

# The Claremont colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, Ext. 7-2000

November 2001

## October Crime and Incident Report

### Trends and Analysis

**W**e've had fifteen bicycles stolen this month! Most were unlocked or improperly locked. Only one U-lock was reportedly defeated.

Safety officers are spending huge amounts of time responding to alarms of one kind or another. Virtually all fire alarms and intrusion, or theft alarms are "false" in the sense that a real fire or real intrusion did not happen. Rather, the cause is usually "human error" by legitimate users of the facilities. While Safety officers responded to 44 intrusion alarms at swimming pools, most were caused by workers entering, oblivious of the alarm, or just too slow to disarm it before it activated. There were, of course, many others activated by illicit swimmers at night. Some were caught and others left footprints.

It's not really unusual — but officers or RA's responded to 21 noise complaints (that were officially "logged") called in by fellow students or by citizens of Claremont. Twelve of the 21 were over the weekends. The noisome factors were: music, loud voices, fireworks.

### Selective Incident Summary, Oct. 1 — 31, 2001

- Orange paint balls (3) were splattered against a college academic house.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from

a dorm rack.

- A student reported a written threat against her parked vehicle which was, apparently, parked for long periods in a desirable slot.
- A vehicle parked in a campus lot was damaged by a "hit and run" vehicle.
- A gold cell phone was found in the bushes and was turned-in to Campus Safety.
- An unlocked bike and Kryptonite u-lock lock were stolen from an academic building rack.
- A student's cable-locked bike was stolen from an academic building rack. The severed cable was left at the scene.
- A Safety officer reported students igniting bottle rockets. The individuals were not located.
- At 0054 hrs. city residents and the Claremont Police Dept. reported loud noises and fireworks in a campus wooded area. Safety officers found a group of students with a keg and a "boom box". They were advised to clean up the area and leave and they complied.
- Someone reported hearing glass breaking and a male swearing near an administrative building at 0128 hrs. Safety officers found a broken light fixture and a torn undershirt in the area.
- Large graffiti applied with a gold marker, spelling out "THCv" was placed on a computing center door.
- Four students reported the theft of personal items, including clothing, cash, and wallets from backpacks left in a classroom.
- Staff reported vandalism to a boxing ring. Further investigation revealed that two lockers were also broken open and a jump rope was stolen.
- A Safety officer found two students in a parked vehicle after a party. One was intoxicated and vomiting and was escorted to a friend's room.
- An RA reported a discharged fire

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extinguisher in a dorm lobby at 0303 hrs. Two males were seen running from the area.

- A female student reported that an unknown, disoriented male wandered into her room at 0320 hrs. asking where another room was. He left and Safety officers were UTL. (unable to locate)
- AT 1059 hrs. staff reported the theft of a dining hall golf cart. At 1118 hrs. someone calling from Bentley's Groceries, south of the campuses, reported finding a damaged cart in their parking lot. The cart was abandoned after colliding with a barrier chain which caused extensive damage to the cart.
- Dining hall staff reported that someone painted "Mufti is dead – Wilhelm lives" on ceiling windows of the dining hall.
- A staff person reported finding a golf cart near a gym. The IT Dept. owners were notified and retrieved it.
- Staff reported the theft of a label maker from a dining hall office.
- At 0000 hrs. two students called Safety to advise that they were locked in the library. Officers assisted them in getting out.
- Staff reported the theft of a golf cart. A surveillance officer spotted three persons driving it. They fled when approached.
- The manager of an Internet publication received a threatening, obscene phone call from a male caller who wanted to throw the victim into the ocean.
- Staff reported the theft of a digital clock from a dining hall office.
- Two more golf carts were reported missing and were found on other campuses.
- An RA reported two male juveniles riding bikes, agitating students. Safety officers stopped the subjects, identified them, and gave them a verbal warning to desist.
- Students set off a smoke bomb in a dorm room for a film project. It activated the fire alarm which someone tried to silence, damaging the detector. A technician was called to get the alarm silenced.
- During an event involving Lech Walesa a group of students began spelling out the name of their dorm on a nearby lawn with mattresses culled from freshman rooms on their adjacent campus. They were advised to remove the mattresses and complied.

