

# The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety – ext. 7-2000

April 2001

## March Crime and Incident Report

### Trends and Analysis

The highest profile incidents in this reporting period, involving 5 days of student protests, somewhat overshadowed a series of crimes involving the theft of cars and car burglaries. In addition, there has been a continuing pattern of dorm burglaries in which the primary target is laptop computers and other concealable items. Possible suspects were seen in the area of some of the vehicle related crimes. A bulletin to our community was distributed describing a group of males in their 20's. some had shaved heads and wore plaid shirts. They arrived in four vehicles including one truck with towing attachments. The victims' vehicles have been entered by "jimmying" door locks or by breaking windows. In the dorm burglaries a young male with short black hair has been spotted fleeing from rooms twice. When confronted by a student who found him in the room he asked whether this was Citrus College, then fled. In one other theft of a backpack from a

gym, a male about 6', of college student age, was seen fleeing from the athletic center with a backpack.

### Selective Incident Summary, March 1 – 31, 2001

- Students reported that a male repeatedly ogled, stared at, and made rude comments about female students to the point of harassment. A report was written.
- A construction worker's cell phone was stolen from his unlocked vehicle which was inside of a fenced construction area.
- Beginning at 0136 hrs. witnesses began reporting an SUV being driven recklessly on an interior campus quad sidewalk and lawn. Safety officers with witness information were able to find the damaged vehicle parked on an adjacent campus and identified the owner who was believed to be intoxicated. Staff reported damage to a light pole near the tire tracks along with a part broken from the offending vehicle. Evidence and information was provided to the dean although the vehicle had subsequently been removed from campus.
- At 0145 hrs. an anonymous person reported a stocky, male, off-campus person becoming violent and refusing to leave campus. Safety officers found a subject previously arrested for battery and banned from campus and escorted him from campus.
- Several students reported repeated incidents of sexual assault, threats of violence and harassment against them by a former male student. The victims were interviewed by CPD, Safety officers and the dean. The assailant was banned from the campuses.
- A non-injury accident at a campus exit onto a city boulevard involved one student and an off-campus driver. It temporarily blocked traffic on the boulevard until both cars were towed.
- A student requested assistance to get an off-campus belligerent male out of a dorm at 0125

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hrs. Safety officers found the subject to be uncooperative and called CPD. The subject was identified and was arrested for disorderly conduct.

- A student requested assistance in getting her ex-boyfriend out of the dorm and off campus following a verbal altercation. Officers assisted and he left.
- A student's parked vehicle was damaged by beer bottles thrown from a dorm upper level balcony. One bottle penetrated the rear windshield and was stuck there. A report was written.
- An IBM computer processing unit was stolen from a Physical Plant office.
- A student's cable-locked bike was stolen from an academic building rack.
- An RA reported that someone wrote hateful and disparaging anti-homosexual comments on a bulleting board in a dorm.
- A former employee returned to campus under the influence of alcohol and unloaded four years of pent-up rancour and threats on a supervisor. CPD responded after the fact and a Campus Safety report was written.
- A student's laptop computer valued at \$3000 and a \$200 cell phone were stolen from a locked dorm room between 0400 hrs. and 1215 hrs. There were no signs of forced entry.
- An employee reported the theft of a carrying bag with nothing of value in it from an office as well as vandalism to clothing and a CD player. He reported a follow-up theft a day later of more paperwork and a hand-held computer organizer.
- At 0315 hrs. a male student was transported to the hospital for alcohol poisoning following the consumption of tequila and beer while "on" a prescribed medicine.
- Staff reported the theft of a stainless steel cutting glove valued at \$104 from a locked dining hall kitchen.
- A male student jumped from a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony into some bushes possibly hitting his jaw on a 2 foot wall in the bushes causing lacerations and broken teeth. Paramedics responded and he was transported to the hospital.
- A male subject previously arrested and banned from campus was found on campus at 0042 hrs. CPD responded and escorted him away.
- At 0108 hrs. a student reported an off-campus

male in a dorm looking for a party. He had been stopped twice and arrested the previous week for being drunk in public. He fled the dorm but was stopped by a Safety officer and, again, arrested.

- A Safety officer stopped a suspicious 37 yr. old male subject with a full backpack outside of a faculty residence where the gate and door were ajar and the window was open at 1047 hrs.. The subject was arrested by CPD for possession of drug paraphernalia. The resident did not find anything missing.
- A student reported the theft of an empty Sparkletts bottle which had been set outside for the delivery person.
- Staff reported that a male subject found loitering in an academic building used a cell phone belonging to a building employee and ate food provided for a group in attendance. He refused to show his ID to staff and has been seen repeatedly. (male, 5'5", pony tail, glasses)
- A student accused of harassing females from another campus was suspended and escorted off campus, subject to arrest if he returns.
- A custodian carrying a machine fell down a flight of stairs when the machine "unfolded" knocking him off balance. He was injured and transported by other staff to a local hospital.
- A student who awakened from sleep and went for water found an unknown 25 yr. old, bald, male subject sitting on her couch watching TV. He asked if she was asleep and she went back to bed. He was gone in the morning and nothing was missing.
- A staff person in an academic building reported the theft of her wallet from her purse which was inside of a locked office.
- A student reported the theft of a 2<sup>nd</sup> laptop computer from a locked dorm room. The laptop was inside of a cabinet locked with a padlock. A CD burner and ethernet card were also stolen. There were no signs of forced entry into the room but the cabinet padlock was gone.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack over a period of 8 days.
- A student reported the theft of a memory chip from his computer in his dorm room.
- A student's cell phone was stolen from the glove box of a locked vehicle.
- An electrical fire in a student's dorm room closet ignited carpeting and other material and forced the evacuation of a dorm. A facilities staff

