

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety – ext. 7-2000

February 2001

January Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

There is no doubt that the campuses are a “draw” for thieves and other miscreants. Some have been arrested, more have fled or been released for lack of hard evidence. An administrator reported suspect information regarding a recent theft, (actually in February) from an academic building in which the suspect was captured on film: White male, age 25–30, height approx. 6', weight approx. 175, light mustache, short to medium hair, neatly dressed in jeans and shirt, medium athletic build. This suspect and others have gained entrance to offices and other areas because they are unlocked or wide-open without any supervision. This theft happened at about 0915 hrs. on a weekday.

Computer theft, generally, is up and bike theft continues at a much higher rate than “normal”.

Alcohol abuse and related incidents continue to be a problem. A new problem, experienced several times recently, is that of intoxicated students misguidedly “protecting”

fellow students suffering from alcohol poisoning by preventing Safety officers from checking and identifying the victims so disciplinary action will not be taken. These “protectors” have been bellicose and menacing and have physically interfered with responding Safety officers as well as with paramedics. Two students have been arrested for such interference, or for disorderly conduct. While officer safety is a concern, the main issue is the health and safety of the victims who may need emergency aid.

Campus Safety responded to nine different incidents in which alcohol was directly involved, in the month of January.

As of the first part of February we are also suffering an increase of vehicle burglary and GTA activity in which Honda Accords seem to be targeted for the stereo equipment.

Selective Incident Summary, Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2001

- A Safety officer spotted a male subject at 0617 hrs. carrying something in a plastic bag. He was identified as a person who has been previously arrested with a history of being stopped frequently on campus, often using different aliases. This time, he had aluminum cans. He was again escorted off-campus and warned to stay away.
- A Safety officer found a male subject carrying a large trash bag near a dorm. The bag contained clothing he said he found near the dorm. He was told to return the items to the location he found them and was escorted off-campus.

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- At 2042 hrs. a Safety officer found a dorm courtyard door kicked in with a broken lock. Maintenance was notified.
- A large swarm of bees was found in an oak tree near a dorm. The Grounds Dept. barricaded the area.
- At 2325 hrs. a Safety officer found an unlocked dorm courtyard door which had appearances of an effort to pry the hinges off. Maintenance was notified.
- A student reported the theft of a \$700 camera from a locked apartment. Renovation work had been done during the time frame.
- A pellet gun found in a student's room by a custodian was confiscated and stored at Campus Safety.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from inside of a student apartment compound.
- A small fire was discovered inside of a walled outside area where a boiler burner ignited fallen leaves. Staff extinguished the fire.
- Someone reported a group of skateboarders near a parked tree trimming truck and a few minutes later gasoline was seen spouting out of a hole punched into the fuel tank. CPD responded and was able to staunch the fuel flow and covered the spilled gasoline with dirt.
- At 0653 hrs. a grounds supervisor reported two suspicious white male subjects loitering around two dorms. Safety officers stopped the two and requested that CPD respond when "booking papers" were found on one of the two. One subject had previously been arrested for GTA and the other was on parole from an assault and battery conviction. One of the subjects was again arrested for possession of drugs when checked by CPD. The other was escorted off-campus.
- A Safety officer found freshly poured cement near a dorm vandalized with inscribed names, initials and fraternity symbols.
- A student reported items stolen from his room. This was probably related to a spate of burglaries which occurred in December. A report was written and forwarded to CPD.
- A male subject distributing "strange" flyers was stopped, identified and counseled about campus and city policy regarding flyers.
- A student reported the receipt of threatening, harassing e-mail from another student. The Safety Dept., CPD and the Student deans on two campuses were consulted and a decision regarding action is pending.
- A staff person reported being harassed by a delusional former schoolmate. A restraining order is in place.
- A staff person reported being unable to find the way downstairs from an upper level floor of an administrative building because of a power outage. A Safety officer with a flashlight provided guidance.
- A wallet and cell phone were stolen from an academic building office between 0800 and 1600 hrs.
- A Safety officer found a mattress and box spring lying on a campus street at 1856 hrs. He moved the items and notified Maintenance.
- Heavy rain resulted in several roof leaks and alarm malfunctions when water contacted alarm panels, as well as a tree falling over and some basement area flooding.
- Dean's staff reported that for the 2nd time dorm doors were found open during the break and anti-gay graffiti had been written on white boards and gay rights posters had been removed. CPD responded but only a dean's report was written by Campus Safety.
- Computer lab staff reported repeated incidents in which a student was found sleeping overnight, apparently, in the lab. Appropriate campus authorities were advised.
- A yellow mountain bike with an attached u-lock was found in a flower bed near a dorm and taken to the Safety station for safekeeping.
- Staff reported that someone, evidently, punched a hole in a dining hall van gas tank and removed the gas cap allowing 18 gallons of gasoline to flow into a receptacle.
- A Safety officer stopped a white male at 0509 hrs. who was wandering around the campus on a BMX bike. He had pocket knives and a flashlight in his pockets and advised that he did not know he was on private property and left upon request.
- A student reported the theft of various items of personal property from a locked dorm room over the "break".
- A student reported that someone broke into a dorm room and downloaded pornographic materials from the internet and erased files in an attempt to "cover" the activity.

