

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, Ext. 7-2000

October 2001

September Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

We had a typical “first month” of the school year in terms of crime and activity, with a few variations. The variations are in degree: We’ve suffered (and are suffering) a higher rate of bicycle theft than is normal this early. Most of the thefts of bikes and from offices/dorm rooms occur because the opportunity has been there. The items or rooms were not properly secured.

A review of the following incident summary will reveal the obvious — that the colleges draw criminals to the campus because of the opportunities here. While we prefer to consider our fellow employees and students to be honest and the colleges to be a secure environment, we must secure our property and report suspicious activity to preclude being naive victims of criminals who do not respect our trusting ways. In addition to the listed incidents in the summary, we have had 22 noise complaints — usually on Fri./Sat. nights as well as eight incidents of skateboarders trespassing on campus facilities.

Since the horrendous incident of Sept. 11th and the onset of concerns about anthrax, there have been some reports of suspicious powder as well as reports of suspicious packages on the campuses. All have been innocuous. We reiterate that the Dept. of Campus Safety should be notified about any suspicion or crime. “The

Dept.” will activate and inform any other agencies necessary for the correct processing of the activity.

Selective Incident Summary, September 1 — 30, 2001

- On Sept. 1st a student noticed a white male and female taking furniture from temporary student storage containers. One of the tables being hauled away belonged to him. He got descriptions and the license of the U-Haul truck before the subjects drove away. Staff advised that property belonging to 28 “Study Abroad” students was stored in the containers from which the locks had been cut. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded and CPD took a report, discovered where the truck had been rented, and had officers from that city stand by to apprehend the thieves when they returned the truck. CPD obtained search warrants for the suspects’ personal vehicle and other locations, including a storage facility in Pomona and recovered about 75% of the items stolen from the students. CPD also found lab equipment stolen from the campuses and other items stolen from “skate shops” in Claremont and Pomona, as well as a methamphetamine lab. The suspects, who were residents of nearby cities, have been charged with “burglary”, “possession of materials to manufacture drugs” and “possession of stolen

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property" — all felonies.

- A senior staff person witnessed a hit and run accident at College Ave. and 4th St. involving a student, and called it in. An associate dean of the same campus saw the off-campus suspect flee and followed in his own vehicle while Campus Safety, paramedics and CPD responded. While the victim was being interviewed the dean called in the suspect vehicle location via cell phone until police units caught up with him in an adjacent city, apprehended the suspect and took him into custody.
- A student reported the theft of a mini-refrigerator. She put it outside to defrost last May and it was gone the next day.
- A student moving personal property in a container placed them on the curb near the dorm and went inside. When the student returned, in two minutes, the items valued at \$150 were gone.
- Safety officers reported student storage containers open with items unsecured nearby. Staff was notified to secure the items.
- A student reported the theft of a bicycle from one of the storage containers mentioned in the previous entry.
- Another student reported the theft of a monitor and refrigerator from one of the storage bins.
- A student building a projector mount was injured when a board fell and hit his head. He was transported to the hospital.
- A student's bicycle along with a helmet and repair kit was stolen from a gated area where it had been locked to a tree.
- A grounds supervisor reported a suspicious male subject on campus tennis courts. The subject jumped a fence and fled when he spotted a responding Safety officer. CPD was advised and they caught up with the subject who ran to the next city Metrolink lot where he was interviewed and identified. He was carrying a black case with a Gremlin guitar inside.
- CPD called Safety officers to the scene of an accident on a campus border in which a student practicing the hammer throw inadvertently threw the hammer over a fence onto a sidewalk upon which an off-campus female was walking. It hit her and she was

transported to the hospital with hip and rib injuries.

- CPD advised Safety officers of two juvenile females who had run away from a "home". A Safety officer spotted the two ten minutes later and notified CPD who took them into custody.
- Several students reported the theft of items taken from storage bins, directly to CPD following an initial report. Campus Safety does not have the details of those thefts .
- A student reported the theft of her unlocked bicycle, missing a front wheel, from a dorm basement.
- A student who suffered a head injury while diving was transported to a local hospital for treatment.
- A student reported seeing a 35 yr. old male subject removing bike wheels from bikes in a rack at one dorm. Officers responded and CPD was notified but the subject was not found. A half hour later another student at a different dorm also spotted a 35 yr. old male, light-skinned, about 5'10" and 170 lbs. looking over the student's bike while carrying a wheel on his arm. The subject was gone prior to the report.
- An anonymous person turned in a found wallet which was returned to the student who unknowingly dropped it on a campus street. However, \$96 was missing.
- AT 0113 hrs. a Safety officer reported seeing four nude males running past a dorm onto an adjacent campus.
- A custodian found a man's wallet in a men's room trash can. It was turned in to Campus Safety and returned to the victim. No further information available.
- A student reported that his vehicle was hit by another vehicle and that a witness saw the accident which caused minor damage. CPD was called. They identified the owner of the suspect vehicle, a student, who was called to the scene and was interviewed by CPD.
- A Safety officer found a purple mountain bike in the middle of a street at 0416 hrs. on 090701, and brought it to Campus Safety for safekeeping.
- A staff person reported the application of a bumper sticker on a personal vehicle as well as "global warming" written in dust on the window. The sticker referred to the SUV's

