

# The Claremont Colleges

Dept. of Campus Safety, ext. 7-2000

June 2002

## May 2002 Crime and Incident Report

### Trends and Analysis

Of those items in the following incident summary, there were 29 reported as *crimes*. Meaning: that a "police report" was written and sent to the police dept. for investigation (as opposed to "deans reports" or "log entries" which do not go to the police). Of the 29 crimes, 26 occurred on four of the undergraduate campuses somewhat in proportion to the campus population. Of the 29 crimes, 25 were some kind of theft. (i.e., "burglary," "theft from auto," "bike theft," "theft from building")

There was only one incident reported as a "crime against persons" (for which we should be grateful)

Our arrest rate continues to be higher than "normal" — at six for this month. Five male subjects were arrested for theft related offenses and one was on an outstanding warrant. As previously mentioned, stopping crime by arresting culprits is a good thing but there are more than enough thieves to

take advantage of unsecured or poorly secured property no matter how many we stop.

### Selective Incident Summary May 1 — 31, 2002

- Two vehicles parked in a campus lot were damaged by a branch fallen from a city-owned tree. Owners and appropriate officials were notified.
- A student reported a male subject "casing" the bike racks near a dorm. Officers interviewed the 6' 5", 210 lbs. male subject w/beard & mustache, and advised him to stay off of the campuses.
- Video games and CD's valued at more than \$600 belonging to two student suitemates were stolen from a dorm room overnight.
- Two females approaching students with religious materials were interviewed by Safety officers and were asked to leave campus.
- A student's skateboard was stolen from outside of a dining hall.
- The license plate of a student's car, parked in a campus lot, was stolen.
- A professor reported the theft of a \$1600 computer from an academic building office.
- Students reported a group of students and "alums" drinking and throwing cans and bottles down from the balcony of a dorm. After a period of discussion with officers following continued complaints the subjects left campus.
- A detective from the Brea Police Dept. advised that they had arrested a subject in possession of a column with a sundial mounted on it. The subject told them that he was planning to return it to one of the colleges from which it was stolen three years ago. The

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detective was referred to the college administration.

- Staff reported the theft of a golf cart.
- At 0005 hrs., following a party, someone reported that an alumnus had a severe hand laceration and needed attention. Officers found the subject and notified paramedics who transported him to a local hospital for treatment. Evidently, he fell while carrying a glass alcohol container.
- Officers found two students driving a golf cart at 0120 hrs. and identified them. The cart belonged to a college department.
- At 0355 hrs., a student reported a white male with a mustache walking away from the campus carrying a skateboard. Safety officers were unable to follow off campus but advised CPD who were UTL the subject.
- At 0415 hrs., a student reported a female student screaming and crying. Officers found the hysterical subject and notified campus officials and CPD and LACFD. The student was transported to a local hospital.
- At 0608 hrs., a female student reported that she saw an unknown white male, non student wandering in the dorm. She had her boyfriend escort the subject out. Officers were UTL.
- Staff reported substantial vandalism to a tent set up for a special event. The tent had been guarded by Safety officers overnight but there was a gap between the end of the guard detail and the arrival of staff. All of the guy ropes and some other fasteners were severed and the tent roof had been slashed.
- At 0734 hrs., a female student reported that she awakened and saw an unknown male standing in her room. He fled. Officers were UTL.
- Overexertion and hyperventilation resulted in a female student passing out in the doorway of a dining hall. She was transported by paramedics to a local hospital.
- Safety officers responding to an alarm found two students in a pool with kayaks. They were escorted out.
- Two alumnae were advised of pool policy regarding lifeguards and were escorted from a pool on a Saturday afternoon.
- An RA reported subjects on the roof of a dorm. Officers found a male and female who were told to get back inside and complied.