- A \$1700 computer and accessories were stolen from a locked dorm room over the break.
- A CPD officer stopped a female student on an adjacent city street for the offenses of “Drunk in Public”, “Open Container in Public”, “Minor in Possession of Alcohol”, and Minor in “Possession of False ID”. Rather than arresting her, he escorted to her room and advised Campus Safety of the incident.
- At 0254 hrs. students complained about a car alarm activating continuously. Safety officers found no campus registration hangtag and called CPD who had the vehicle towed.
- Staff reported the theft of a transmission and 2 tail light shells from a truck parked inside of the Physical Plant compound. There was a hole in the fence and a gate lock was cut.
- A student reported the theft of a memory chip and \$20 in cash from his locked room over the “break”.
- A student was contacted by CPD who advised that they had property of his that had been recovered from thieves who burglarized his room over the “break”.
- A male subject previously stopped numerous times was again found wandering on the campuses. He was advised to leave and complied.
- A campus golf cart was stolen and later found abandoned a short distance away.
- Staff reported an arson in a dorm hallway where a plastic trash can and contents had been set on fire. RAs extinguished the fire with extinguishers.
- A hit-and-run driver damaged a student’s parked truck causing about \$1000 damage.
- A student’s laptop computer was stolen from a locked room over the “break”.
- A female student reported receiving a series of “heavy breathing” calls from an outside line.
- Students reported male subjects in a white Chevy Astro van selling speakers on campus.
- A student who fell down basement stairs of an administrative building during a power outage suffered an injured leg and was transported to the hospital by campus staff.
- A student reported that his dorm lock had been “jimmied” and items of clothing and jewelry were stolen over the “break”.
- A bike locked to a rack with a U-lock by the front wheel only was stolen, but the front wheel remained locked to the rack.
- A bike cable-locked to a dorm rack was stolen.
- A bike locked with a heavy duty cable lock was stolen from a dorm rack.
- Students stole a golf cart and firewood from an adjacent campus and were stopped by Safety officers. The items were returned and the dean is handling the incident with the students.
- A student suffering a headache and an overdose of alcohol was transported to the hospital by residence hall staff.
- A student previously reported sleeping in computer labs was found sleeping in an academic building lounge by a custodian at 0445 hrs.
- A staff person reported a suspicious male in the basement of a dorm. Safety officers stopped and identified a local male subject on a nearby street who, using aliases, has been stopped multiple times on campus. He was warned again.
- A CPD officer with a warrant entered a dorm and arrested a student for theft and forgery and confiscated evidence items from the room.
- A bike locked to a dorm rack with a cable lock was stolen with the cut lock left behind. Another bike locked to that bike was also stolen.
- A student who turned in forged traffic citation appeal approvals met representatives of Campus Safety and the dean’s office for a discussion.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- A trash can in a dorm kitchen ignited. A passing student smelled the smoke and extinguished the fire with the kitchen extinguisher.
- Anti-lesbian graffiti was written on a dorm message board.
- An RA reported a student on a dorm roof trying to enter a student’s room. Safety officers UTL.
- At 0056 hrs. someone ignited a piece of paper on a dorm door, activating the fire alarm.
- A student reported that an off-campus female friend, a prospective student, was left asleep in a car in a dorm lot at midnight and when the student returned 1 ½ hrs. later the friend was

missing. An RA found the woman walking through an athletic field on an adjacent campus.

- A laptop computer was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- The passenger side window of a parked vehicle was smashed with a large rock and the glove box was rifled, but nothing was stolen.
- 92 CDs, a flashlight and calculator were stolen from a dorm room.
- Two student suitemates said that their rooms were entered over the break and various electronic games and personal property were stolen. Entry was through a window.
- A male suspect dressed in black was seen carrying stolen vehicle stereo equipment away from an Accord owned by a dining hall employee. The suspect was seen running into an abandoned physical plant area but a search by Safety officers, CPD officers, a canine unit and a Pomona PD helicopter proved fruitless.
- At 2111 hrs. a Safety officer observed six males throwing a couch off of a 2nd floor dorm balcony and identified two of them including the owner. They were warned to desist that activity but repeated it again. An RA then handled the situation.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack. The cut cable was left behind.
- Another cable-locked bike, from the same area as the previous entry, was stolen.
- A student reported the theft of a guitar accessory from a dorm room over the “break”.
- RAs detected the odor of marijuana in a dorm hallway and traced it to an unoccupied, unsecured room where they found two baggies containing the substance. It was confiscated by deans staff.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- A Saturn was stolen from a dorm parking lot. CPD took a report.
- Staff reported the theft of a portable air compressor from the utility room of an academic building.
- A female student reported a series of “hang-up” calls to her dorm phone.
- A visitor’s coat was stolen from the coat room of a campus literary/speaking club building.
- A staff person descending to the basement of an administrative building during a power outage

tripped on the last step and injured an ankle. Transportation was not necessary.