supposed contribution to the “warming” problem.

- At 2353 hrs. a student reported a group of off-campus male subjects disturbing residents and breaking things. The RA herded the uncooperative and combative group out and they left. Safety officers were UTL (unable to locate) the subjects.
- Students in an apartment suite reported traces of dog feces in their shared bathroom although they heard nothing and were there all day.
- At 2322 hrs. an RA reported a fight in a dorm hallway. An off-campus boyfriend of a student got into an altercation, including “pushing”, with students in the area. Officers reported that everybody involved had been drinking alcohol. The off-campus subject was escorted off campus.
- At 2359 hrs. an incoherent female student was transported to the hospital for alcohol poisoning.
- An RA reported another female student with alcohol poisoning. She was transported to the hospital.
- A faculty resident reported being physically accosted and harassed by intoxicated male and female students who were shouting profanities in the area of the residence.
- AT 0218 hrs. a fire alarm pull station in a dorm was activated. No fire.
- At 0225 hrs. an RA requested that an intoxicated male be escorted back to his campus. Safety officers called the paramedics and had the subject transported to the hospital for extreme intoxication.
- At 0200 hrs. a student heard glass break and saw male subjects leaving the area. Officers found a dorm lounge plate glass window broken. Clean-up and window boarding services were contacted to render appropriate service.
- AT 0251 hrs. officers were called for a fight in progress. They were advised that an unknown, intoxicated student attempted to start a fight with a group of students but all left the area upon the arrival of Safety officers.
- At 0415 hrs. CPD asked for address information for a known student whom they had arrested for “drunk in public”. The dean was advised.

- A student and an off-campus friend were found to have vandalized another student’s motorcycle. CPD was advised. The student perpetrator was subsequently found to have illicit knives which were confiscated. The dean’s office handled the follow-up.
- A contractor reported the theft of a \$10,000 portable welding machine and its trailer from a campus construction site over a weekend.
- Staff in a dining hall office reported the theft of computer related property as well as the theft of a CD player from a staff person’s locker.
- A student reported males in a van trying to sell speakers in the parking lot. (a recurrent illicit scam-type activity)
- A staff person and an off-campus person in vehicles collided at the intersection of a parking lot and a city street. No injuries but one vehicle was towed.
- Students reported other students smoking marijuana in a dorm. An RA was advised.
- A staff person reported being followed by someone in another vehicle from off-campus. He parked, reported his suspicions and described the vehicle. Safety officers saw the vehicle on an adjacent city street, driven by a young Hispanic male. It sped away, running a stop sign. CPD was notified.
- A department director reported the apparent theft of a personnel file by an outgoing employee. It was recovered.
- A student reported seeing the window of another student’s vehicle shattered and the car doors open. No further damage or theft was discovered.
- An electrical fire on a dining hall steamer table was extinguished by staff before LACFD arrived. LACFD checked the area.
- Two students in vehicles collided at an intersection when one turned in front of the other. No injuries. One vehicle was towed.
- A student’s cell phone and cologne was stolen. Entry was via a suitemate’s door.
- Staff at dining halls advised Safety of a Hispanic male subject about 5’9” with short, light-colored hair who has been harassing employees, including family, for money. He is known to drive a maroon Kia Sportage and a teal Ford Tempo, and has been ejected from campus multiple times over several years. It is

suspected that he may be sleeping in his vehicle in different campus locations.

