

# The Claremont Colleges

The Dept. of Campus Safety

September 2002

## August 2002 Crime and Incident Report

### Trends and Analysis

We are blessed with a really nice campus environment in a quiet town. The ambiance is one of serenity and safety. This tends to lull us into carelessness regarding our property and even of our personal safety. Thankfully, crimes against persons — robbery, assault, battery, sexual offenses — are rare. However, we are constantly being preyed upon by thieves who come onto these open campuses. Of course, we have Campus Safety officers patrolling 24 hours daily but much of their time is taken up by myriad calls for services including fire alarms, intrusion alarms, key services, noise complaints and rowdiness resulting from party activities and alcohol use.

That means, that every unlocked or propped dorm door, academic building entrance door, (after business hours) office door, unlocked bike, etc. is another opportunity for those thieves who are out there looking for just such opportunities.

It doesn't take much analysis to see that the crime trend here is to find the unlocked whatever and steal what's there. We can do something about that.

### Selective Incident Summary, Aug. 1 — 31, 2002

- At 0324 hrs., a Safety officer responded to an intrusion alarm at a facilities building and found the main entrance door ajar and the horn sounding. Claremont police officers in the area heard the alarm simultaneously and saw a vehicle leaving the parking lot. They confirmed the alarm with the Safety Dept. and stopped the vehicle while Safety Officers and other CPD officers checked the building, finding another door open. The stopped subjects said they were with a contracted maintenance company and had dropped off a contract in an envelope. They said they found the door open and set off the alarm when they entered. While searching the area for intruders officers were startled by a loud noise in adjacent trees but nobody was seen. A call to building staff confirmed that the maintenance company was legitimate, the doors were, evidently, left open inadvertently, and the noise in the trees was of a very large branch which fell crushing the top of a chain link fence. After confirming that the suspicious circumstances were coincidences, the building was secured.

- A student reported the theft of a chain-locked bike from an academic building rack.
- At 2354 hrs. a Safety officer observed a female and two male subjects who had been drinking alcohol enter a campus gateway. One of the subjects broke a bottle while in an argument with the female. The subjects left in different directions, refusing to cooperate with the officer who attempted to identify them.

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Other officers assisted and one of the males was found hiding in the bushes. Still, intractable, he was finally identified and was escorted off campus. The female was a dorm resident.

- At 0911 hrs. a dean observed four male subjects in a parking lot. One was urinating in the bushes. They were rude and uncooperative when approached by the dean and left before officers arrived.
- At 0530 hrs. a Safety officer found a local transient with a history of intrusions on the campus, sleeping in an earth house which had been posted with prohibitions against entering it. CPD responded and the subject was arrested for trespassing.
- A dorm resident reported that a roommate who had been drinking alcohol could not be awakened and needed to depart for scheduled air travel. Responding officers were unable to rouse the male subject but responding firemen and paramedics finally awakened him and no medical assistance was needed. He was not able to travel, however.
- A dorm fire alarm activated when a worker in the basement set his coffee cup on top of the annunciator panel and water from it leaked into the panel shorting the system.
- A female employee reported seeing two unknown Hispanic male subjects leaving the women's restroom of an academic building. One said "Oh, I'm just leaving" and they left. Officers were UTL .
- A former student, expelled for threatening violence against administrators and Safety officers "years ago" was seen on campus heading toward the dean's office. The subject had been arrested several times for a breach of a restraining order. Officers spoke to the dean who said the subject used profanity in his attempt to see the dean but left before officers arrived. CPD was advised.
- Staff reported the theft of a digital camera from an unlocked office in a supposedly locked academic building.
- A small TV was stolen from an unlocked academic building lounge.
- A campus administrator reported that his car was "keyed" while parked in a campus lot, or maybe at Burger King. A report was written.
- At 2245 hrs. a Safety officer reported that he tried to make contact with a group of

BMX bikers but one of them spat at him and made a denigrating, obscene comment before fleeing. CPD was notified.

- At 0043 hrs. officers checked an outdoor theater and found six male subjects and one female, mostly juveniles, drinking alcohol. All were uncooperative in identifying themselves. CPD responded and assisted and the subjects were then ejected from campus and left in three vehicles.
- Athletic facility office staff reported seeing five males climb a fence into a pool area. Officers identified them and were told, by the group that they had been playing basketball when taking a swim seemed like a good idea. They were advised of policy regarding having an official lifeguard in attendance. And, of course, the pool gate was locked.
- A laptop computer, valued at \$1500, in its case, along with a passport/visa, was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- A dean reported two white males, possibly inebriated, walking along shouting profane and derogatory comments about the women of that campus. Officers contacted and interviewed the subjects who said they were graduates of the college trying to visit friends. One, however, had previously been warned about trespassing in 1995. They were escorted off campus.
- Staff reported a suspicious subject in the center of a campus. An officer found an intoxicated male subject who had just been dismissed by an adjacent campus facilities department for appearing for duty while "under the influence". He had been sent by a "temp" agency. The subject headed for the bus stop but endangered himself in traffic, so, CPD responded and arrested him for public drunkenness for his own protection.
- CPD shut down the Dartmouth Ave. southbound lane from Foothill Blvd. at 1248 hrs. because of a traffic collision at that intersection, one of many in that location (perhaps, because of heavy cross traffic in two lanes for vehicles making left turns from Foothill, with no control arrow).
- Dean's office staff informed Campus Safety that a dorm storage area, used to store students' items over the summer, had been found with the door ajar twice.

