

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, Ext. 7-2000

October 2000

September Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

We've had a series of burglaries in Sept. which are continuing into October. (roughly 20) They share some of the following characteristics:

1. Dorm rooms are targeted.
2. Entry is through open/unlocked window or unlocked door.
3. Multiple rooms are burgled by going through unlocked adjoining bathrooms.
4. One or more black male suspects have been seen going into or out of windows by victims, or have been seen "hanging around" rooms where burglaries were subsequently discovered. (Black male, 5'9" to 5'10" 160 to 180 lbs. , short hair, slight facial hair, usually wearing dark clothing or grey sweatpants, has been seen wearing grey gloves)
5. Most, but not all, of the burglaries have been on Saturday nights.
6. Most were on one campus but two other campuses have also had similar burglaries.
7. Target items for the burglars are cash, wallets, jewelry but computer equipment and other misc. items have also been stolen.

Campus Safety and the Claremont Police have stopped and arrested several suspicious persons. One fit the description of the burglar seen by several victims but, while he was in jail another victim saw someone with a similar description, wearing grey gloves making another attempt. He fled. Two of the most recent arrests were of a black male and a Hispanic male, working together, peering into windows in the same area where the most recent spate of burglaries occurred. They carried two-way radios and had "burglary tools" as well as warrants or a criminal history of similar offenses. Earlier in the month a white male with burglary tools, drug paraphernalia and warrants was also arrested in a different area of the campuses.

While we have always known that the campuses "draw" thieves, etc. because of the opportunities here, we seem to be affected by the incursions of multiple professional thieves in the last 45 days, or so. Obviously, it is most important to lock doors and windows to reduce theft exposure. Bicycle theft is also continuing as a major problem. Most of the thefts are of bikes locked with cables, or not properly locked. Very few U-locked bikes are being stolen.

Much Campus Safety officer time and effort, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, is taken up by false fire alarms caused by malicious activations and extinguisher discharges; noise complaints from music and parties; altercations and medical calls resulting from alcohol misuse; as well as key services, escorts, and normal suspicious activity calls. Officers have little time for directed patrol, stakeouts, etc. on those nights, and that is when we are being "hit" by the burglars most frequently.

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Selective Incident Summary Sept. 1st — 30th, 2000

- The wallet of someone exercising in the gym was removed from a clothing bag. The victim's ATM card was used later in an attempt to gain access to his bank account.
- A student reported a sexual assault which occurred last semester. Alcohol intoxication was a factor.
- A student was apprehended for stealing a book from the bookstore. The dean was notified.
- A student vehicle in a lot was damaged by a "hit-and-run" vehicle. CPD (The Claremont Police Dept.) Took a report.
- A tire on a student's vehicle was slashed while parked in a student lot.
- A campus-owned golf cart was stolen from outside of a campus building and recovered later in a different location.
- An off-campus, intoxicated, male subject enroute home from a bar heard party music and wandered onto campus where he was found by Safety officers, urinating in the bushes. CPD arrested him for being drunk in public.
- A fire extinguisher case was broken and the extinguisher was discharged into an academic building, activating the fire alarm.
- A student's purse with dorm keys, currency, cards, and other property was stolen from an outdoor theater venue.
- A RA who reprimanded students for illicit acts via E-mail, was later assaulted by one of the two males.
- A female student reported being harassed by a male/female couple who have followed her repeatedly, trying to recruit her into a polyamorous relationship she spurned.
- Officers patrolling a nature area after a reported transient camping-out, found a student with a roommate problem making adjustments until a room change was effected.
- An \$800 bicycle locked to a rack with a U-lock was stolen.
- A student's 1981 Datsun 280Z was stolen from a student lot. CPD took a report.
- Two "citrus label" posters were stolen from a student center.
- A student reported the theft of a box of personal possessions which had been in a campus storage room over the summer.
- A student reported the theft of a black leather jacket from a dorm room.
- CPD responded to take a hit-and-run report on a vehicle parked on a street.
- At 0238 hrs. someone discharged a fire extinguisher in a dorm, activating the fire alarm system.
- A student was transported to the hospital at 0304 hrs. for alcohol poisoning.
- Damage to a ceiling, an exit sign and an easel was caused by vandals in a dorm lounge and hallway.
- Students reported that a chair on an upper level dorm balcony caught fire. Safety officers extinguished the fire with water and disposed of the chair. Students in the suite tore down the smoke detectors which had activated.
- A Safety officer reported that a sheet of paper at a dorm entrance had been ignited.
- A Safety officer found a wallet in the street. It was later reported stolen by a student and recovered, but the money was missing.
- A student reported the theft of a computer from an unlocked dorm room .
- A Safety officer observed four white male subjects wandering around the campuses at 0244 hrs. They were stopped, identified and asked to leave.
- A bike, cable-locked to a rack was stolen from outside of a dorm .
- A TV/VCR, phones and other personal property belonging to four students, were stolen from an apartment storage area over the summer. Suspect information has been developed and CPD is investigating.
- A female student reported a white male in the bushes, masturbating, while he shined a flashlight on his penis as she and another woman passed by. Officers responded and found one male in the area, but the victim did not identify him as the offender.
- Officers responded to a report of a car alarm sounding and found a vehicle nearby which had been ransacked. CPD identified it as having been stolen in Montclair and did a recovery report and returned the vehicle to the owner.
- A student's vehicle was sideswiped by a hit-and-run vehicle in a student lot.

