

The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety

August 2002

June / July 2002 Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

This summer summary of activity should also be a forewarning. The kinds of crimes noted here will be expanded during the school year. In this reporting period of two months, eight bikes were reported stolen. There were probably more stolen from storage areas that we don't know about yet. We have a slight increase in vehicle related crimes and an abundance of theft crimes in which buildings, rooms, windows, vehicles, and bikes have been left unlocked resulting in thefts. High risk items continue to be bikes, laptop computers, cell phones, CD's, cash, jewelry, and credit cards.

Out of a total of 26 crime reports, 23 were some form of theft. (Thankfully, there were no crime reports involving crimes against persons in this period.)

We can assume thieves come to the campus with 1. the motivation to steal and 2. have the rudimentary tools to carry out their plans. We have potential control of "opportunity", the third element of the crime

triangle. Clearly, we need to do more to offset the obvious predation efforts by thieves. Perhaps the first step is to realize that there are people out there who come here to prey on us. A quick review of the following incidents should divulge that and provide the motivation for us to secure our personal property and that of the institutions.

Selective Incident Summary, June 1 — July 31

- CPD dispatch advised Campus Safety of a barebacked subject with tattoos and a shaved head riding a bike onto campus. Safety officers observed the subject near an athletic facility where he tried to evade the officers. He was interviewed but gave a false name until CPD assisted and obtained correct identifying information. The subject was then released after being warned of trespassing policy, but ran a stop sign in front of CPD and was arrested.
- At 0255 hrs. an officer saw two male subjects, later identified as alumni, throwing beer bottles near a dorm. They were warned to desist and complied.
- A student reported the theft of a cell phone, CD's and a sack of quarters from a dorm room between 1600 — 2000 hrs. on a Saturday. (total value: \$3075.00)
- A FAX machine was stolen from an unlocked basement area of a student center.
- A tutor reported the theft of a high school student's backpack with books and school supplies from a classroom inside of a campus athletic facility.
- Staff reported the possibility of a fire in the computer section of the religious center and

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evacuated the building. IT technicians determined that a computer "shorted out", briefly blazed and smoked.

- Students reported the presence of a male subject banned from the campus in a dorm. The room tenant found the subject in his room and ejected him. Officers were UTL.
- A student reported that a tree trimming crew started their day at 0600 hrs., awakening the whole dorm for three straight days. A complaint was lodged with the facilities dept. on campus. (local ordinances prohibit such activity before 0800 hrs.)
- A renovation crew working on the 3rd floor of a dorm activated a smoke detector by cutting metal wall studs with a power saw. The dorm was evacuated.
- A student reported a man with a dog looking at bike racks. A responding officer saw the subject looking at racks on an adjoining campus and stopped and interviewed him. He objected to being restricted by trespass statutes since he was a frequent visitor on campus and was merely curious about the bike racks, and had been visiting a senior staff person prior to the stop. After some discussion CPD units were called to assist and the subject left campus. He later sent letters, objecting to the "stop" to senior staff and administrators.
- Campus administrators found out that an employee had died when a relative of the employee, in Arizona, called CPD saying that they had been notified by a coroner's office here. CPD was unable to confirm the death, apparently through confusion in the coroner's office, until many hours later, when the family was notified of the confirmation of the death, which had been caused by a traffic accident locally.
- A burnt pot pie activated a dorm fire alarm at 1933 hrs.
- At 2325 hrs. a student reported hearing vehicle noises outside of a dorm. Responding officers found that a fork lift vehicle had been stolen from a parking lot and in the course of a joyride had uprooted and broken off a tree and two street signs before being abandoned in the street.
- Officers checking outdoor theater and garden areas found groups in each area entertaining themselves with liquor or beer. One

group left before contact could be made, leaving a fire burning in a fire pit and an almost empty ½ gal. of Jack Daniels. Another fire was found in the other area where four of the five in attendance were asked to leave and complied.

