was unknown whether the door was locked.
- A summer conference staff person woke up at 0530 hrs. and found a man in her room. He ran when she saw him. The door had been left open for conference attendees to contact her as needed.
- A personal "stereo" was stolen from a work room in an administrative building.
- Bookstore employees advised Campus Safety of a shoplifting incident with their employees in pursuit of two male suspects. The books were discarded outside of the store and one suspect entered a vehicle in which another was waiting and fled. A Safety officer obtained

the vehicle license plate number and turned it and description information over to CPD.

- Staff reported the theft of a CUC golf cart. Safety officers stopped the cart with two male students in it. Staff declined a crime report and the identity of the students was provided to the dean of their college.
- An off-campus subject reported seeing a car burglary in progress in a campus lot at 0058 hrs. Responding Safety officers saw two suspects attempting to enter a vehicle and assisted CPD officers in locating them in a nearby field. They had entered two vehicles by breaking windows and caused considerable damage to the vehicles while taking stereo equipment, some of which was discarded during the chase. A hairpin was found stuck in one vehicle ignition and a screwdriver was left in a vehicle. Both arrested suspects were male juveniles who lived nearby.
- An incoming student reported the theft of his mattress within a time frame of 27 minutes.
- A backpack and contents, including books, CD equipment, etc. was stolen during “move-in” when the pack was left unattended near a dining hall.
- Ten month’s research and personal property were stolen along with a shoulder bag holding the property which had been left, unsecured, in the bookstore entry area.

- Always lock your bike (correctly) with a good u-lock or very sturdy locking device. Our vulnerability should be considered in the “high risk” class.
- Lock your dorm room when you are not in it or when you sleep. Make sure your roommates or suitemates do likewise. Unlocked adjoining bathrooms are a common entry point.
- Secure windows where there is any possibility of getting in.
- Secure your property when social activities involve your room/area. “Acquaintances” are just strangers with names and you can’t trust all of them.
- Refrain from experimentation with “substances”. Starting your college life with a trip to the hospital, jail or mandatory counseling sessions is not auspicious.
- Call Campus Safety for an escort — any time.
- Use electronic locks or other devices to secure your vehicle against theft or burglary.
- Obtain a whistle and be prepared to use it to alert the campus to danger. The whistle program is active and it works. (Call Campus Safety if you hear a whistle being blown and try to provide direction of travel information to responding Safety officers when you see suspicious activity.)
- If in doubt about anything dangerous or suspicious — CALL CAMPUS SAFETY 7-2000.

Crime Prevention Strategies / Tips

Sometimes common sense things that we all should know need to be repeated over and over in the hope that a few more people will pay attention and take appropriate protective action. Most of **us** are “good guys” but there are a lot of thieves and other predators out there.

- Secure your laptop with cables, or better, inside of a locked cabinet, chest, or enclosure when not in direct line of sight.

May - July 2000 Statistics

Due to computer problems, we are temporarily unable to access the August 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	1
Sexual Assault	0
<i>Other</i>	3
Arson	0
Burglary	6
Theft (From Auto)	3
Theft (Bike)	3
Theft (Building)	10
Theft (Other)	17
Grand Theft Auto	3
Trespass	1
Vandalism	6
<i>Other</i>	0

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