- Someone reported that the driver of a pick-up truck lost control and hit a curb and perhaps something else. Officers found a truck with underside damage and the truck axle lying in the street. The vehicle belonged to a student. No further action was taken.
- At 2312 hrs., off-campus residents called to complain of loud music from a campus outdoor theater venue. The DJ was warned, but continued complaints resulted in CPD issuing a warning, later followed by their shutting down of the party.
- A female student reported being verbally abused, physically intimidated and harassed by an intoxicated male student in a beer line. CPD and the dean were advised and interviewed the victim. No criminal charges were initiated.
- Safety officers, CPD, LACFD and ambulance services responded to a report of two students who were intoxicated and vomiting. The female of the two birthday celebrants was transported to a local hospital for alcohol poisoning.
- An intoxicated alumnus borrowed a bike, rode it the length of the dorm and smashed it. With a Safety officer on the scene, the "alum" agreed to "cover" the damages.
- A student who left his unlocked room at 0250 hrs. and returned at 0400 hrs. discovered his laptop computer, video games, CD's and other property stolen. CPD responded to take a report because of the high value of the items stolen.
- A female student received a phone call from an unknown male who said she had a beautiful voice and wondered what she was doing. He "hung up" when she responded by having her boyfriend take the call. Her roommate also had an unnerving experience when she exited the shower expecting only her roommate to be in the room and found an unknown white male, approx. 5'8", medium build with spiked hair who acted drunk and as if he were in the wrong room. They are now keeping the dorm door locked.
- CPD advised Campus Safety of loud noise complaints they were receiving. Safety and police officers found about 10 males with "open containers" in a garden area with a loud music system playing. There were also 2 Rottweilers and a pit bull running loose.

Appropriate temperance measures were initiated and the dean was advised.

- CPD responded to another nearby noise complaint and, with Safety officers present, found a group of "alums" and students on a softball field. A "first warning" was issued by CPD to a responsible spokesman for the group.
- Again, on the same night, CPD responded for a noise complaint. This time, students and alumni were dismantling the stage and loading equipment from an event and were, apparently, making a lot of noise in the process.
- Custodial staff reported that broken glass from two framed posters and some blood were found on the floor of a women's team locker room. Nobody had any additional information.
- The door of a Honda Civic belonging to a student was pried in an apparent burglary attempt.
- A dining hall employee reported the theft of \$300 in cash from the pocket of a jacket that had been hanging on an office door.
- A male student reported that his ex-girlfriend, whom he had accused of vandalism in a previous incident, entered his room and poured a cup of hot tea on him.
- An RA, a student and the student's mother got into an altercation in a dorm when the RA was trying to handle a minor discipline matter. The dean was notified and handled the situation.
- Someone observed a group of 6 - 8 students who left an event at a social room and kicked sprinkler heads as they passed. Two sprinklers were damaged.
- At 0749 hrs. , on a Tuesday, a student reported that he had seen a white male subject with glasses and shoulder length hair enter a wooded, brushy area on a campus perimeter with a handgun. The Safety office notified CPD which sent units and called for helicopter support from nearby police dept's. Nearby dorms were cleared and oncoming traffic was rerouted while the area was "swept" by police officers and the helicopter. Meanwhile the deans of adjacent colleges were advised of the activity and some responded to the area. The subject with the gun was not found. Later, there was some speculation that the subject may have been a student with a paint ball gun.

- CPD took a hit-and-run report on a vehicle that was damaged while parked in a campus lot.
- A residence hall professional staff person reported the presence of flyers referring to someone sleeping in an outdoor area with a BB gun threatening to shoot students. The tongue-in-cheek message was thought to be a bad prank referring to a previous day's police "sweep" of an outdoor area for a suspect with a gun.
- A Safety officer inside an art museum reported seeing two males dressed in black wearing black beanies posting stickers with cryptic messages on courtyard walls, including a final sentence of: " Mufti leaves no remark."
- Several complaints of very loud music led to an event where three bands were playing. The organizer was advised to reduce the volume. Additional complaints kept coming and CPD ultimately issued a warning citation.
- A bike locked by the front wheel with a U-lock to a dorm rack was stolen, leaving the wheel still locked to the rack.
- Loud music emanating from an outdoor theater area caused a response by Safety officers, CPD officers, and the on-call dean before CPD finally shut the party down after a sofa was thrown into a fire pit.
- An officer found two students looking at an apparently abandoned golf cart. They said they found it in the bushes. Safety officers found the cart steering broken but otherwise secured the cart. It was later found to have been stolen from Claremont Manor, a retirement facility.
- Staff reported the vandalism of a golf cart. The charging plug was torn off when the miscreants drove away without unplugging the charger but they couldn't get outside of the fence enclosure and abandoned it inside.
- Staff reported the theft of another golf cart. This cart was later found abandoned after it was used to ram a fence and knock over a light standard.
- Two subjects were arrested for burglary and possession of burglary tools after a professor observed the subjects checking out LCD projectors in a classroom. (They cut a security padlock. ) He described the subjects

and attempted to get their direction of travel. Safety officers responded and notified CPD. Safety officers followed the two who split up after giving each other hand signals from the building they were in. They later met at a nearby parked vehicle where they were stopped by Safety officers and arrested by CPD.