person extinguished the fire and LACFD investigated and cleared the dorm of smoke before allowing entrance to evacuated students.

- A student reported the theft of his bike wheel which was locked to another bike in a dorm rack.
- A bike locked to a handrail and another bike was stolen except for the front wheel which remained locked to the rail.
- A student reported that an older male who had been seen packing wooden pallets onto a truck offered to sell him some “pot”. Safety officers and CPD interviewed the subject who said he had been readjusting his pallets. He was warned not to return to campus.
- A student’s car was “keyed” while parked in a student lot.
- A student reported damage to her vehicle caused by someone trying to remove the Lexus symbol.
- A student’s vehicle was damaged in a hit-and-run accident in which brown paint from the offending vehicle was left on the blue victim’s vehicle. CPD responded to investigate.
- A professor reported the theft of a Nissan Maxima from an academic building lot during the school day. The vehicle had a LoJack device which was activated after the theft was discovered. Eventually, the vehicle was recovered in San Bernardino with the air bags stripped out.
- At 0250 hrs. a student reported that his car had been broken into in a student lot. The responding Safety officers found that seven vehicles had been broken into and one had been stolen. CPD responded and took the GTA report while Safety officers wrote crime reports on the burglaries. The vehicles all had smashed windows as the method of entry and had stereos stolen along with other property in the vehicle. Subsequent information disclosed that students had seen suspicious male subjects who had arrived in four vehicles in the lots on the night of the thefts. (Bulletin issued and distributed via e-mail at the time.)
- At 0333 hrs. a student reported that a male student was stuck on a walkway roof with a possible broken ankle. Officers and responding LACFD personnel found an intoxicated student who had attempted a second floor dorm entry and fell to the walkway roof breaking an ankle well out of reach of paramedics who had to break window security devices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to

extract the student for transportation to the hospital.

- Physical Plant staff observed a male subject stealing wire from the facility. The suspect crawled through a hole in the fence and staff followed him, reporting direction of travel and description of the suspect on a cell phone until the suspect threw the wire over a fence and fled into an industrial area off campus. CPD and Safety officers participated in the search but did not immediately apprehend the suspect.
- A bald male was seen distributing flyers in parking lots. He was identified and warned to desist.
- A dorm fire alarm activated and officers found a pull box ripped from the wall and irrigation sprinklers “wetting” the wires on the system. Technicians responded for lengthy repairs.
- At 0225 hrs. a female student had seizures and blacked out after consuming alcohol. Paramedics responded and she was transported to the hospital.
- At 0244 hrs. a female student reported that an unknown male opened her window and awakened her by yelling obscenities at her. Officers found that the screen had been removed and the window forced open.
- A Safety officer spotted a subject seen the day before exiting the Physical Plant with stolen wire. CPD responded and talked to the subject who walked to an off-campus residence. Photos were taken for a photo line-up since the witness from yesterday was unavailable.
- At 2336 hrs. an RA reported a female visitor in a parking lot suffering from alcohol poisoning. Paramedics and the dean responded. She was transported to PVHMC for treatment.
- At 0006 hrs. a passerby reported a vehicle with a smashed window near student housing but on a city street. The owner was contacted and found the stereo stolen. CPD was advised.
- At 0146 a Safety officer found an intoxicated male subject near an administrative building. He was uncooperative and refused to show I.D. CPD responded and arrested the off-campus subject for being drunk in public.
- A fight occurred as two women from one campus walking in one direction met a woman from another campus and two of her off-campus female friends coming from the other direction. The off-campus women attacked one of the other women for allegedly making an insulting

remark to them. The victim was transported to a hospital for injuries and while there made a crime report to CPD officers who met her there. In an attempt to find and identify the combatants, police and Safety officers interviewed several uncooperative persons and meanwhile, had a patrol bike stolen from an apt. balcony. (It was recovered from bushes the following day) The combatants' identity was discovered and provided to CPD.

