

The Claremont Colleges

The Department of Campus Safety

March 2009

March 2009 Crime and Incident Report

Trends and Analysis

While bicycle thefts have continued to remain at a low rate of reporting on par with years past, the number of thefts and burglaries from buildings, particularly academic buildings, is unfortunately high. More distressing even than the number of reported thefts is that many of those thefts were from locked areas. Several doors and windows, both in academic and residential buildings, have shown signs of forced entry. These have ranged from scratches near the door lock to severe crowbar damage to window locks forced open and broken off the setting. This marks a distinct shift from previous trends that favored easily and quickly removed unlocked items. While this is certainly not meant to recommend leaving items unlocked or easily accessible—thefts from unlocked rooms or common areas are still being reported—it does show that basic steps for safekeeping belongings are becoming less guaranteed as the criminal element becomes more determined. Adjusting to these changes requires different tactics and a willingness to make an extra effort to thwart, discourage and, when necessary, identify thieves plaguing the campuses.

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Selective Incident Summary, March 1—31

- A student reported that her vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run while parked in a campus residential lot. A description of the offending vehicle was obtained and given to the Claremont Police Department.
- A student reported that his bicycle, which was locked to itself with a U-lock, was stolen from inside a dorm stairwell.
- An employee reported that two laptops were stolen from a desk in a locked faculty office.
- A student reported that another student, who has been pursuing her romantically, took her cell phone and physically prevented her from leaving an area near a party while he spoke with her. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, but the victim declined to file a police report.
- A student reported that her bicycle and the cable lock that was securing it were stolen from near a dining hall.
- An R.A. reported students making marijuana-laced brownies in a dorm. Campus Safety officers responded and identified two students and an off-campus guest. They were unable to unequivocally locate the source of the marijuana odor.

- An anonymous informant reported that a student possibly had sexually assaulted at least two other students. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded. Only one of the alleged victims was named, and she denied having been assaulted. The dean later reported that misinformation was reported, and that the student had not sexually assaulted anyone. A Claremont Police officer later reported that another anonymous reporter had given the name of the second victim, and was put in contact with the deans.
- A Campus Safety officer reported three off-campus subjects playing with air-soft guns in a campus wilderness area. The subjects were warned of private property laws, and were escorted off campus.
- An R.A. reported that two vehicles, one belonging to a student and the other to an off-campus guest, were burglarized while parked on a city street bordering the campus. The windows to the cars were broken to gain access, and an iPod and a GPS unit were stolen.
- A staff supervisor reported finding a gram of crack cocaine in an employee's personal storage closet in a dorm. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, and determined that the drug in question was crystal meth. They also located a meth pipe. The employee was confronted and admitted to owning both the meth and the pipe, and was subsequently arrested.
- An employee reported vandalism to a library.
- A student reported a transient in a student center. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, and the subject was escorted to a nearby shelter.
- A student reported being robbed on a city street bordering the campus. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded. The victim reported that three males approached him and punched him in the head. When he fell, the subjects took his cell phone and wallet, containing \$120, several credit cards, and a driver's license, from his pocket.
- A student reported that an intoxicated neighbor was repeatedly knocking on his door. A Campus Safety officer responded and located the subject, who returned to his room.
- A professor reported that his bicycle and the cable lock that was securing it were stolen from near a library.
- A student reported that her cell phone, which was left unsecured in a meeting room, was stolen.
- A student reported that his unsecured laptop was stolen from a dorm lobby.
- A dean reported receiving several harassing emails and phone calls.
- A student reported that his wallet, cell phone, and keys were taken from an athletic center. A witness saw an off-campus subject take the items. Claremont Police officers were advised, but the victim declined to press charges.
- An employee reported that two computers and a computer monitor were stolen from a locked academic room.
- A student reported a van parked on campus with males inside, barking at passersby. Campus Safety officers responded and made contact with two students.
- An employee reported 2 computer monitors, a CPU, and a set of speakers stolen from a locked academic room.