- An unlocked bike was stolen from an academic building rack.
- Anti-war student protestors gathered around a fountain and marched to city hall and back.
- A bike locked to a rack by the front wheel was stolen, although the front wheel remained locked to the rack at an academic building.
- A male subject previously arrested for stalking and harassment of a female, again accosted the student, then fled. Safety and CPD officers were UTL.
- An intoxicated male student with gashes on his forehead was transported to a hospital following a response by paramedics.
- A visiting alumni saw two males tampering with a bike owned by a friend. Safety officers found the front brake disabled. One of the suspects who fled was recognized as a student.
- A student reported the theft of a messenger bag and contents, valued at \$315.00 stolen from outside of a dining hall.
- Paramedics and an ambulance were called for a diabetic sports spectator who was ill.
- A student's skateboard was stolen from inside of a dining hall.
- An intoxicated female student in a varying state of consciousness at a party was transported to a hospital following a paramedic response.
- An academic building tenant reported the sound of a "hail of rocks" outside and found that an 18 inch section of cement molding had broken from the roof and landed near a stairwell.
- A bike locked to itself with a u-lock was carried away and stolen from a dorm rack.
- A golf cart from a snack bar on one campus was found abandoned near a dorm on another campus.
- Two off-campus persons injured in a car accident on Foothill Blvd. were transported to a hospital via a medical helicopter that used a campus playing field as a landing pad.
- Someone sitting in a parked car on campus at 2247 hrs., reported that someone from a group of 20 passing students threw a beer can and struck his car.
- Safety officers and student security

personnel escorted an intoxicated, belligerent male student from a party on another campus. He resisted and forced his way back in. When CPD responded he resisted arrest and was pepper sprayed and taken into custody.

- Two off-campus individuals began a fight in a parking lot after leaving a campus party. They were separated by their respective companions and were gone before CPD and Safety officers arrived.
- A student reported that his bike, and those of other students, locked to a dorm rack had been vandalized by the removal of seats, wheels and other parts, which were subsequently found in nearby bushes.
- A vehicle parked in a campus lot had the side mirror vandalized.
- A tree branch fell on a vehicle parked on a campus street, causing minor damage.
- A student reported the theft of a bike, valued at \$600 and the u-lock with which it was locked, from an academic building rack.
- A Safety officer reported the vandalism of three large plant pots and plants pulled from a planter outside of an academic building.
- A cell phone was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from a dorm rack area.
- Someone reported five intoxicated off-campus subjects on an upper floor of a dorm. The subjects split up and fled upon the arrival of Safety officers. Over a period of 3 hours three of the subjects were stopped, interviewed and identified with assistance from CPD.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- Staff reported that someone threw water on three computers in a dining hall office, damaging files.
- Two balding white males wearing checkered shirts were soliciting in dorms. They were told by students to leave and complied.
- A Safety officer observed four subjects sitting outside and smelled marijuana smoke emanating from their area. He identified three students but was told that the fourth person, who left as he approached, was the only

one smoking the "pot". No marijuana was found.