- A Safety officer observed a male subject in a van with a bike parked next to it at 0940 hrs. The subject exited the van and left on the bike, disappearing. The van appeared to be the residence of the subject who had previously been stopped and warned about trespassing.
- Two local residents reported to CPD that they had seen two Hispanic male juveniles and one white male juvenile removing a bike from a campus admin. building rack leaving the locked front wheel. They carried the bike off while riding mountain bikes.
- An employee reported an adult male wandering around near a dining hall talking to himself. Officers found an intoxicated subject who refused to identify himself. CPD assisted and found the subject to be a resident of Pomona. He was warned about trespassing and left on foot.
- A Safety officer found two unlocked bikes and one cut cable near a dorm bike rack. The officer brought the bikes to the station for safekeeping.
- At 0109 hrs. officers found a male subject sleeping in the parked van that had been observed earlier in the week. Officers awakened the subject later in the morning, warned him about trespassing and provided assistance to get his vehicle started so he could leave the campus. He complied.
- An officer found a bike, locked to itself, in the bushes near student apartments. It was brought to the station for safekeeping.
- An off-duty Safety officer reported six students on a golf cart with beer heading north. Responding officers saw the cart headed east but encountered several other persons seemingly fishing by hand in a Koi pond and stopped to interview them. They were students who said that their frisbee went into the pond and they were retrieving it. Meanwhile the golf cart and occupants disappeared.
- A student lost control of a car and ran off the street and over a few shrubs, missing a fire hydrant nearby. A towing company pulled the car from the bushes and fixed a flattened tire.

- A facilities director saw some unknown men loading copper wire into a truck from a campus storage area. They said they had permission. He had them unload their load and they left. Later, it appeared that some wire was still missing. CPD was advised and given the license number and the name of the driver, from his driver's license, that the director obtained.
- Facilities staff reported a broken fence enclosure in which bikes and a boat are stored. It appeared that one bike was missing.
- Staff reported that a female using a pool facility had a seizure and was unconscious. Officers responded and found the subject conscious. Paramedics responded and she was transported to a local hospital.
- Police from a visiting high school having graduation ceremonies in a campus auditorium reported a fight inside. Safety officers and CPD responded but the School's Police already had the suspect in custody.
- A student called from out-of-state to report that approx. 100 CD's had been stolen from her room before she left for home.
- A volunteer worker in a campus garden reported that he and four other workers were approached by 3 white males and one native American male who were all intoxicated, the previous night. They got into an altercation with the garden workers and left, but smashed the sun roof of a white Honda Civic parked in the adjacent lot while exiting the area.
- There were scores of reports and sightings of juveniles on skates, bikes or skateboards "stunting" on campus facilities. Some were stopped and interviewed — most fled upon the appearance of an officer.
- A summer conference coordinator reported that a person from last year's conference who had sent threatening e-mail messages to staff had returned to the conference briefly then left. Safety officers and CPD were informed of the situation.
- The rear wheel was stolen from a bike locked to a dorm rack.
- Staff reported a slender male subject with facial hair riding a bike back and forth in the area where summer conference children were attending classes. Officers were UTL.
- At 0835 hrs. a fire alarm was activated in an administrative building when toast was burnt.
- A regional power outage caused by a fire in the Cajon Pass affected the campus until the campus generators were activated. Notification to key personnel was extremely difficult and delayed because the Safety office was inundated with telephone inquiries, "tying up" all of the phones and the dispatcher on duty.
- A female summer program dorm resident reported that young male subjects were pounding on her room door and trying to enter the shower while she was in it. Safety officers checked the entire dorm and continued extra patrol at night.
- Conference staff reported that a vending machine in a dorm lobby had been broken into but most of the food items were still there. He emptied and stored the items pending repair and a crime report was prepared.
- At 0250 hrs. young women from Girls State summer conference were awakened by a white male pounding on their dorm doors and looking in the windows. He told them he was a student who previously lived there. The women called the Claremont Police who coordinated with Campus Safety in searching for the suspect. He was not found and officers then patrolled the area until daylight to ameliorate the women's trepidation at the request of their counselors.
- Someone reported a vehicle illicitly driving in a campus wilderness area at 0133 hrs. Officers checked three high school students from Montclair in a 1975 Dodge. They were given a trespass warning and left.
- A student in cottage housing reported that someone threw a balloon filled with liquid which damaged a window. Officers found the window off the track and no damage done from the water balloon.
- [end of June entries]
- A student reported the theft of his bike from a dorm rack between 0800 — 0900 hrs. . It was locked with a cable lock.
- At 0822 hrs. grounds staff found a white male sleeping in the bushes under a tree near a garden. The responding officer talked to the off-campus male subject and to a female graduate of that campus and another female friend who were working in the garden. They were advised of policy regarding camping out in the area.

