

The Claremont Colleges

The Department of Campus Safety

February 2006

February 2006 Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

This month has shown a disturbing trend of thoughtless vandalism and damage of college property. While vandalisms in general have been high this year, February suffered through several acts of destruction and vandalism that appear to be the result of pranks, thoughtlessness, and perhaps intoxication. In addition to the vandalisms at Pomona at the end of the month, there have also been several instances of discharged fire extinguishers, both inside buildings and on personal property, as well as broken windows to dorms and vehicles. For the most part, there is a strong indication that these vandalisms do not start as intentional crimes, but instead as accidents or as drunken pranks that are not thought through, that then are unreported by the perpetrator. It is in this lack of reporting that the act becomes deliberate. The other area of concern this month has been a continuation of the theft concerns mentioned in January. The woman carrying the Huntley bag who was reported in the area of several thefts continued to prey on the campuses at the beginning of February.

A better description was given, as several more students reported seeing her in their rooms shortly before items were discovered missing. Described as a white, female, approximately 40 years of age, with brown hair with blonde highlights, the woman became more brazen, entering dorm suite common areas and student apartments, passing herself off as a parent or an affiliate of the colleges. At one point, Campus Safety officers stopped a female fitting the description after receiving a complaint, but no victims were able to give positive identification, and so CPD released her. The woman stopped was also with a white male, approximately 5'9" in his early 50's, with a mustache, who fit the description of a subject reported attempting to steal a keg from a student apartment complex a few days earlier. The male drove a dark colored truck with metal railings. If either of these subjects is seen on campus, call Campus Safety immediately.

February 2006 Selective Incident Summary, February 1—31

- A student reported that his cable-locked bicycle was stolen from a rack near a dorm. The owner later found the bike locked to a rack near a different dorm, slightly damaged and missing the headlight.

In this issue: (Table of Contents)

Trends and Analysis.....	1
Selective Incident Summary, February 1-28.....	1
Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips.....	5
February 2006 Stats.....	6
Published By.....	7

- A student reported that her cell phone, which had been left on her tray while she was eating at a dining hall, had been stolen. A friend called the number, and a male answered the phone.
- A staff member reported a suspicious male subject hiding inside a room in an academic building. Campus Safety officers arrived, and found the room locked with the lights off. The staff member granted access to the room, and officers found an off-campus male inside. CPD officers responded, and discovered two sets of keys, one belonging to U.C.S.D. The subject was arrested for trespassing.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from his locked room. The student said that the suspect may have gained entry by removing the screen from the window, which had been left open. Neighbors had seen a group of 3 or 4 unknown white males wearing white baseball caps and drinking beer in the area around the time of the incident, but did not see them remove the laptop.
- A staff member reported two subjects carrying track equipment away from a college. A Campus Safety officer responded, and determined that they were intoxicated students from one of the other Claremont Colleges. Although they claimed that they had been instructed to remove the equipment, they complied with the officer's request to return it to the track.
- A student reported that a bag containing various ski equipment had been stolen from outside his dorm.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from his dorm room. The window had been left unlocked, and the suspect cut a hole in the screen to gain access to the room.
- Students reported that a group of three males had verbally abused a friend, using homophobic slurs. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded for possibly hate crime language, and made contact with the three male students. They reported that the victim in question and a group of friends were intoxicated and had started a verbal altercation when asked to be quiet. The victim was contacted, and he reported that he would follow up with the deans, but did not want to press charges.
- A student reported that her cell phone, which had been lost outside of a dorm, had been stolen and was being used by an unknown male subject. She had called her phone and spoken with him, but he hung up on her. The student later reported a list of various telephone numbers that had been called with her phone since it was stolen. The information was passed on to the appropriate detective.
- A student reported that her unlocked bicycle was stolen from outside her dorm. The chain and padlock that were wrapped around the center strut of the bicycle were also stolen.
- Students reported several vehicles with shattered windows. Campus Safety officers responded, and discovered nine vehicles across two campuses with various windows shattered, but nothing stolen. CPD reported that the same thing had occurred in the Village. Damage may have been done by a pellet gun.
- A student reported that a female was going through a dorm, claiming to be from the Census Bureau and requesting information from students. The woman

was not authorized to be on campus. A Campus Safety officer responded, but was unable to locate the woman. Building attendants and groundskeepers in the area had not seen anyone fitting the description given.