- A Safety officer stopped a male subject carrying a bike wheel. Another officer said that he saw the same subject a little earlier going from one campus to the other but without the bike wheel. CPD was called and the subject was identified as a known burglar who had previously been arrested on campus twice for possession of burglary tools and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was, again, arrested — for possession of stolen property.
- A student reported being threatened and "grabbed by the arm" by another student as an outgrowth of an ongoing adversarial relationship.
- An abandoned women's mountain bike was turned over to Safety officers by a custodian who found it in front of an office door.
- A coach reported that three soccer players had wallets stolen from unlocked lockers during practice.
- Two magazine subscription salesmen were stopped, identified and advised of campus policy regarding soliciting and trespassing. Other solicitors were reported but not found.
- At 0107 hrs. a Safety officer saw an older male in an orange pick-up leaving the campus with a bike in the back. It was too late to get a license.
- Paramedics began responding for a report of an emotionally distraught student thrashing about in danger of injury. She was transported off-campus for help by a friend, however.
- A large, black male subject previously arrested on campus was spotted by a Safety officer headed toward campus on a bike. When he saw the Safety officer he turned around, circled back and stayed outside of the campus boundaries while the officer was present.
- A student reported a microwave on fire. The fire, started by the ignition of a rubber handle on a cup, extinguished itself when the cord was unplugged.
- A campus employee reported the theft of her car radio, purse, a hydraulic jack and other items from a locked car.
- A Safety officer responded to a report of a male subject pushing two shopping carts through campus and interviewed the subject. He said that he is homeless and was

picking up recyclables. He is believed to be a former Claremont Colleges student.

- A student reported the theft of a laptop computer from a dorm room. The screen was pried off and entry was through the open window. A cable lock attaching the computer to a bed rail was defeated.
- A tree branch that fell onto a power line on College Ave. caused a power outage on parts of the campus and in areas of the adjacent city while Edison and CPD dealt with "hot" wires in the street and subsequent repairs.
- A television cable box was stolen from a dorm lounge.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- A professor reported scratch and pry marks on his office door. Nothing missing.
- A student reported finding a bike seat (only) locked to a rack with a cable lock.
- Another golf cart was taken. Students were seen driving it before it was abandoned near a dining hall.
- Staff reported a white powder coming from a package in a mail room. Safety officers responded and secured the area and called CPD who consulted with the FBI and contacted the addressee. They then opened the expected package surmising that the powder might have been corn starch sometimes used in packing printed paper products.
- The owner of the bike whose bike seat was found locked to the rack reported the bike stolen.
- Twelve students were reported to be walking around with anti-war placards.
- A student reported two males on the roof of a dorm. Safety officers did not find anybody on the roof at 0143 hrs. but they did find all of the courtyard doors into the dorm propped with rocks.
- A bike, locked to itself, was taken from a dorm rack.
- A student reported a group of male juveniles on BMX bikes shouting obscenities and derogatory remarks at female students. They fled from a responding Safety officer but one, who had a flat tire, was stopped and identified and his parent was notified.
- A bike with the seat and wheels missing was found locked to a bike rack.
- Someone ignited fireworks in a dorm

lobby, setting off the fire alarm.

- A student reported seeing a suspicious white male of medium build, wearing a hat and carrying a backpack entering dorms and looking into rooms at 0158 hrs. When the student followed him the subject fled. Safety officers saw the subject on a bicycle as he left campus, but were unable to catch him.
- A student reported an unknown bald male trying to start a fight in a dorm. The subject was gone by the time Safety officers arrived.
- A student reported an unknown male breaking a pay phone. Officers found an intoxicated student who tried to use the phone for a key service. When it didn't work he decided to break it entirely and did the same to an adjacent campus phone.
- A Safety officer reported that five male "streakers" ran across the football field, apparently, in celebration of their team's first touchdown of the game.
- A student reported the theft of a cell phone from an unlocked dorm room.
- A bike minus the front wheel was stolen from an academic building rack. The front wheel remained locked to the rack.
- Another golf cart was reported missing. It was found. Students were seen riding it.
- An officer chaperoning a party reported that a student in a room with a balcony overlooking the party site threw something down at him. The student was identified.
- At 0026 hrs. someone pulled the fire alarm pull box, activating the alarm in a dining hall.
- At 0159 hrs., after a party, a male student reported being battered by a black male off-campus person. Responding Safety officers found the suspect, who was uncooperative and belligerent, with a friend who was carrying a large knife clipped to his belt, and called CPD. CPD responded and arrested the two subjects but encountered an intoxicated male student who insisted on interfering with the officers. He was subjected to the effects of a Taser gun and pepper spray before being arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.
- A lifeguard reported that pool side

chairs and a table had been thrown into the deep end of the pool. The pool was closed until the furniture could be retrieved.