- An employee reported the theft of a bike locked with a chain and lock to an admin. building bike rack.
- A female summer conference “camper” fainted. The conference nurse called LACFD via cell phone and the camper was transported to a local hospital. Neither conference staff nor Campus Safety were advised until LACFD had been dispatched.
- At 1802 hrs. an officer found two high school-aged males coming from a dorm area. He identified them and escorted them from campus.
- Officers found a group of approximately ten off-campus subjects in a circle on an outdoor theater stage. One of the subjects had previously been stopped for trespassing. The group was warned about trespassing on campus and was escorted off campus.
- A female “early arrival” student reported that a balding, male subject entered the dorm. When she confronted him he said that he was an alumnus from 1962 and then headed toward another cluster of dorms. Officers were UTL.
- A dorm professional staff person reported a car burglary in the lot near the residence. The window was smashed and the stereo stolen.
- A fire alarm at student cottages was caused by smoke from cooking. The alarm was reset when the smoke cleared.
- A Physical Plant employee reported a male subject about 65 yrs. old with a beard, carrying 2 plastic bags over his shoulder with a drill and a hole puncher showing through. The subject was headed off campus. CPD was notified and stopped the subject off campus. He was identified as a person frequently seen, stopped and arrested on campus over the years for theft and trespassing. The drill (grey and red Milwaukee) was confiscated by CPD until a victim can be located.
- A custodial supervisor reported that a dorm storage room had been broken into and a bike was found out in the hallway. It was returned to the storage room. Whoever entered the room had removed the hinge pins, allowing entrance through the door.
- Staff reported vandalism to the book drop bin at the library.
- Custodial staff reported the theft of a \$1200 scrubbing machine from a dorm.
- A campus facilities staff person spotted a suspicious male subject going back and forth from the campus to an area north of Foothill Blvd. and followed the subject while Campus Safety officers responded. The 25 – 30 yr. old white male with a beard, wearing a backpack, was then seen at a nearby gas station and CPD was notified. CPD officers contacted the subject after he hopped over a wall, and identified him. He had previously been stopped several times and had been arrested for burglary, on campus. Officers checked his backpack which seemed lighter than when he was first seen, but there were no stolen items in it.
- A student reported the theft of a laptop computer and other personal items from his locked dorm room. There were no signs of forced entry.
- While patrolling in a golf cart at 0620 hrs., an officer was chased out of a parking lot by a large raccoon.
- An officer spotted a male subject about age 40 behind an academic building at 1143 hrs. on a Saturday. The subject asked the officer if he smoked and when told “no” began walking away. The officer asked where he was heading and the subject said “to Foothill Blvd.” but headed south on Dartmouth. The officer followed until the subject then charged the officer, cursing and asking why he was being followed. CPD responded and assisted in identifying the homeless subject. He was warned about trespassing on campus and left.
- A student reported the theft of a bike from a storage room in a dorm basement from which the door hinges had been removed earlier in the month.
- Officers responded to a dorm fire alarm activated by a pull box. There was no sign of smoke or fire.
- Students reported a hostile and uncooperative off-campus male subject on a basketball court at 0011 hrs. Officers interviewed the subject who was initially uncooperative and fairly weird but he eventually was identified and warned about trespassing on campus and left in his vehicle.
- A student reported loud noise caused by a sprinkler hitting a chair at 0600 hrs. An officer determined that someone placed the chair over the broken sprinkler head to prevent water from shooting into the dorm leaving a choice of water

or noise until the sprinkler cycle ended. The chair was left in place.

- A student getting driving instructions from another student hopped the curb with the vehicle, almost striking a tree, while being observed by a Safety officer. The subjects were identified but no damage was discernable.
- Two visitors to the campus collided with each other in their respective cars while one exited a parking lot. Paramedics were called but injuries were minor and nobody was hospitalized.
- A hostile and uncooperative subject, interviewed by Safety officers days before, was again reported and was again interviewed. This time CPD officers assisted with the interview and the subject was warned about trespassing and escorted from campus.
- An officer found dorm access doors taped to prevent locking at 0147 hrs. The tape was removed.
- A woman visiting the campus with children had a diabetic seizure. Paramedics responded and she was transported to the hospital. Meanwhile, the children stayed at the Campus Safety station until their grandfather arrived to care for them.
- The license plates of a car parked near an academic building were stolen. At the instruction of CPD, the victim was referred to the DMV for replacement.
- At 2258 hrs. a student reported that a group of first year students with firecrackers were on an athletic field and one of the subjects threw a firecracker at her. Three groups left the field upon the arrival of officers and dispersed in different directions. The firecracker hurler was not identified.
- An employee reported illicit solicitors near a dorm. Officers found a Sparkletts water delivery person who was soliciting in the course of making a delivery. He was advised of policy and left.
- A female student reported that a black male, about 6'3", with long dreadlocks followed her and was bothering her. Officers responded to the area but were UTL. A dean had seen the subject near another building earlier.
- An RA reported that students in a white SUV were driving near a campus house harassing other students. Officers were UTL.