- A student's bike, locked to a handrail with a chain and padlock was stolen. The chain was cut.
- A dorm fire alarm activated at 0931 hrs. when someone burned food in a kitchenette.
- Safety officers on patrol found a male off-campus subject sunbathing, wearing a thong in a grassy outdoor theater area and advised him of campus policy regarding trespassing.
- Staff reported finding feces in a swimming pool. It was cleared from the pool but the health dept. closed the pool down for 24 hours preventing swim program activities for the period.
- A dorm resident reported a hit-and-run accident to his vehicle parked in nearby lot. CPD took a crime report.
- Officers reported that unknown persons have begun construction of a below grade earthen, igloo-type building in an organic garden location. Windows are installed and mud stuccoing has begun. The dean's office was informed.
- A thief smashed a window and reached in to steal a computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse and docking station from an outlying campus academic building. CPD responded to "dust" for prints.
- A professor reported a suspicious black, male, approx. age 20, walking around inside of an academic building where there have been recent burglaries. When the subject saw the professor he quickly left the building and fled. Safety officers responded and CPD was notified but all were UTL. (unable to locate)
- At 1801 hrs. a female lifeguard reported that a white male and a black male were threatening and intimidating persons at the pool, swinging a baseball bat at them. They fled, but Safety officers caught them in two different locations in The Village and CPD responded. The subjects who initially gave false names, had "ditched" the bat, but it was found by a Safety officer and CPD arrested both subjects.
- Tenants in a dorm reported people igniting fireworks on the balconies. Officers UTL.
- A large branch fell from a tree, landing on a parked car, causing significant damage. Appropriate notifications were made.
- Two people stuck in an elevator called Campus Safety, who in turn, notified maintenance on the campus and the people were extricated.
- Two large branches fell from trees near a dorm, causing damage to the dorm roof and rain gutter and temporary fencing nearby.
- An officer stopped a male subject previously stopped several times for trespassing. The subject was interviewed again and escorted from campus.
- A local citizen reported an obnoxious male subject walking a Doberman on campus without a leash. She said that he frequently does this and responds disrespectfully when told to leash his dog. Officers were UTL.
- A female reported a group of unknown males in a white SUV driving back and forth on a city street near dorms making rude comments to females in the area. Officers UTL.
- At 0059 hrs. a student reported that his car door had been opened and the ash tray also opened but nothing was missing.
- A dining hall manager reported smoke coming from an ice machine. LACFD began responding while employees put the fire out with an extinguisher. LACFD ordered the electricity to be turned off at the facility until the cause of the fire was investigated.
- Another summer conference attendee reported a silver SUV driving past residence halls with a bunch of guys yelling "bad words" out of the window. Officers were UTL.
- An employee reported the theft of a CD "boom box" from a dorm lounge.
- A female reported the theft of her unlocked bike from a second floor dorm hallway within a 13 minute time frame. A safety officer found the bike near a different dorm and spoke to an employee who saw a Hispanic male about 5'10", 180 lbs. first driving a white bike then later driving the victim's blue bike. Neither the white bike nor the suspect were found.
- A female calling from an emergency phone at 0226 hrs. reported an injured female in a parking lot. Responding Safety officers found the unconscious, very seriously injured woman and had LACFD paramedics respond. The woman was transported via helicopter to USC Medical Center. Days later the Safety Dept. was advised that the woman, a conference

attendee, died of her injuries. CPD is investigating.