- A student was solicited for money by a black male subject, about age 30 who said that he was a former student. Safety officers spoke to the subject who had no on-campus record or connection and advised him to leave.
- At 0213 hrs. an imbroglio between students in adjacent dorms over a previous incident involving a chair erupted. One student was shoved and up to ten others were in a verbal altercation. Most of those involved were drinking alcohol and the two who did the shoving tried to flee but were stopped by Safety officers and identified. One was an off-campus person. Criminal charges were not pursued.
- A staff person turned in a car cover found at 9<sup>th</sup> and Mills. It was stored for safekeeping.
- A chair involved in a previous altercation was reported, by the presumed owner, to have been destroyed.
- A bike locked to a rack by the rear wheel with a U-lock was reported stolen. Both bike and lock were taken.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from an academic building rack.
- At 2225 hrs. a student reported a male subject climbing onto the roof of an academic building. Safety officers found two male students on the roof. They were throwing popcorn shrimp, which they purchased at a local supermarket, at female students on the adjacent campus, from the roof. Their home campus dean was advised.
- A disheveled-looking white male subject, about age 20 and 6' tall, found sleeping in a dorm lounge several times, told custodians that he was a student from an adjacent campus. He was gone before Safety officers could identify him.
- Officers responded to a report of an emotionally distraught student and consulted with deans and the counseling center. The subject was transported to a psychiatric treatment facility via ambulance.
- A student reported a large rat in his room. He was going to try to catch it. A message was left for the maintenance dept.
- A Safety officer found a 10 speed

bike in a campus wooded area. It was taken to the station for safekeeping and will be turned over to CPD if not claimed.

- A student reported the theft of a skateboard from a dorm exterior.

## Crime Prevention Strategies / Tips

**B**ike theft — we are in a high risk area. Standard cables and chains are not secure. U-locks or other heavy bar stock locks, correctly applied, are the best recommendation. (We, admittedly, do not have experience with the thick gauge fabric covered cables nor with the newer heavy, specially designed chains.) The next important step after obtaining a good lock is to capture at least one wheel, the frame and the rack in the loop of the lock. Thieves will steal a wheel from one bike and the frame and rear wheel from another, if the opportunity exists. The best quality U-locks and the tempered chains cost in the \$40 to \$80 range — not an unreasonable expenditure for a bike valued in the hundreds of dollars.

**D**orm room theft — This too, is very common. If you **MUST** leave your dorm room open or unlocked, at least obtain a sturdy, lockable container and put your small valuables, such as laptops, CD's, jewelry, cash, cell phones, etc. in it. There are small safes/vaults on the market. However, attaching one to dorm walls or floors may be prohibited. You might consider attaching it to a personally owned table or other item to make it difficult to carry illicitly. The cost range is from \$200 up, depending on size and features.

## October 2001 Statistics

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Annoying Call           | 1  |
| Assault                 | 1  |
| Assault w/Deadly Weapon | 0  |
| Disturbance             | 2  |
| Hate Incident           | 0  |
| Indecent Exposure       | 0  |
| Prowling                | 0  |
| Rape                    | 0  |
| Robbery                 | 0  |
| Sexual Assault          | 0  |
| Other                   | 2  |
| Arson                   | 0  |
| Burglary                | 9  |
| Theft from Auto         | 1  |
| Theft (bike)            | 15 |
| Theft from building     | 1  |
| Theft (other)           | 2  |
| Grand Theft Auto        | 1  |
| Trespass                | 0  |
| Vandalism               | 2  |
| Other                   | 1  |

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