- Another hit-and-run report was made on a vehicle parked near the bookstore.
- A student heard his car alarm and checked the lot, observing a male juvenile carrying a backpack wandering around in the lot. Safety officers UTL (unable to locate).
- A staff person reported the theft of a briefcase from an unlocked vehicle.
- A student's skateboard was taken from his unlocked room.
- A campus golf cart used to transport injured students was stolen and later recovered on another campus. The cart was stolen again and turned on its side before being recovered again.
- Someone walked on top of vehicles parked in a student lot doing body damage to several.
- A laptop and zip drive were taken from a locked dorm room and the door was left wide open.
- A staff person caught a student who misappropriated her property from a storage area and confronted him. The dean was advised and the matter was handled internally.
- Three off-campus males were found in a closed pool. CPD responded and assisted in warning the subjects not to trespass.
- A student reported the theft of a palm pilot and wallet from a dorm courtyard.
- A student's messenger bag containing books and other personal property was taken from an unlocked dorm room. The books were found later in the basement laundry room, both soaked.
- Three students were found removing and damaging tents set up on an athletic field. A dean's report was written.
- An RA requested help with an argumentative, intoxicated male. Safety officers interviewed the subject and his 4 friends, all in the Navy or Marines, and escorted them off campus.
- Safety officers stopped 3 subjects reported by an RA to be causing trouble. One broke a fire extinguisher case glass. CPD responded but the offender agreed to reimburse the campus for the damage and criminal charges were not pursued.
- A male subject found in and around a female dorm was identified as one of several military subjects escorted off campus earlier. CPD responded, the man's duty officer at Twentynine Palms Marine Base was notified, and he was, again, escorted off campus.
- A ladies, green mountain bike was stolen from a locked bicycle shed.
- The Pomona P.D. called and advised that they had arrested subjects who were running a bicycle "chop shop" and wanted information on recently stolen bikes from the campus. The information was provided.
- A student was transported to the hospital for a pre-existing medical condition triggered by smoking marijuana.
- A Safety officer spotted a suspicious male subject who was intoxicated, uncooperative, gave inconsistent stories, used aliases and ultimately was arrested by CPD for an outstanding warrant for \$30,000, possession of burglary tools and possession of drug paraphernalia. He had a history of vehicle theft and receiving stolen property.
- A locked bike was stolen from an admin. building bike rack.
- A student's locked bike was stolen from a dorm bike rack.
- Student rooms adjoined by a bathroom were burgled of cash and other small items of personal property.
- A burglar broke a vehicle window and pried at the stereo, damaging the vehicle.
- Two small marble tables, valued at more than \$3000, were stolen from an admin. building lobby.
- A purple backpack containing personal property was taken from a desk in an academic building studio.
- A student reported that harassing, derogatory messages were written on her car along with other substances.
- A student's bike, locked with a cable was stolen from a dorm rack.
- Three off-campus juvenile subjects were found on an athletic field. CPD responded. The subjects were sent home due to city curfew and a knife was confiscated.
- A black male suspect, approx. 5'9" tall, shaved head, facial hair, glasses shoplifted three books from the bookstore. He was recognized as the same subject previously chased with stolen books.