- An 8mm hand-held video camera was stolen from a locked academic building office.
- A student reported a coyote next to the dorm at 0919 hrs. Grounds and Safety personnel attempted to contain the animal but were unsuccessful.
- Staff reported a small fire and a lot of smoke involving an electrical UPS system. The fire was extinguished and fans were used to clear the smoke from the building.
- At 0053 a Safety officer encountered students attempting to put an unconscious, intoxicated male student, dribbling mucous, into a vehicle. LACFD and an RA responded. The RA transported the student to the hospital for treatment.
- At 0147 hrs. five intoxicated male students blocked a party exit to two female students and then started fondling and “groping” them before the females were finally able to leave, according to a witness. Criminal charges were later filed against at least one of the male subjects.
- At 0150 hrs. an RA found an unconscious male outside of a dorm entrance. When Safety officers attempted to assist, intoxicated, belligerent students tried to prevent Safety officer contact or identification of the (later identified) off-campus subject. CPD eventually had to move obstructionist students away from the subject on the ground in order for paramedics to check him. He was ultimately escorted to a friend’s room with instructions from the dean on call to leave campus the next day.
- An RA reported a fish head on the soap dish in a dorm restroom. A custodian was notified.
- A student suffered an elbow injury during athletic activity on a playing field and was transported to the hospital.
- At 2155 hrs. a Safety officer noted a vehicle occupied by six subjects parked in a handicapped stall. As he approached, students from two campuses other than the one they were on, exited the vehicle in an odorous cloud of marijuana smoke. The “under the influence” driver said he had marijuana prescribed for medical reasons. Appropriate residence life staff were contacted and the subjects were identified and escorted back to their campuses on foot.

- At 0030 hrs. a female student saw a tall, black male subject attempting to take her suitemate's computer from her dorm room. She confronted the subject and he ran. She yelled for students on a lower floor to stop the suspect and called the Safety office. Other students called and reported three subjects together. While Safety officers and CPD were checking the dorm the suspects were seen leaving and an RA then called from a different dorm where one of the suspects entered a sleeping female's room using keys she left in the lock. Several other students reported that their rooms also were entered and that items had been stolen by one or more of the three subjects. Safety officers stopped three subjects fitting the description in yet another dorm and assisted CPD in finding the victims for identification and statements. In the course of the investigation three additional suspects were found waiting for the first three. One of the suspects was arrested for burglary and the others were searched and escorted from campus. Several stolen items, including a set of dorm room keys were recovered from the arrestee.
- Between midnight and 0530 hrs. someone threw a rock through a library window where it lodged on a shelf amidst the broken glass.
- Another rock was thrown through an academic building window on a different campus on the same night as the previously reported incident, but between 2200 — 2245 hrs.
- A student's \$150.00 skateboard was stolen from outside of an athletic facility.
- A female student reported receiving a series of 18 annoying phone calls.
- A student's bike, locked to a dorm stairwell handrail with a cable lock was stolen.
- A bike, cable-locked to a dorm rack was stolen.
- A student reported that a friend of hers had been approached by a black male on a bike who tried to sell him marijuana. Safety officers responded to the area and notified CPD. Custodians saw the subject, wearing a beanie and white gloves, fleeing and ducking behind cars. Safety officers followed and found the subject near a dorm on an adjacent campus, after an extensive search. CPD officers arrested him for possession of drug paraphernalia. (a crack pipe)

Crime Prevention Strategies/Tips

Timely reporting of suspicious activity has been proved repeatedly to be a major defense against crime. Most of the information we get about suspects comes from good citizens. Still, there are more thieves out there than we are catching. Most of the theft crimes occur because of ease of entry and valuables being unwatched or secured in some way. Virtually all of the bike thefts, recently, have been of bikes locked with a cable lock which has been cut.

- Lock your dorm doors even when you are in the room sleeping.
- Lock your offices when you go out or put the valuables in a secure area or cabinet.
- Install and use electronic alarms on your vehicles. They work.
- Obtain a lockable cabinet or chest for small items of value in rooms where it is inconvenient to keep the doors locked. (And put them into it when not in use.)
- Buy and use a U-lock for bikes and always lock at least one wheel **and** the frame to a strong rack or object.
- Secure your wallets, purses, credit cards, etc. ALWAYS.
- **Report suspicious activity quickly. Don't worry about mistakes or overworking Safety officers.**
- When reporting suspicious activity try to articulate the ACTIVITY which is suspicious as well as a description of persons or vehicles involved. (A direction of travel of suspects would be nice.)

January 2001 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>	1
Arson	0
Burglary	5
Theft (From Auto)	3
Theft (Bike)	4
Theft (Building)	2
Theft (Other)	19
Grand Theft Auto	1
Trespass	0
Vandalism	3
<i>Other</i>	0

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