

The Claremont Colleges

Campus Safety, ext. 7 - 2000

January, 2002

December Crime / Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

There has been a lot of activity for a month in which most of the students have been gone for part of the time, and there are some interesting crime/incident patterns. Of 26 reported (official) crimes, nineteen were on two campuses on the far north side. Seventeen of the nineteen crimes on those campuses were some category of "theft". Four, of a total of seven, arrests were on those campuses.

The only (official) crimes involving persons, (not property) on all campuses were two public intoxication arrests.

Of a total of 79 incidents reported in this "blotter", 39 were in, or in the immediate area of, student residences, and 14 involved alcohol in some way.

Most of the thefts were the result of inadequate security precautions and bad practices, such as propping doors, hosting untrustworthy guests, leaving room doors unlocked, placing valuables in public areas, leaving offices unlocked when nobody is on duty, and, in the case of bike theft, of using inadequate locks. We can individually improve in all of these areas. Not to do so, is "enabling" the thieves.

Since the students are still away as of the publication of this issue, we expect a surge of

theft reports upon their return. We are already finding cut bike locks on the campuses.

Selective Incident Summary December 1 – 31, 2001

- At 0106 hrs a student requested an ambulance for another male student who had fallen and whose eyes were dilated. Officers and paramedics responded to the dorm and transported the subject to the hospital for an injury that occurred earlier in the day and for intoxication.
- Twelve students igniting fireworks near a dorm were stopped by Safety officers.
- Three students, returning from a party, said they were confronted by two slender white males about age 20, who demanded money and a "fix" and displayed either a knife or club. The students thought it was a joke and laughed and walked away but reported it later. Safety officers and CPD were UTL the suspects.
- A student reported an unknown female "flipping out" in a dorm lounge. Officers found the lounge in disarray with an overturned flower pot, couch cushions and clothing strewn about. The perpetrator was gone but was identified by witnesses and was later contacted by RA's.
- Officers patrolling campus property south of 1st St. found fresh gang graffiti of a local gang and the moniker of an affiliate on a railroad flood channel tunnel adjoining the property.
- A female student reported finding a trash can filled with water tilted against her door when she answered the knock. She was able to control the can before it spilled. This incident was followed by a series of annoying phone calls.
- A student saw three subjects wearing hooded sweatshirts set fire to a fountain. Officers found

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gasoline soaked toilet paper afire in the fountain.

- Officers found four off-campus males and a female student with open containers of alcohol. All were uncooperative – some were intoxicated. One subject who was under the influence of something was arrested for public intoxication by CPD. The others were interviewed and left the campus.
- A local hospital called for information about a student who had been brought in for alcohol poisoning. They wanted to notify the parents. The dean was advised.
- A Safety officer found an intoxicated, sleeping student on the floor of a student center bathroom. An RA and friends escorted him back to his room.
- Someone discharged a fire extinguisher in a dorm restroom.
- A Safety officer found an abandoned golf cart in the middle of the street. It was pushed to the side, temporarily.
- A Safety officer found an intoxicated male subject lying face down in a parking lot at 0204 hrs. The off-campus subject was reunited with his student host who took responsibility for him.
- A male wearing a red-hooded jacket and an unknown female drove off with a food delivery person's car which had been left with the engine running on the street near a dorm. Safety officers found the car in a parking lot of an adjacent campus dorm and CPD took a "grand theft auto" report. The vehicle was returned to the owner.
- At 0949 hrs. an officer encountered a scruffy-looking white male subject crouching in the bushes near a dining hall. He fled upon seeing the officer.
- The glass cover of a fire extinguisher cabinet was broken and the extinguisher was discharged in a dorm basement.
- At 0007 hrs. an officer released a student who had been locked in the library.
- Several students reported a loud explosion in or near a dorm. Officers detected the smell of fireworks but did not find the source.
- A staff person reported the theft of a book from a dining hall.
- Petty cash (\$374) was stolen from an envelope in an unlocked drawer in an office.