- An anonymous person reported noisy, naked persons running toward academic buildings at 0117 hrs., during “quiet hours”. Safety officers spotted 4 males and 2 females entering an adjacent campus and advised them of quiet hours rules. They complied.
- At 0356 a Safety officer found a male and female asleep in sleeping bags on a sidewalk. They were checked against the student roster and were encouraged to return to their dorm.
- Staff reported the theft of a VCR from a language lounge in a dorm.
- An unlocked bike was stolen from outside of a second floor dorm room.
- Two checkbooks and a pair of sunglasses were stolen from an unlocked car.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- A hand-held tape recorder was stolen from an unlocked faculty office.
- A TV monitor was stolen from a department library.
- Staff reported damage to a bollard and a staff vehicle next to the library book drop.
- An RA reported a group of (possibly) intoxicated males standing outside of a dorm making lewd comments to female residents as they walked by. Safety officers were UTL.
- At 0011 hrs. a surveillance officer spotted two subjects in a parked SUV in a lot. They seemed to be ducking down when anyone walked by. Officers responded and found two Hispanic males who said they were students but then recanted the claim, saying that they had been invited to a party. That was confirmed and they left.
- At 0026 hrs. a Safety officer reported that an intoxicated student had put his fist through a window. He was treated by an RA.
- Dining hall staff reported that students had taped or pasted a picture of a senior staff person on the groin area of a wall mural figure with accompanying text saying: (among other things) “Wilhelm is Da Bomb”. Unknown damage estimate.
- On 091501 a female student reported that she received two prank calls, recorded on voice mail, from unknown males who delivered a muffled and somewhat unintelligible first

message in French followed by another message in accented English in which one male subject said: “The plane crashed on the World Trade Center — all together now — [three or more voices together] “The plane crashed on the World Trade Center, [one voice] ha ha ha ha. We are French and we don’t care about you. Goodbye. We are Islamic.” CPD and the Dean of Students were advised and a report was written.

- Over three thousand dollars worth of personal property including CD and DVD collections were stolen from an unlocked car parked in a theater parking lot for an hour.
- At 0200 an RA reported that a female student was semi-conscious with alcohol poisoning. Paramedics responded and the subject was transported to the hospital for care.
- An officer who responded to an intrusion alarm at an academic building found the room empty but a male subject seen earlier in the day was loitering nearby. The subject refused to identify himself or cooperate and left campus on foot. There was no sign of tampering at the site of the alarm.
- A female student reported that a male subject of student age knocked on her door and asked her, in the vernacular, whether he could have intercourse with her. She said “no” and secured the door. She advised that she knew of another female who had the same experience.
- A student was transported to a facility providing psychiatric care following possible suicidal self-injury behavior.
- A student reported receiving multiple calls from a woman with a British accent asking for “Mike Rotch”.
- A bike locked to a rack through the wheel spokes was stolen. The thief broke the spokes to release the bike.
- A student called from a campus emergency phone to report that her car was hit by another vehicle in “The Village”. It left the scene. She followed on foot, found the car parked near Harvard and Bonita, found the emergency phone, and had Safety Dispatch call CPD to handle the incident.
- A reported “stolen car” was found to have been towed by CPD because it was parked in somebody’s driveway.
- A bike locked with a cable lock was stolen from a dorm rack.

- After a TV was reported missing from an academic building, a staff person remembered talking to a male subject in mid-afternoon, who claimed the TV was his as he carried it out to his car.
- A student's bike, locked to a dorm rack by the front wheel was stolen, although the front wheel remained locked to the rack. Staff in the area saw an older white male about 5'9" in the area and found an old abandoned bike near the slot from which the bike had been stolen. CPD took the possible suspect bike into custody and wrote the crime report.
- A student's duffle bag, its contents and a hookah were stolen from under a chair outside of a dorm suite.
- At 0007 a student reported that he had been driving on the 60 freeway near the 15 freeway when a vehicle in the fast lane fired two or three bullets at him. His car had several bullet holes, one of which went through the driver's seat but did not hit him. The student notified the Calif. Hwy. Patrol of the suspect vehicle description and license number and CHP found the vehicle and pursued it to a home in Pomona where CHP arrested two suspects while two more were still barricaded in the home. Ultimately several CHP and other enforcement agencies participated in the activity and the report. They found bullet fragments in the vehicle.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from an academic building rack.
- An unlocked bike valued at \$470 was stolen from an administrative building rack within a 30 minute time frame in the early evening.
- A bike locked to a 2nd floor railing of a dorm with a cable lock was stolen between 1300 and 1700 hrs.
- A golf cart and a Honda Accord collided at the intersection of a parking lot driveway and the campus street. No injuries.
- An RA requested assistance with an unknown intoxicated male subject yelling, screaming, throwing things and kicking things. Safety officers determined that the subject was a guest of an absent student host but another student took responsibility for the subject and took him off campus.
- At 0045 a Safety officer saw a group of students driving a golf cart toward the village.