- A student reported the theft of a bike left in his care. It had been cable-locked to a dorm rack.
- Officers reported several incidents in which unknown persons were seen inside of an earth house which had been ruled uninhabitable by both the City and the Campus. They left before being identified.
- There were multiple instances of skateboarders or BMX bikers using campus facilities for trick riding, invariably causing damage to walls, planter boxes, ramps, handrails, etc. Some were stopped and interviewed and warned about trespassing and others fled.
- A dorm resident reported the theft of his cell phone from an unlocked dorm room.
- Paramedics responded for a conference attendee suffering severe abdominal pain. She was transported via ambulance to a local hospital.
- Grounds staff reported the theft of a \$480 gas hedge trimmer from a utility cart.
- A conference attendee reported the theft of a cell phone, clothing and CD's valued at \$1610 from a dorm room. Access was through an unlocked window.
- Thieves cut a gate lock and entered a biological field station, then traversed the station, cutting a hole in a fence into an adjacent botanical garden. There they stole tools and construction equipment. CPD took a report.
- Summer staff reported that a temporary steel storage bin padlock had been cut and stored student property has been taken but, at this time, just what is missing is unknown.
- A dorm resident reported the theft of a personally owned TV/VCR from an unlocked dorm suite.
- Staff reported the theft of a college-owned station wagon from a dorm parking lot. There is a time frame of 8 days.
- A Safety officer reported seeing a male subject in a parking lot evading him then fleeing eastbound on a city street in a blue and white GMC while another male carrying two backpacks and wearing a fisherman's hat headed north. Neither was located.
- Staff reported the theft of a substantial amount of copper cable from a chain link enclosure on an outlying campus. A crime report was written. Value — \$2300. Days later, another attempt was made to enter the enclosure but entry was not gained.
- Two off-campus subjects, a male and female, with no previous contact with Campus Safety were found in an organic garden area. They were warned about trespassing and left.
- Custodians reported seeing a white male, medium build, exit a bike storage room in a dorm basement pushing a black bike. Safety officers and CPD officers responded to the area but the subject was gone. Maintenance was advised of the storage room door that was damaged by the apparent thief.
- A student reported the theft of a cable-locked bike from an academic building rack.
- A \$1000 mountain bike frame/rear wheel assembly was stolen after the thief cut two cable locks. The front wheel, locked with a u-lock, remained locked attached to the dorm rack.
- A bike, locked by the frame with a U-lock had the front wheel stolen.
- Someone smashed the window of a parked Camry and rummaged through the glove box. Nothing was taken.
- A summer conference attendee was found unconscious in a dorm room after drinking a bottle of Jack Daniels. He was transported to a hospital for alcohol poisoning.
- A fire alarm activated and the dorm was evacuated after noxious smoke from a plastic bottle spread through the hallways. The bottle, in a kettle on a kitchenette stove, may have been in the process of being defrosted when the water in the kettle evaporated and the plastic burned. Safety officers and the LACFD responded.
- A campus conference coordinator informed Campus Safety that an unknown male in his early 20's with large sideburns was attempting to sell alcohol and drugs to minors on campus. Officers were UTL.
- The window of a parked truck was smashed during daylight hours, but nothing was stolen. The victim surmised that the burglar alarm which was sounding when she found it, scared a thief away.