- An off-campus delivery person reported that, while making a delivery on campus, two bags of food were stolen from his truck. He observed two white males walking away with the bags, but did not report it for almost twenty minutes.
- A dean reported two suspicious subjects in a parking lot. A Campus Safety officer responded, and located two males and one female, all smelling strongly of marijuana. Two subjects got in a nearby car and fled the officer. The third subject fled into a nearby student center. Campus Safety officers located and identified the third subject, who had been warned about private property rights at least four times previously. CPD officers responded, and the subject was arrested for trespassing, as well as for a warrant.
- A student reported receiving two annoying phone calls within five minutes of each other. She later reported receiving a third call from the same subject.
- An alumna reported that her purse was stolen from an unlocked bathroom inside of a friend's suite. She later reported that her debit card had been used six times.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from his unlocked dorm room.
- A student reported that his bicycle was stolen from the exterior patio of his dorm. The bike was locked to the rail with a cable combination lock, which was left at the scene intact.
- A student reported that his bicycle was stolen from his dorm courtyard, along with the combination lock and chain that had been securing it.
- A student reported that a CD case containing several DVDs, video game discs, and computer game discs was stolen from his unlocked room.
- A student reported that his unlocked bicycle was taken from an exterior dorm hallway.
- A student reported that she received several annoying phone calls and three instant messages on her phone from a female who said insulting and mildly threatening things. The student later reported that the suspects had gained access to her computer, and that her friends were receiving nasty messages as though from her. The harassment continued even after changing and privatizing various accounts. A crime report was filed, and the student was directed to her IT department for additional assistance.
- A student reported seeing a male subject remove a bike from a rack near a dorm. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded, and a CPD officer located the subject off campus. He reported that he was an alumnus, and had been visiting a friend on campus. The bicycle belonged to him.
- A Campus Safety officer reported a golf cart being driven erratically by students. A female passenger fell out of the cart and fled into a dorm. Shortly thereafter, the occupants of the golf cart fled, and the golf cart rolled down a hill and crashed into a vehicle parked on the street. CPD and Campus Safety officers

responded, and located the driver of the golf cart, who was intoxicated. The owner of the damaged vehicle filed a hit-and-run report with CPD, but chose to not press charges.

- An off-campus female reported that while she was looking for her vehicle, which was parked on campus, three males in hooded sweatshirts chased after her. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded, but were unable to locate the males. The female was intoxicated, and had friends come pick her up.
- A student reports that his bike, which was locked with a cable lock, was stolen from a bike rack near his dorm.
- A student reported that an older male tried to steal a keg from a residential area. He returned the keg and left campus prior to Campus Safety officers' arrival.
- A student reported that an older woman was in the unlocked bathroom of her apartment this morning. The student thought she was a parent of another student and did not question her, but later discovered that she and her roommate were missing jewelry and makeup.
- A student reported that three empty kegs and a tap, which had been stored in a locked social room after a party, were stolen.
- A student reported that an unknown older female tried to open the door to her apartment. When asked what she needed, the female said that she was looking for an R.A. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded, and located the woman, who fit the suspect information on several previous thefts reported. While officers were speaking with her, a male, who fit the description of the male who had tried to steal the keg, arrived on

scene. Inside the male's vehicle was a student I.D. for a Claremont Colleges student. The student was contacted, and reported that she had lost her I.D. the previous week, but was not missing anything else. She also reported that she did not know the male who had her I.D. Victims and witnesses responded to the scene, but no one was able or willing to provide positive identification on the subjects. Their information was recorded, and they were released with a strict warning about private property boundaries.

- A staff member reported that 12 kegs and 2 pipes used for supporting athletic equipment were stolen from a locked storage shed near an athletic field. A hole was cut in the fence to gain entry. Per the staff member's supervisor's request, no crime report was filed.
- A student reported that his trombone, which had been accidentally left in an open and unlocked classroom, was stolen.
- A student reported that her bicycle and the cable lock that had been securing it were stolen from a bike rack near her dorm.
- A staff member reported that a large sum of cash was stolen from a desk drawer in a locked office.
- A student reported that the door handle to his room was broken while he was gone. The facilities director requested that a vandalism report be taken.
- An R.A. reported that the inset window to an exterior dorm door was broken and the door was dented.
- A Campus Safety officer reported that, while on campus for an unrelated call, Claremont Police officers located a

student with outstanding warrants. The student was arrested.

