

The Claremont Colleges

The Department of Campus Safety

May 2008

May 2008 Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

There has been an increase in burglaries in May, as is typically the case during move-out. The number of thefts and burglaries in May has gradually grown over the years, with a major of the reports centralized around finals and commencement. It is likely that local criminals have learned that offices and dorms are vulnerable during the stress of the end of the year. Moreover, 10 of the thefts and burglaries were from unsecured dorms or offices, and 4 were from common areas that have relatively unrestricted access.

Additionally, and more distressingly, there were a number of thefts from secured areas. Most of these thefts were from office or administrative areas, and a variety of methods were used to defeat the locks. Some areas showed signs of forced entry, including a pried open desk drawer and a door that had hinge pins partially removed. One student whose room was burglarized admitted that, although she had locked her door, the lock was broken so that some minor manipulation and pushing would still open the door.

In a more unusual case, the perpetrator actually removed ceiling tiles in an office building hallway and climbed into the ceiling crawlspace, and then removed ceiling tiles in the office to gain access to a computer. Several of the cases, sadly, showed no sign of forced entry, and were likely inaccessible without a key. It serves as a good reminder to remain aware and cautious, and to always hide valuables in unexpected places.

May 2008 Selective Incident Summary, May 1—31

- A student reported hearing a window break. A Campus Safety officer responded, and found that a rock was thrown through the window to a dorm common area, breaking it.
- An employee reported that several tables and chairs were stacked outside of a student center, and two banners were hung. One banner had the anarchy sign painted on it, and the other read “Remember Haymarket.”
- A professor reported that her wallet, containing cash, credit cards, an ATM card, and health insurance cards, was stolen from inside her purse, which had been left under her desk in an unsecured office. The credit cards were later fraudulently used.

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- An employee reported \$520 in cash stolen from an unsecured safe in a locked room.
- A contractor reported that two rear driver's side windows on his tractor were shattered.
- An employee reported that a department-owned van was vandalized; a yellow fist was spray-painted on the van.
- An employee reported that a black fist was spray-painted on the door to a dining hall.
- A dean reported a black fist spray-painted on the 2nd floor of a student center.
- A student reported several subjects on the roof of a restricted area. Campus Safety officers responded and located several intoxicated students, a staff member, and off-campus guests. All subjects were warned about being in the area, and returned to their home campus.
- A student reported that a large maintenance van was driven onto another campus, and was stuck. Campus Safety officers responded and located the vehicle, which had been crashed into a fire bollard. The vehicle was towed to a nearby auto shop for repairs.
- A student reported that someone attempted to open the front driver's side door to his car and broke the locking mechanism in the process.
- A student reported that her camera was stolen from an unsecured dorm courtyard.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from her unlocked dorm room while she was asleep.
- A student reported that her purse was stolen from an unlocked dorm lounge during a party.
- A Campus Safety officer reported a student arguing with a DJ at a party. The student threw beer on the DJ's laptop, and the DJ was using racial slurs. Campus Safety officers responded, but the student fled and the DJ declined to pursue a report.
- An R.A. reported a fight between two students near a dorm. A Campus Safety officer responded, and the aggressor fled. The victim declined to press charges.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from her dorm room. She reported that she had locked the door, but the lock is broken and can be opened with some effort.
- An employee reported that a rock or BB struck a window at a dining hall, cracking it.
- An employee reported that a laptop was stolen from an open office.
- A student reported that, several hours prior, an older white male driving a gold colored sedan asked her if she wanted a ride. The suspect fits the description of a subject who has frequently attempted to get females into his vehicle over the past few years.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from an unlocked dorm room.
- A student reported that his laptop and iPod were stolen from his locked dorm room.
- A student reported that she lost her cell phone at a party. She later received communication from someone in possession of the phone requesting personal information in return for the phone.

- A student reported that another student has been disruptive and will not leave her alone. She was referred to the Dean of Students' office.
- A professor reported that a laptop was stolen from an unsecured office.
- A student reported that his iPod, headphones, and sunglasses were stolen from his unlocked dorm room.
- A facilities employee reported that a door to an academic building was damaged when an unknown subject attempted to force the door off of its hinges.
- The Claremont Police Department reported an unconscious subject in a car parked adjacent to the campuses. Campus Safety responded and confirmed that the subject was a student. The student was arrested for public intoxication.
- A student reported that her unsecured scooter was stolen from a student center courtyard.
- A Campus Safety officer reported a Claremont Police officer stopped a vehicle in a campus lot after the driver refused to stop on a city street when instructed to do so. The driver, a student, was arrested for driving under the influence.
- A student reported several subjects loitering near a dorm bike rack with a baseball bat. Campus Safety officers responded and made contact with four juveniles. Claremont Police officers responded due to subjects violating curfew laws, and arrested two of them for providing false information to a peace officer. The subjects also had two bicycles that they admitted to taking from a nearby dorm courtyard.
- An employee reported that over \$800 was stolen from a lockbox in a locked cabinet in an administrative building.
- An employee reported that a locked desk drawer in a locked room was pried open. Nothing was stolen.
- An employee reported that a beanbag chair was stolen from an academic building study room. The beanbag chair was later found and the report was cancelled.
- A student reported that his unlocked bicycle was stolen from near a dorm.
- A student reported that a box containing personal affects was stolen from his unlocked vehicle.
- A dean reported that a golf cart was stolen and damaged. Items left in the cart indicated a student.
- A student reported that her purse, containing cash and credit cards, was stolen from the front desk of a dorm.
- Students reported writing on a sidewalk between two dorms that targeted a foreign exchange student for his country of origin. Campus Safety officers and the dean responded, and a bias related incident report was filed.
- A student reported a fire near a dorm. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, along with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and extinguished the fire, which was deliberately started by two students.
- An employee reported four students driving a stolen cart. Campus Safety officers responded and located the vehicle, which was abandoned by the students.

- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from her unlocked dorm room while she attended a dorm function for two hours.
- A student reported that his laptop, backpack, sleeping bag, and 4 books were stolen from his room. The door was locked, but the window was open.
- A student reported several subjects entering dorm rooms and taking items. Campus Safety officers responded and made contact with two students from another college. They admitted to looking around the dorms, but denied entering dorm rooms or taking any items.
- A student reported a group of students burning a couch. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, along with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and extinguished the fire.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from a dorm hallway while he slept.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from his unlocked dorm room.
- A community resident reported that her vehicle taillight was broken while parked near an academic building.
- A contractor reported that a welding machine was stolen from a gated construction site. The chain that was securing the machine to a nearby light pole was cut.
- A student reported that her bicycle, which was locked to itself, was stolen from an exterior hallway near her dorm room.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from an unsecured art gallery.
- A student reported that a backpack and a box full of clothes were stolen from a dorm lounge.
- A student reported that his iPod and laptop were stolen from his dorm room. He gave a description of subjects who were in the area and may have taken the items. Campus Safety officers responded and located a subject fitting the description. Claremont Police officers responded and located the stolen items, along with two skateboards stolen from the same dorm.
- A student reported that his laptop was stolen from his unlocked dorm room.
- A student reported that her antique bike was stolen from a dorm courtyard. The cable lock that was securing it was cut and left at the scene.
- A parent reported that her daughter's hiking boots were stolen from a secured dorm room.
- A student reported that a fan was stolen from a dorm storage room.
- A student reported that a golf travel bag and a Nintendo NES console were stolen from a dorm storage room.
- An employee reported that the initials "SSR" and "TSK" were etched several times into a wood railing of an academic building.
- A student reported that his wallet was stolen from a gym while he was working out.
- A student reported that her bicycle was stolen from near her dorm. The U-lock that was securing it was cut and left at the scene.
- A facilities employee reported that several tools were taken from the bed of his truck.
- A student reported that his bicycle and the cable lock that was securing it were stolen from near an academic building.

- An employee reported that five emblem watches were stolen from a locked closet in a locked office.
- An employee reported that someone broke into his office via the crawlspace above the ceiling tiles, damaging the tiles, and printed several posters and pamphlets for an event.

Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips For Summer

- Never enter the campus pool areas during off-hours. They are alarmed, and officers are trained to take intrusion alarms very seriously. More importantly, though, swimming without a lifeguard on duty is dangerous, even for seasoned swimmers. If you are lifeguard certified, please talk to your campus about working as a lifeguard during the summer, but still do not enter the areas during off-hours. Having certification will not help if you yourself start to drown.
- Be sure to carry your campus ID at all times. This is especially important during the summer, when all campus community members are (or should be) on alert for persons they do not recognize. Your campus ID serves the dual purpose of identifying you and demonstrating a campus affiliation.
- Remember that Campus Safety is open, and our officers on duty, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the entire year. This includes summer months and holidays. Never hesitate to call for any assistance you need. If you have a question that we can't answer, we generally have the number for someone who can.
- If you plan to leave your car on campus, park it in a well-lit lot with a surveillance camera. Check with your maintenance or IT department to determine the best location for surveillance coverage on your vehicle. If your car will be on campus, but you will not be, leave keys with a reliable on-campus contact, and notify Campus Safety and your Dean's office, in case the vehicle needs to be moved during the summer.
- Don't leave valuable items in easily discovered locations, such as a purse under a desk or petty cash in a filing cabinet drawer. Likewise, don't leave the key to a locked area in an easily accessible, unlocked desk drawer. (Codes to combination safes that are written down and stored in a drawer are also easily accessible.) Thieves know the "typical" hiding places, and are unlikely to spend the time searching for creative hiding places.
- Campus Safety provides an anonymous "Silent Witness" program available through the website at http://www.cuc.claremont.edu/cs/silent_witness_program.htm. If you have seen or have information about any sort of criminal or inappropriate behavior, please contact Campus Safety. If for whatever reason you are uncomfortable reporting the situation in person, use the Silent Witness reporting form, which is not traced or tracked. For those who have utilized this program, we appreciate your assistance. The information provided is being investigated, and the department is working in conjunction with school administrators to resolve the issues brought to our attention.

May 2008 Statistics*

Crimes Against Persons	
Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
Assault w/Deadly Weapon	0
Battery	1
Disturbance	1
Hate Crime	1**
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Battery	0
Other	0
Crimes Against Property	
Arson	0
Burglary	22
Theft (from vehicle)	3
Theft (Bike)	4
Theft (from building)	8
Theft (Other)	3
Grand Theft Auto	1
Trespass	0
Vandalism	8
Other	1
Arrests	5

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* These numbers reflect crime reports filed by the victims. In some cases, crimes reported in the above incident blotter will not be reflected in these statistics due to the victim's decision to not file a crime report.

** Includes bias related incidents.