- A student dean reported a male subject at a party who was making female students uncomfortable. Officers checked an off-campus male subject wearing a backpack and in possession of a large screwdriver. He was escorted off campus by the officers.
- A student reported a suspicious male standing near her room door at 0159 hrs. Officers found an intoxicated male student who was in the right position but on the wrong floor. He was assisted to his room.
- An RA reported a dorm entrance door broken, probably by people yanking on it. A key shop technician was called out and repaired the door at 0400 hrs.
- An RA reported a naked man sitting on a bench near tennis courts. Responding officers were UTL.
- Officers responded to a report of four juveniles trying to break into a construction site and found a group of bikers with a video camera, knee pads and bike repair kits in their backpacks. They said they were just looking over the fence. They left in their vehicle.
- Over the course of the month there were, as usual, dozens of instances of illicit use of campus facilities by BMX bikers, skateboarders and rollerbladers doing trick riding and causing damage to walls, planter boxes, stairwell railings, etc. Most fled upon the arrival of officers. Some were interviewed and warned about trespassing.

## Crime Prevention Strategies / Tips

It's very important — this is especially for new students who have not heard us rail about bicycle and laptop computer security — to form good security habits regarding these items.

### BICYCLES

- Get a good quality U-lock. (\$40 price range) “Our” thieves are equipped with bolt cutters which readily cut cables, padlocks and small chains and, sometimes, entry level U-locks.
- Always capture at least one wheel AND the bike frame in the lock loop along with the bike rack member.
- NEVER lock the bike only by the front wheel.
- NEVER lock the bike only to itself. (wheel to frame but not to the rack)
- NEVER leave the bike unlocked, anywhere in the open — even “for just a minute”.
- NEVER lock the bike to a sapling or chain link fence fabric or vines, or other things which can be severed with a hacksaw.
- If you lock the bike to a street sign, etc. make sure it can’t be lifted over the top to release it.
- If you lock your bike to a handicapped access ramp rail expect it to be removed by the campus maintenance department. Besides it’s very inconsiderate of those using the ramp who find their passage with wheelchairs, etc. blocked.
- If you lock your bike to any kind of handrail (not recommended) at least put it on the OUTSIDE so pedestrians and/or carts, wheelchairs, etc. can pass.
- If you lock your bike by frame only to a rack, there is still the possibility of losing one or both wheels, especially if you have quick-release hubs. Use a cable lock to supplement your U-lock to capture the wheels if you’re not willing to take a wheel off and put everything together so the lock will capture all of the parts.
- To deter wheel theft replace the quick-release hubs with a standard nut which requires a wrench, and more time, to remove.
- If you have especially good removable equipment (seat, shifters, light, speedometer, etc. ) take them with you in your backpack when you park the bike. For the seat — consider removing the quick release device and replace with a clamp and bolt/nut.
- **Register the bike with Campus Safety. For \$2 we will issue a Calif. bike license sticker for the bike and keep a record on campus.** This enables our officers to identify

the owner of bikes found in the possession of bike theft suspects and will result in its return to you if found somewhere else or recovered by the police. (Plus, it is somewhat of a deterrent to theft.)

- If you don’t have a bike yet but are going to get one — consider getting an old “clunker” and minimize your potential losses.

### LAPTOP COMPUTERS

- Find a strong, securable chest, box, cabinet, desk, etc. to put it in when not in use — ideally, a container which will allow for “charging” at the same time. Some safes are available for that purpose. Check the internet or the yellow pages.
- NEVER leave the laptop by itself on/in a table, desk, cubicle, etc. at the library, bookstore, dining hall, open dorm room, classroom, lecture hall, restroom.

## August 2002 Crime Statistics

### Crimes Against Persons

annoying call	0
assault	0
assault w/deadly weapon	0
disturbance	1
hate incident	0
indecent exposure	0
prowling	0
rape	0
robbery	0
sexual assault	0
other	0

### Crimes Against Property

Arson	0
burglary	5
theft (from vehicle)	2
theft (bike)	3
theft (from building)	0
theft (other)	0
grand theft auto	0
trespass	1
vandalism	1
other	0

Arrests	2
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