- A female student's ex-boyfriend has been banned from a campus following his continued harassment of her.
- A male student was transported to a local hospital following his consumption of a bottle of pills. Police, paramedics, deans and the counseling center were consulted.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from an academic building rack.
- A female student reported that someone entered her unlocked dorm room while she was sleeping and took her CD player and wallet contents. She found somebody else's CD player and her empty wallet in her purse.
- A female student reported the theft of her wallet contents and a palm pilot from her dorm room. Her door was re-keyed and a report was written.
- Another female student reported the theft of keys, credit cards, cash and other miscellaneous items from her unlocked dorm room overnight.
- A traffic citation officer saw a small-framed white male trying to gain entry into a student "trailer". When asked what he was trying to do, the subject said "It's none of your business" then wobbled away on a green bicycle. Officers were UTL.
- A campus-owned work truck, backing up in a fire lane, "took out" a lamp post.
- A Safety officer spotted a white male subject in his 30's carrying a shoe box while wandering through a campus, checking bike racks. The officer stopped and identified the subject who had previously been arrested and stopped on campus for theft multiple times. CPD responded and the subject was arrested again — for trespassing.
- A student reported that an unknown group of 6 to 7 black males, entered a dorm. Another student told responding officers that a group of black male subjects just left the dorm lot in a blue vehicle. Officers were UTL.
- At 2243 hrs. a student reported a white male, dressed in a strange costume, harassing students and asking for money. Officers spoke to the subject who said he was an alumni and was asking students to support an album he produced. He was dressed in a green suit with blinking lights in the form of a heart and veins. Officers escorted him to his vehicle and off campus.

- Officers responded to a report of students fighting and found a belligerent, intoxicated male student pushing and wrestling with other males. He was cajoled by friends and escorted to his room in another dorm by students.
- Someone threw a large rock through a plate glass door window of a campus forum building. A nearby concrete trash can was also overturned.
- A notebook computer, valued at \$1300 was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- Residence hall staff reported vandalism caused by a very intoxicated off-campus student who threw a chair into a display case and verbally assaulted a staff person using obscenities related to sexual orientation. The subject fled the dorm with a companion but was found by Safety officers who called CPD. The student was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Several students reported, directly to CPD, that a "friend" from off campus who had offered to sell "crystal meth" to them, apparently burgled their dorm room when they left him alone in the room. CPD took a report. The subject had previously been stopped by Campus Safety and arrested on a different campus for theft.
- A professor was locked inside of a department library on Sunday because of a jammed door. Officers could not open the door from the outside either. A keyshop technician responded and extricated the professor two hours later.
- A student reported the theft of notebooks and a parking hangtag from a locked vehicle. Unknown method of entry.
- At 0153 hrs. some type of explosion, heard by officers on the edge of the campuses caused a power outage from most of the colleges for an extended period of time.
- Dining hall staff reported that office desk drawers were forced open and other items were disturbed but nothing was stolen.
- A maintenance gate lock was broken and someone siphoned gas from a vehicle and removed a patio umbrella from a nearby area. The umbrella was found by Safety officers on an adjacent campus.
- CPD took a report from a female student who had been threatened by a male student from another campus over a misunderstanding between herself and a friend of the person making the threats.
- A female student complained of repeated noise harassment from a student in an adjacent dorm room. Student staff and the dean's office were notified.
- Staff reported vandalism damage to a gym hot tub cover.
- Campus grounds workers found a suspicious, wrapped, taped, lightweight package in the bushes near an administrative building. The addressee did not recognize the (probably spurious) sender's name. CPD officers opened the package and found it to be an empty Nike shoe box and regarded the incident as a prank.
- A student reported the theft of a patio chair from a dorm exterior.
- Officers responded to a dorm for a report of a male student passed out. He was found conscious and quite intoxicated, but he refused medical attention. Dorm staff were advised.
- Staff reported vandalism damage to three pictures hanging on a dining hall wall.
- At 0224 hrs., loud screaming was reported at a dorm. Officers found a group of eight intoxicated males, some yelling loudly. They were advised to return to their rooms and reduce the noise level and complied.
- Two computers and ancillary equipment as well as a cordless phone were stolen from an academic building office.
- The laptop computer of a library patron was stolen when it was left on a table while the owner was in the restroom.
- A Safety officer found a detachable bike basket and a Kryptonite lock on a campus walkway. The items were taken to the station for safekeeping.
- A female student having difficulty breathing following ingestion of alcohol and smoking marijuana was transported to the hospital.
- A student reported that a male subject broke a dorm window then, somehow, entered the dorm and fled across a roof pedestrian passageway to the other wing. Officers were UTL, but encountered another male subject pounding on a dorm door, harassing the female residents. He was advised to desist and complied.
- Someone discharged a fire extinguisher onto six vehicles in a parking lot.
- A student reported receiving two phone calls from someone who mumbled and asked him to come to the dorm lobby, two nights previously,

but nobody was there. Now, he saw a person wearing a red-hooded sweatshirt and white stocking mask knock on his window and flee, followed by two more mumbled phone calls.