- At 0250 hrs. , an unknown male who, with friends, broke into a pool enclosure to swim, reported that a rat fell into the pool and he wanted Safety officers to get it out. A Safety officer responded and found a drowned rat but the students were gone.

- At 0259 students reported yelling coming from outside of a dorm. An officer found a drunk male student on the roof. With residence hall staff, the officer escorted the subject down and into his bed. He then fell out of bed and hit his head. Paramedics were called and the subject was transported to a local hospital.

- An officer saw a male subject who appeared to be casing bike racks and stopped him. The subject, who told several different stories and was very belligerent and uncooperative, was finally identified as a part-time assistant in a class two days per week.

- Safety officers and the dean's office confiscated a sword from a student's work area. It will be held for safekeeping.

- A student reported that 12 library books which were in his backpack were stolen from his room.

- An officer found three male students driving a utility cart at 0312 hrs. He identified them and escorted them and the cart back to its parking place.

- In a traditional senior celebration, up to 15 women students wandered through several campuses intoxicated, nude and seminude and splashed in fountains, etc. before returning to their home campus, carefully watched throughout by Safety officers to insure their safety.

- A student in a plane enroute to San Francisco reported that she left her purse near a campus fountain. Safety found staff who had safeguarded the purse and advised the student whom to contact.

- A student reported that male subjects in an olive green car passed by and squirted her sister in the face with a Super Soaker. Officers were UTL.

- A female student who went "down the hall" to a friend's room to watch a movie, closed her door and turned off the lights. She heard someone pass quietly in the hallway and peered out, seeing her room door open and the lights on. She approached her room and found a white male, 5'9", about age 30 - 35 with curly dark hair, wearing dark framed glasses, carrying a white plastic bag, going through her underwear drawers. When he saw her he charged at her and she fled back to the friend's room and called Safety. CPD took a burglary report. The subject, who was sweating profusely, apparently, took some of the underwear.

- A pizza delivery person reported that someone, perhaps 3 high school-aged subjects that he saw, stole pizza and \$35 from his car while he was making a dorm delivery.

- A student reported the theft of a cell phone from a purse left in a classroom.

- At 0112 hrs., a Safety officer identified four students who had ignited a fire in a trash can in a dorm courtyard. They extinguished the fire.

- Two cell phones were stolen from a Lexus after the vehicle window was smashed.

- A female employee reported a suspicious male who rode onto campus with an old bike and was now leaving with a newer bike. Safety officers responded and notified CPD. The subject was stopped by CPD off campus and was arrested for the theft of the bike, in his case, a felony, because of prior convictions. The bike had been left unlocked near an academic building.

- A student reported the theft of a backpack from a dorm lobby between 1015 and 1025 hrs. Inside the backpack were cash, other items and a Dell computer, for a total value of approx. \$2,110. A report was written.

- A student reported a vehicle with a smashed window. The owner then discovered that 128 CD's had been stolen from the car.

- As a student entered his dorm room he heard the window screen make a noise and found that the screen had been pushed in and the lock bent. Nothing was taken. Apparently, he arrived just in time.

- Staff reported that four signs posted around a campus biological field station had been vandalized by painting over the words "held

in trust for future expansion of the Claremont Colleges.” with black paint.

- A student found a bike she reported stolen in January, locked to a rack on her campus with somebody else’s lock. She proved ownership with a receipt which included the serial number. With CPD compliance the lock was cut and the bike returned to the owner.
- A custodian found three envelopes of opened mail in a trash can. Two held checks along with correspondence. The affected students were notified and the items given to them.
- Three subjects — a black male, a Hispanic male and a female of unknown description attempted to take property left on an open 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dorm walkway. When the student property owners arrived the subjects left in a black pick-up.
- A female student reported that a male subject had broken into the room of a student who was out of state, entering through a broken bathroom window. Officers interviewed the male who falsely identified himself as a student from one of the other campuses. Safety telephoned the other student who provided a name of the subject, saying that this subject had used the student’s name before. (He also had been banned from that campus.) CPD was notified and they arrested the subject for outstanding warrants pending further charges of burglary. The subject was found wearing a bra stuffed with socks while viewing pornography and lingerie sites on the student’s computer.
- Fireworks were seen shooting from a dorm balcony. The students in the suite denied doing it.
- A Safety officer saw a white male subject riding a bike and carrying another on his shoulder at 0044 hrs. Officers who pursued the subject saw another biker riding ahead. They stopped the subject with the bike and notified CPD of the circumstances. The subject was arrested for suspicion of theft when the stories he gave about working on the bike for a student friend whose name he didn’t know and whose room he couldn’t find, didn’t work. He later confessed to the crime.
- At 0130 hrs., an RA saw four students trying to break into the dining hall. They ran. Officers believed the subjects may have been trying to get on the roof. They were UTL.