They fled, leaving the cart, which was taken to the Safety office for safekeeping.

- A bicycle found near a dorm was later discovered to have been stolen from another campus. It was returned to the owner.
- A professor reported the theft of a laptop computer and power supply from a faculty office, apparently during an organized building tour. A staff person reported seeing a suspicious black, male, middle-aged subject in a nearby lab with the lights out during the tour.
- A student reported the theft of a DVD player, Play Station and other electronic equipment from an unlocked dorm suite.
- Custodial staff reported students in a dining hall making a big mess of food and breaking furniture after a social event. A responding officer said students on a table may have been in a state of dishabille as well, but they dispersed without significant problems.
- An unlocked, \$300 mountain bike was stolen from a dorm stairwell.
- An unlocked women's bike was taken from a dorm exterior area.
- At 2336 hrs. on a Saturday, paramedics were called for a female suffering alcohol poisoning. She was transported to a health facility for treatment.
- A female student received a collage of magazine pictures and text which could be construed as having a pornographic connotation.
- \$25 in coins and a stuffed green frog wearing a white tutu were stolen from a student's room. No sign of forced entry.
- Someone reported two male subjects in army fatigues throwing water balloons at students. Safety officers were UTL.
- Two women on different campuses received multiple calls (within minutes of each other) from an unknown male belligerently asking for other unknown males regarding a drug deal or other illicit activity.
- Staff reported that someone passed a counterfeit "twenty" at a student snack bar.
- An employment application file was stolen from a dining hall office.
- Officers who heard loud explosions outside on the northwest side of the campus found a tree in a nearby residence backyard on fire from "hot" wires that fell following a

transformer explosion. CPD, LACFD and Edison responded.

- A student reported being harassed by a black male subject of 280 - 300 lbs and between 6' to 6'3" tall at a student center. He told her that women used his money to buy drugs. Safety officers were UTL the subject.
- At 0038 hrs. a Safety officer observed two male subjects with a patio umbrella. They were encouraged to return it to the dorm patio from which it came and they complied.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- Another cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- An RA reported seeing a suspect who harassed a female student the day before, at the same student center. Safety officers found the subject who refused to identify himself. CPD responded and interviewed the subject who was then arrested for possession of drugs. He had three individually wrapped baggies and a ziplock bag of marijuana as well as two knives, in his possession.
- beginning at 0124 hrs. an RA requested help with 2 intoxicated, under-aged, off-campus males in the company of a female student from another campus. Safety officer contacts with the subjects and the student included considerable dissembling and confusion regarding relationships, responsibility and acceptability of their presence on campus, as well as contacts with residence hall staff and on-call deans. At 0729 they were finally escorted off campus .
- A bike, locked by the front wheel to an admin. building rack was stolen, leaving the wheel still attached to the rack.
- A Safety officer discovered two students trying to break a 5 gallon Sparkletts bottle over a fire lane bollard.
- An RA reported that a fire extinguisher case glass window in a dorm was smashed.
- An RA requested assistance in dispersing an unruly group of students. One intoxicated male subject kicked the bike of a responding Safety officer. He was identified and the group dispersed.
- At 0304 hrs. Safety officers observed a group of males with open containers carrying a case of booze to a vehicle. Later, CPD officers

stopped the vehicle on campus. Unknown outcome.

- A fire alarm pull box was activated at 0332 hrs. A responding officer saw three males fleeing.

Crime Prevention Strategies / Tips

There is no secret to securing property against theft on a college campus, whether dorm room or office, etc. LOCK IT UP! Thieves do come to the campus and steal during the day and during the night.

- Use a U-Lock to secure your bike, capturing frame and at least one wheel to a strong rack or object.
- Lock your room or office when you leave.
- Lock your valuables (CD's, cash, jewelry, LAPTOP, etc.) in a lockable chest, safe, file cabinet, desk, etc.
- Close and lock windows when you leave.
- Never leave laptops, purses, CD cases, wallets, cell phones, keys, etc. lying about during social activities.
- Install/use an electronic alarm on your vehicle.
- Report unknown persons wandering in your work area or dorm. Say "hello" and ask whether you can help them find something. Their response may help you determine whether to call Campus Safety regarding suspicious activity.

September 2001 Statistics

Annoying Call	1
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	1
Arson	0
Burglary	12
Theft from Auto	2
Theft (bike)	14
Theft from building	1
Theft (other)	4
Grand Theft Auto	0
Trespass	1
Vandalism	2
Other	1

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