- A surveillance operator reported a fight in progress in a parking lot. Campus Safety and CPD officers responded, and the subjects fled. One off-campus subject who was involved was stopped, and warned about private property boundaries. He also advised officers that a banned subject who had been arrested on campus previously had been part of the group, and had fled.
- A Campus Safety officer reported that the interior to a dorm had been vandalized with various food products.
- A staff member reported that a dining hall was vandalized. The cash registers were tipped over, a fire extinguisher was expelled on the furniture, and a painting was vandalized. A student from a different campus later claimed responsibility through a student forum.
- A parent of a student reported that her vehicle was vandalized while parked near a dorm. The rear window to the vehicle was broken.
- A staff member reported four subjects expelling a fire extinguisher in a parking lot. Campus Safety officers responded and located the subjects, who were off-campus juveniles. The subjects advised that they had taken the fire extinguisher from a boat parked in the lot. A CPD officer responded and gave the juveniles a strict warning about private property rights, as requested by the on-call dean. The extinguisher was returned to the boat.
- A student reported that her vehicle was covered in fire extinguisher residue while parked in a lot to another campus.
- A staff member reported that a common use student services area was vandalized. The wall to a private office was damaged, and the hallway walls were drawn on in pencil. This is an ongoing problem.
- A student reported that her bicycle, which was reported stolen last semester, was found parked at a different bike rack.
- A student reported that she was threatened by her roommate. A Campus Safety officer and a dean responded, and took a report. The dean then located the roommate and counseled her.
- A student reported that her purse was stolen from an exterior dorm courtyard where she had left it during a party.
- A student reported that the windshield to his vehicle was broken, possibly by a baseball.
- A staff member reported that her prescription sunglasses and cell phone charger cord were stolen from her locked vehicle. A co-worker told her that her car alarm had been activated for some time. An unknown male and female had been seen leaving the parking lot as the coworker returned to the building.

Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips

- If you see someone you do not recognize, especially in your room, suite, or dorm common area, call Campus Safety immediately. Try to make note of some description, and a direction of travel if the person is leaving the area. Never make assumptions about a person's purpose for being in the area—if they

have a valid reason to be there, Campus Safety will determine that.

- Close and lock your windows when you leave your dorm. Even students and staff who routinely lock their doors are being victimized because thieves know that screens are easily cut through, and windows are often left unlocked.
- If you accidentally damage or break something, report it immediately. Accidents do happen, but failure to report such an instance makes it become a deliberate act that could leave you open to prosecution if a vandalism report is filed.
- Be aware of the lighting in your surroundings. Do not walk alone through darkened areas, especially on a campus with which you are unfamiliar. Make note of the location of emergency phones along your route.
- Be aware of your rights and options if you do become a victim. Report all crimes or incidents to Campus Safety immediately, regardless of whether you desire that action be taken or not. There are several options available when a report is filed, and if prosecution is not desired, an incident report for the purposes of documentation is available.
- Do not leave purses, cell phones, or any other belongings unattended, especially in common or public areas such as dorm courtyards or dining halls. Keep your belongings on your person while at parties—just because someone else set their purse down in a particular area does not mean it is a secure area.
- If you want to report a crime or incident, but are concerned about retaliation or repercussions, feel free to report the situation anonymously. Visit the Campus

Safety website and complete the form available at

http://www.cuc.claremont.edu/cs/silent_witness_program.htm.

- Use the Safe Escort Service if you do not feel safe or comfortable for any reason.

February 2006 Statistics

Crimes Against Persons

Annoying Call	2
Assault	0
Battery	0
Disturbance	0
Hate Crime	0
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
Other	0

Crimes Against Property

Arson	0
Burglary	8
Theft (from vehicle)	1
Theft (Bike)	6
Theft (from building)	3
Theft (Other)	2
Grand Theft Auto	0
Forgery	0
Trespass	2
Vandalism	5
Other	0

Arrests 3

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