- A student's wallet and jacket were stolen from a dorm courtyard during a party.
- Officers responded to a series of dorm fire alarms in which someone activated the pull stations in two dorms.
- Dozens of skateboarders and BMX bikers were stopped, chased, warned or counseled about illicit activity on campus during the month.
- A student's backpack was rifled and cash and a cell phone were stolen during an "after party" party in a dorm suite.
- A skateboard was stolen from outside of a dorm.
- Three dining hall staff paychecks/deposit tickets were stolen from a campus mailroom and salaries were publicized (inaccurately) in an "underground" e-mail publication.
- Staff reported a family, possibly, living in a van in a parking lot. Officers interviewed a man and woman and advised them of campus trespassing policy. They left.
- Sunglasses and a disc player were stolen from a student's backpack, possibly from his workplace on campus.
- A coach asked for assistance in removing four uncooperative students who were playing frisbee from the top of the press box in a stadium. Officers identified and removed the students who felt they should be able to play wherever they want because they pay to be here.
- A professor and a student reported "missing" sets of keys from an academic building. One set was later found near a street intersection outside of the building.
- A student received 10 – 15 harassing, profanity-ridden messages from an unknown caller on his answering machine. When he answered the phone directly the caller would not speak.
- During "noisy minutes" officers encountered students attempting to start a bonfire with rubbing alcohol near a dorm. They dispersed as officers arrived.
- A student reported the theft of \$200 from her purse that was in an academic building office.
- A female student reported being continually harassed by a male student from another

campus who professed, definitely unrequited, love for her, in person, via phone and e-mail. CPD was advised and counseled the would-be lover regarding his criminal behavior.

- Clothing and furniture items valued at \$641 were stolen from a locked storage container in a parking lot.
- A 21 speed mountain bike cable-locked to a dorm rack was stolen.
- At 0451 hrs. a staff person reported several golf carts in a nearby grounds department storage area with the lights on, possibly caused by tampering or attempted theft. Officers secured the vehicles but did not see suspects.
- Several students discovered their laundry piled up in a courtyard and detergent mixed with beer inside the laundry room. They inquired of students in a nearby room and discovered a missing laundry item in the room but the intoxicated, uncooperative residents denied knowledge of the vandalism and theft. An RA was contacted to handle the situation.
- A Safety officer found two white males removing a Coke machine, which had been converted to a beer dispenser by students, from a dorm courtyard during the winter break. The subjects, who were using a skateboard as a dolly, said they had authorization but the name they provided was not recognized. CPD responded and arrested the subjects for grand theft. One was also charged with an offense involving false I.D. and their truck was impounded.
- A campus visitor reported that someone is using his "lost" cell phone. He has a duplicate phone and was informed of the calls made by the person who found the phone by the cell phone company. He was referred to CPD and subsequently, back to his cell phone company for action.
- A Safety officer saw two male subjects in a Ford Explorer driving recklessly on library lawns, doing "doughnuts", causing damage estimated at \$2900. The subjects fled onto a campus deadend street and were stopped by Safety officers. CPD responded and arrested both subjects for vandalism caused at several sites on campus and impounded the vehicle.
- A student reported extensive damage to a dorm suite entry door lock. She said that she heard loud banging on the door at 0215 hrs. on

Sunday. A locksmith was called in to repair the door.

- A Safety officer discovered a van with a broken driver’s side window but no hangtag. CPD responded and identified the owner, who was off campus during the break. The dean’s office was notified.

Crime Prevention Strategies/Tips

There will never be enough Safety officers doing routine or dedicated patrol to counteract determined thieves. Determined thieves are preying on our community. Knowing that, each of us should take sensible precautions to secure our private and community property:

- Don’t allow strangers to follow through when you open your building entry door. Wait until you’re clear or question them.
- When you “host” an outsider, take responsibility for them and stay with them.
- Lock your room or office door when you leave. Secure the windows too.
- Secure small valuables in a locked cabinet, closet, safe, chest, etc. in your office or room.
- Your keys or access cards are “valuables” — at least to a thief. Keep them secured.
- Theft happens 24 hours a day. There are no “safe” times. Lock, secure, protect your property.
- Don’t become complacent about personal safety. Use the student escort service or that of Campus Safety. Available 24 / 7.
- Report suspicious activity to somebody when you see it. (Campus Safety ext. 7-2000, an RA, a building manager, a supervisor, etc.)
- Secure your bike with a good U-lock, making sure that at least one wheel and the frame are captured in the loop with the rack.

December ‘01 Statistics

Crimes (persons)

Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
ADW	0
Disturbance	0
Hate Incident	0
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
Other	2

Crimes (property)

Arson	0
Burglary	7
Theft (From Auto)	1
Theft (Bike)	2
Theft (Building)	7
Theft (Other)	4
Grand Theft Auto	0
Trespass	1
Vandalism	2
Other	0

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