- Staff reported the theft of a set of master keys from an admin. office. CPD took a report and a re-keying assessment was being made.
- Two student roommates reported the theft of their wallets from their dorm room. Entry may have been made through an open window.
- Two additional thefts of wallets were reported by students in a dorm near the location of the previous report.
- A smoldering dumpster resulted in an LACFD (Los Angeles County Fire Dept.) response to extinguish the fire.
- A group of off-campus subjects were reportedly smoking marijuana. They were found and escorted off campus by Safety officers.
- A food delivery person reported his vehicle stolen while parked near a dorm, by 3 white males in formal attire. CPD found the vehicle in a student lot two blocks away.
- A student who overdosed on pills and alcohol was transported to the hospital. Notification came via CPD through an out-of-state sheriff's dept. who got a call from an acquaintance of the victim after a phone call.
- Students identified an alumnus as the person who drew penis caricatures and wrote obscenities on a student's door.
- A student's vehicle was vandalized by having the antenna bent.
- Safety officers accompanied dean's staff to a suite where a propped door offered an open view to apparent remnants of a drug related party from the night before. Bongs, foil, other paraphernalia and residual "substances" were confiscated from the suite by staff.
- A staff person reported the theft of a parking hang-tag from an open vehicle.
- A student reported that her parked vehicle was shot by a yellow paint ball gun.
- A person wearing a large knife in a sheath in a dining hall was identified as a student unaware of very restrictive laws pertaining to weapons on campus. The knife was confiscated but the student was not arrested.
- Staff reported theft of, and vandalism to, banners mounted on and near a gallery.
- Senior staff reported the theft of a cell phone from a car and subsequent charges exceeding \$1000 on the phone bill.
- Safety officers responding to a report of students firing a weapon found students firing

fruit or something from a five foot "potato gun" constructed from drainage pipe, using an aerosol gas/igniter propulsion. The gun was confiscated.

- A bike chain-locked to an academic building rack was stolen.
- Safety officers responded to a male/female verbal and physical altercation but neither wished to press charges.
- Someone discharged an extinguisher into a dorm hallway, activating the fire alarm system. Pull stations were also activated.
- A black male subject who stole books from the bookstore pushed a staff person in the course of his escape. CPD took a report.
- CPD officers responded to discuss an accident which occurred when a painting on top of a student's vehicle fell off while passing a Physical Plant truck going in the other direction. The painting hit the truck's side mirror, sending the broken pieces of the mirror into the face of the truck driver.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a rack near a student center.
- A student who became very ill after smoking marijuana was transported to the hospital along with a 6 oz. bag of marijuana for testing, to determine whether it was laced with other substances.
- A student's wallet was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- An intoxicated student who was conscious but not responding to questions was transported to PVHMC (Pomona Valley Hosp. Medical Center)
- A student's wallet was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.

Crime Prevention Strategies/Tips

Let's not be so easy! When you lock your room or office as you leave, also check the windows. Are the screens secured and the windows locked? Is the adjoining bathroom locked from your side? Is anybody "hanging around" who doesn't belong there? (Call Campus Safety if so.) Inside your room or office — can't you put small, valuable belongings inside of something lockable? For your bike — wouldn't \$40 for a good U-lock be a reasonable cost to greatly improve your chances of keeping your bike? You might as well take the time to lock the bike correctly too, capturing the frame and at least one wheel along with the rack.

Please report suspicious activity! Safety officers will decide whether to "make a stop" based on what you tell us, or will watch the person's activity to see if it warrants a contact of some kind.

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September 2000 Statistics

Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
ADW (assault w/deadly weapon)	0
Disturbance	0
Hate Incident	0
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	1
Robbery	1
Sexual Assault	0
<i>Other</i>	2
Arson	0
Burglary	1
Theft (From Auto)	0
Theft (Bike)	8
Theft (Building)	15
Theft (Other)	9
Grand Theft Auto	1
Trespass	0
Vandalism	5
<i>Other</i>	3