- Staff reported that someone placed a small magnet in the locking mechanism of an academic building room, preventing the lock from functioning properly. Safety officers provided extra patrol of the area.
- A Safety officer spotted a white male subject riding a bike carrying another bike, headed off-campus. CPD was notified and did see the subject but he eluded them.
- Safety officers encountered a group of 60 — 100 youthful subjects drinking alcohol in an outdoor theater area. They dumped the alcohol and fled, most going to dorms on an adjacent campus. The conference coordinator was advised.
- At 0338 hrs. an officer approached two males in a dorm courtyard. They fled.
- An officer found a trash can with a laptop computer and numerous software items in it, near the Campus Safety station. It was taken to the station for safekeeping.
- Someone reported seeing two males and one female digging a hole near an administrative building. Officers found two shovels and a pitchfork near a hole but the subjects were gone. A groundskeeper said someone dug a hole there last week too.
- A thief entered a car via an unlocked passenger side door and stole cell phones, a purse, credit cards, cash and other items. CPD was notified and “dusted” for prints. The thief left a pair of sunglasses inside.
- An officer found two off-campus subjects in an outdoor theater area. He identified them and gave them a trespassing warning.
- Two subjects riding bikes were found in the outdoor theater area by an officer. They were identified and warned about trespassing on private property.
- At 0025 an intrusion alarm and surveillance camera disclosed three juveniles in a campus pool. An officer made contact and escorted them away.
- An officer observed an off-campus male walking away from a pool in which the intrusion alarm activated. The subject was uncooperative in identifying himself to Safety officers as well as to responding CPD officers and was arrested for trespassing.
- At 0108 hrs. someone reported two white males “hanging out” near a campus fish pond.

Officers identified the off-campus subjects and advised them of campus policy regarding trespassing.

- A Physical Plant employee reported a white male trying to get into a vehicle trunk with a shovel. Officers talked to the subject who was a student trying to enter his own vehicle. CPD officers responded and were able to assist the student.

Crime Prevention Strategies / Tips

Let's get back to the basics!

- For safety as well as theft prevention, always lock dorm room doors — carry your key with you, even to the shower.
- Always lock your bike. Always! Use a u-lock, not a cable only. At a minimum, capture the frame and one wheel and the rack in the lock enclosure.
- Never leave your laptop computer unsecured. When it's not in your hand it should be inside of a secure vault, enclosure, closet, cabinet, footlocker, etc.
- Install and/or use a vehicle alarm on your vehicle. They do work to discourage both radio or personal property theft as well as theft of the vehicle itself.
- Do not leave valuables such as CD's in plain sight in your vehicle. A case full of \$12 CD's can be “quite a haul” for an enterprising thief. Likewise, cell phones, laptops, etc.
- Exterior doors should not be propped. If you see doors propped you should remove the prop. (usually a stone, can, mat, trash can, or something stuffed into the bolt hole of the lock.)
- Question people who seem to have no business where they are. If they still seem suspicious call Campus Safety right away. (ext. 7-2000)
- Don't forget to secure your windows when you leave. A screen is no security.
- Never leave keys lying about in offices or dorms.

June 2002 Statistics

Crimes Against Persons

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

Crimes Against Property

arson	0
burglary	4
theft (from vehicle)	0
theft (bike)	3
theft (from building)	0
theft (other)	0
grand theft auto	0
trespass	0
vandalism	0
other	0

July 2002 Statistics

Crimes Against Persons

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

Crimes Against Property

Arson	0
burglary	3
theft (from vehicle)	2
theft (bike)	5
theft (from building)	4
theft (other)	1
grand theft auto	1
trespass	1
vandalism	1
other	1 *
ARRESTS	3

* hit-and-run

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The Dept. of Campus Safety
The Claremont Colleges
251 E. 11th St.
Claremont, Ca. 91711

On campus phone: 7-2000
From off campus: 909 621-8170
FAX : 909 621-8596

E-mail: johnt@cuc.claremont.edu

Web page:

www.cuc.claremont.edu/cs/