- Safety officers were asked to help find a female student threatening suicide who was walking somewhere on campus. She was spotted and detained by staff and a professor and, ultimately was transported to an appropriate facility after consultation with Monsour Counseling, CPD and Tri-City Mental Health agency.
- Students reported that their two bikes, locked together with one cable lock, were stolen. Officers referred them to CPD to determine whether one of the bikes had been recovered with the arrest of a bike thief the previous night.
- At 0046 hrs. , an officer found a small stack of leaves on fire near a dorm. An RA extinguished the fire.
- A student reported a male student to be intoxicated and vomiting in a dorm room. Responding officers, sent to the wrong room, eventually found the subject in a state of cyclical consciousness. Paramedics were called and the subject was transported to a local hospital.
- An officer confiscated a 6' potato launcher constructed of black drainage pipe with an electronic ignition, along with the pressurized gas propellant.
- Officers found an inebriated male subject in the bushes trying to climb a chain link fence around a parking lot. He was steered to his dorm.
- Someone entered a student snack bar freezer and refrigerator and stole two cases of beverages.
- A computer, valued at \$2200 was stolen from an unlocked dorm room between 1410 — 1430 hrs. on a Saturday.
- Staff reported that a dirty-looking white male with dreadlocks was going through the trash and attempted to enter a women’s dorm but was prevented from doing so by a custodian. He left the area and officers were UTL.
- There were several incidents of students discarding computers, monitors, furniture, etc. by throwing them off of balconies or setting them on fire.
- A pizza delivery person said she delivered pizza to a dorm room and the customers then left without paying. Safety contacted the dean and an RA. The RA handled the situation.
- A Safety officer found a computer lab door lock taped, and upon entering, found an

off-campus subject inside. He said his student girlfriend taped it for him to enter. He was interviewed and escorted from campus and the tape was removed.

- Two male subjects began fighting at a party. Each blamed the other for the altercation. A dean's report was taken from one combatant but later the other combatant wanted to have a police report and CPD responded for that. Each subject suffered some injuries and the family of one combatant said the incident was racially motivated. The altercation renewed the following day during graduation ceremonies when the subjects and respective families and friends began antagonistic verbal charges and physical intimidation actions against each other. Safety officers and CPD responded and this time the other combatant made a report to the police.
- Officers were dispatched to a dorm room because a female reported being thrown to the floor by a male. Officers and residence hall staff interviewed a woman and her boyfriend, both of whom were intoxicated. No charges filed. The male subject was escorted off campus to get a cab to take him to a hotel. The dean was advised.
- A student reported the theft of two full laundry baskets of clothing.
- At 1528 hrs., an officer noticed an intoxicated male, former employee, falling asleep while standing/leaning against a wall. CPD responded. The subject had some shots of alcohol and 10 cans of beer. He was on probation for DUI and was arrested for "drunk in public."
- An employee reported that his vehicle was "keyed" while on campus.
- A student reported that her suitcase with clothing and a cell phone were stolen from her unlocked dorm room during "move out."
- Residence hall staff found three 155mm howitzer shell containers outside of a women's dorm. They were empty and were taken to the Safety station for safekeeping.
- A student reported that unknown, probably off-campus, males have been sitting on the back porch of her cottage during the night.
- At 0203 hrs., someone reported that a large group of students broke into a dining hall and was vandalizing the building. Officers found

30 - 50 students inside and detained several. Officers found a bag of onions broken open and a large block of cheese on the ground as well as food thrown all over in the kitchen and serving areas. An electrician was called because students tampered with switches and caused a power outage to the building and nearby dorms. The dean was advised.