- At 0903 hrs. on Sunday a student reported that her car was broken into and the stereo stolen. There were pry marks on the door. The responding Safety officer found two other vehicles in the same area which had also been broken into. One was via a broken window and the other by prying. The stereos in each were attacked but only one was successfully removed. One other vehicle in the same lot was found, later, to also have been burglarized.
- A coach reported graffiti on locker room walls. A Safety officer found the words: "Pomona North Side", "Islands" and "456 PIRU" (designations of a local gang) written on the wall with a marker. Black liquid shoe polish was also thrown on walls, lockers and equipment.
- At 0431 hrs. on Monday, a student told a Safety officer that students had taken over a college business building and had notified the media. Responding officers found about 30 students blocking all of the building doors with themselves and with trash cans filled with concrete into which some had inserted their arms through sewer pipe sections inserted into the sides of the cans. The doors and some of the windows had been covered with paper signs and banners. Students distributed flyers indicating that they were opposed to the use of part of the Bernard Field Station for construction of the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. Everybody was notified and supporters and officials gathered. The protestors stayed through the day and night and held rallies and marches. Other than asking the students to move from the building, no specific removal action was taken by Safety or police officers.
- Extra security officers were assigned to help safeguard the building where students were protesting. Later, at 0658 hrs., CPD officers and law enforcement officers from "mutual aid" agencies arrived at a parking lot staging area

and proceeded to the site of the student protest. There, officials notified students to leave upon threat of arrest. The students declined and were physically removed from the building by squads of police officers, some using hand trucks to carry the concrete-filled trash cans and in one case, using a fork-lift vehicle. Initially, nine students were arrested and taken to jail. Those with arms locked inside of the 700 lb. trash cans were left in the area but away from the building. After the law enforcement agencies secured the building they left and Campus Safety assumed responsibility for keeping it. Employees were advised to return to work although the student protestors remained in the area.

- A Safety officer discovered that papers posted on a bulletin board in a student center breezeway had been burned in place.
- Staff reported the theft of a "white board" from an academic building office wall. The wall was damaged in the removal.
- A student who locked a bike to another bike discovered it stolen sometime over a 10 day period.
- A staff person reported receiving a series of annoying phone calls in an academic building office.
- As part of a continuing campaign of protest against the use of the Bernard Field Station protesting students maintained a presence near the Pendleton Business Building, camping out there at night. They held marches, rallies and discussions with college presidents and other officials over a period of four days.
- On the fifth day of a student protest about the Bernard Field Station students began marching at 1356 hrs. and continued to visit different parts of several campuses, including the Field Station. They abandoned the concrete-filled trash cans to which they had previously attached themselves and staff removed the cans from the area. The protest was effectively ended at 1656 hrs. when the students left the area.
- At 0040 hrs. a Safety officer observed two intoxicated male students on a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dorm balcony one, a visitor from USC, urinated and threw furniture off of the balcony. The subjects were ultimately controlled by RAs and Student Security.
- At 0130 hrs. of the same day as the previous entry and at the same location, a Safety officer observed a male subject running around nude.

The intoxicated male visitor was stopped on an adjacent campus and arrested for disorderly conduct (drunk in public) by CPD.

- At 0132 hrs. an RA requested assistance for a female student who was both ill and intoxicated. She was transported via ambulance to a local hospital.
- A student reported the theft of the stereo and other items from a locked vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry.
- The rear wing window of a vehicle was broken and the stereo was stolen from the vehicle parked in campus lot.

## Crime Prevention Strategies/Tips

### Dorm Rooms:

1. Use a heavy duty lock to secure a cabinet or chest and keep valuables inside of it when you are not awake and occupying the room. Be especially watchful of laptop computers and CDs.
2. LOCK THE DOOR when you're not up and about inside the room at any time of day or night.
3. Dorm room thieves are bold — report suspicious contacts/observed behavior to Campus Safety immediately!
4. Make sure windows are secured — not just closed.

### Grand Theft Auto (theft of the vehicle)

1. Install an electronic alarm.
2. Install a hidden ignition or gas cut-off switch.
3. Use a steering wheel locking device.
4. Have a LoJack recovery device installed.
5. Have an ignition line removable chip — and remove it when the car is parked.

### Vehicle Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle)

1. Install an electronic alarm.
2. Park in well lighted areas.
3. Remove removable equipment and property when the vehicle is parked.

Thieves tend to “hit” lots and street areas where it is easy to enter and exit from public streets quickly without being noticed. Those areas from

which they can flee in either of several directions are preferred since they generally arrive in a vehicle.

## March 2001 Statistics

Annoying Call	0	
Assault		0
Assault w/Deadly Weapon	0	
Disturbance	0	
Hate Incident	0	
Indecent Exposure	0	
Prowling	0	
Rape	0	
Robbery	0	
Sexual Assault	0	
Other	0	
Arson	0	
Burglary		12
Theft from Auto	5	
Theft (bike)		2
Theft from building		0
Theft (other)		5
Grand Theft Auto		2
Trespass		0
Vandalism		1
Other		1

[ Some “theft from auto” incidents were combined in a single report because of similarity of time frame, location and M.O. , thereby skewing the statistics somewhat compared to bulletin information or a compilation of the incidents reported in the blotter. ]

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