- Someone dumped smoldering charcoal briquettes into a trash can at the rear of a dining hall and ignited the contents. Custodians extinguished the fire with an extinguisher and a water hose.
- A cable-locked bike was stolen from a dorm rack.
- One off-campus person was injured and transported to a hospital in a three-car traffic collision at a city street intersection that runs through campus. Two college-related persons in the other cars were not injured but two cars needed to be towed. CPD handled the incident.
- A student reported the theft of a \$500 pocket P.C. from his dorm room during the move-out process.
- At 1133 hrs., on a Tuesday, a dean's staff person found an associate dead from medical conditions in his on-campus residence. Campus officials, public officials and the family were notified. Campus chaplains counseled staff.
- Custodians reported people in dumpsters near dorms. Safety officers found a family of twelve who were advised to leave and complied.
- Residence hall staff reported the presence of a white male with dreadlocks in a women's dorm room. The same subject had been seen in the area previously. Safety officers were UTL .
- At 2225 hrs., a Safety officer saw someone dart into a dorm courtyard with a bike. Back-up officers arrived and found a male subject with a backpack who refused to identify himself and became combative. Officers subdued and arrested him for theft, and, while CPD was enroute they discovered that he was a current student who said he was only trying to steal the front wheel (found in the bushes). He was taken into custody by CPD. The dean was advised.
- A gift of a clock was left in an open mailbox in an unlocked room, for a professor.

Later the card was still in the mailbox but the gift had been stolen.

- A student reported a verbal altercation at student apartments in which a student and an off-campus friend of another student were involved. The complicated situation was mediated by the dean's office and other administrators.
- A student reported the theft of personal property from an outdoor staging area while moving belongings to a vehicle
- A student reported a suspicious person wandering the campus. Officers stopped the subject who said he was the proprietor of a pizza shop and he was looking for a student who wrote him a bad check. He was advised to leave and complied.
- A female employee reported receiving an obscene phone call from an unknown person.
- Staff reported the theft of a computer from an unlocked room in a student center.
- Officers observed a black male subject carrying large bags filled with items leaving a campus onto a city street. He refused to identify himself or to disclose what was in the bags, claiming that the contents were discarded items. He said he was stopped only because he is black. Furthermore, he said that he is a college employee. CPD assisted in identifying the subject who is a temporary employee working for a contract agency doing work on campus. The items in the bags may well have been discarded items according to CPD. Campus administrators were advised.
- At 1735 hrs., a power outage caused by a flooded manhole affected a portion of the campus overnight.
- A student, fearful of rabies, reported an opossum running around in a dorm where it was finally trapped in a closet. The Humane Society was unwilling to respond until morning so students left the door open and the animal eventually left.
- A campus groundsman found a pair of bolt cutters near the bushes at a street intersection. Officers surmised that a bike thief may have stashed the tool there in the course of repeated thefts.
- CPD officers responding to an armed robbery at a nearby market chased the suspect to a campus intersection where they arrested him at gunpoint.

- A computer monitor was stolen from a computer lab.
- A college senior staff person reported a large group of skateboarders doing tricks on campus facilities. Officers found 12 subjects from out of town and escorted them off-campus.

## Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips

Crime continues on the campus even though most of the students are gone for the summer. Summer programs attendees and many renovation and construction contractors expand what would otherwise be a sparsely populated campus. They also become victims of crime from rooms, offices and from outdoor storage or construction areas. Since Campus Safety continues to patrol the colleges 24 hrs. daily, we encourage timely reporting of suspicious activity.

We have frequently encouraged routine locking of office and dorm room doors and windows when those areas are not occupied. The degree of theft risk to your property is probably the same as the degree of security precautions you routinely practice. Most of the thefts reviewed in the "blotter" and in the succeeding statistics section were from unsecured premises or of unlocked items. In other cases the precautions were feeble. ( i.e. using bike cable locks or locking the door and leaving the same level window open )

While thieves may well be "professional" and come to the campus prepared to steal; for the most part, they take the easy route requiring the least equipment needed to defeat security measures. Even a moderate effort on your part can make a big difference. Please lock your doors, drawers, desks, cars, and bikes and don't leave your property lying about untended.

## Speaking Personally

Members of the Dept. of Campus Safety were very saddened by the death of Brian Walkenbach, Residential Life Coordinator at CMC. We worked closely with Brian dealing with all kinds of student related activities and incidents and came to appreciate his friendly availability and caring responses to our late night and early morning needs for consultation or action. We also responded to assist Brian, himself, a number of times, when he was having difficulty with insulin shock. It always turned out O.K. We only wish we had known to be there this time. We'll really miss him.

## May 2002 Crime Statistics

### Crimes Against Persons

annoying call	0
assault	1
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	7
theft (from vehicle)	4
theft (bike)	7
theft (from building)	7
theft (other)	0
grand theft auto	0
trespass	1
vandalism	2
other	1 *

\* hit-and-run

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