- A student reported that he was confronted by two males on a city street bordering the campus. When he fled, one subject chased after him for a short distance. Both subjects fled prior to Campus Safety officers' arrival.
- A student reported that his moped was stolen from a parking lot near an academic building.
- An employee reported pry marks on the door to a storage area. Nothing was removed.
- An employee reported that his flatbed trailer was stolen from a campus parking lot.
- A student reported that his computer and his roommate's computer and cell phone were stolen from their dorm room. The latch on their ground floor window was broken from being forced open.
- A student reported that his skateboard was stolen from the hallway of an academic building.
- A student reported that he located his bicycle, previously reported stolen, near a dining hall. After investigation, it was determined that it was not, in fact, his bicycle.
- A Campus Safety officer reported several students smoking in a campus owned vehicle. They were in possession of a skateboard previously reported stolen, which they claimed had been given to them by several other students.
- A student reported that another student grabbed her and forcibly held her against a wall after she refused his sexual advances. Several other students were witness to the advances, although none reported seeing the assault. The victim declined to file a police report.
- An employee reported that a wooden table with a stone top in an academic building was destroyed. An open window possibly granted access.
- An employee reported that a musical instrument previously reported stolen was located at a local pawn shop. The Claremont Police Department was advised and will continue the investigation. The Claremont Police officer reported that the school will have to repurchase the instrument.

Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips

- Remain aware of your surroundings and who should be in the same area. Particularly in restricted areas, such as lab spaces, dorms, storage areas, take note of persons who are acting suspiciously or whom you do not recognize.
- Do not ever approach a suspicious subject yourself! Try to remember a thorough description—sex, race, age, height, build, clothing, and any other descriptive factors such as facial hair—and call Campus Safety immediately.
- Always be sure to mention what, specifically, the person has done to appear suspicious. Someone who “doesn't look like a student” is not necessarily suspicious; it's actions, not appearances, which need to be evaluated.
- Leaving your bicycle inside a building does not make it any more secure than leaving it at the bike rack, and may pose a safety hazard. Even if you are going to leave your bike in a building, still follow proper locking procedures with a solid U-lock.

- If you need to travel the campuses at night, walk in groups or call Campus Safety for a safety escort. Remain aware of your surroundings, including any subjects who may be walking unusually close to you. If you feel threatened or targeted, do not be afraid to make noise and draw attention to the situation.
- Carrying a whistle, which are provided by the campuses, can be a quick and easily recognizable way to call attention to a threatening situation. If a whistle is heard, notify Campus Safety immediately. Some campuses also recommend that you also blow your whistle and head towards where the initial whistle was blown.
- Particularly as the academic year winds down, do not let stress, exhaustion, or other end of the year distractions affect your ability to keep yourself safe. Letting your guard down can have disastrous consequences, and if the laptop that holds your final paper is stolen, it will not help to lower stress levels!
- 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.

Recovered Bicycles

Occasionally, Campus Safety officers or campus facilities departments will recover unlocked or abandoned bicycles. These bikes are turned over to the Campus Safety for safekeeping, but frequently owners fail to claim them. If you are missing your bike, and did not file a theft report—dispatchers cross-reference stolen bike reports with the bikes in our storage area—take note of the bicycles listed below. If the basic information matches your bike, call or come to the Campus Safety station and describe the bike in greater detail (serial number, men’s/women’s, how many gears, etc.) We will see if we can match your description to our recovered bikes.

- 1) Red Magna Glacier Point
- 2) Black and Silver Trek 4100
- 3) Red Roland Country Sport
- 4) Purple and Blue Mongoose Estes
- 5) Purple and White Schwinn Ranger
- 6) Purple Roadmaster Mt. Fury
- 7) Green Magna Glacier Point
- 8) Pink and Purple Magna Malibu
- 9) Pink and White Green Line
- 10) Black Schwinn High Plains
- 11) Dark Green Schwinn Frontier
- 12) Purple and Silver Columbia Trailhead
- 13) Purple and White Roadmaster Mt. Sport SX
- 14) Black and Red Murray Delta
- 15) Green and Black Magna Equator
- 16) Blue and Grey Schwinn Jaguar
- 17) Blue and White Manhattan M-1000
- 18) Silver Nimbus
- 19) Orange and White Electra Townie

March 2009 Statistics*

Crimes Against Persons	
Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
Assault w/Deadly Weapon	0
Battery	0
Disturbance	0
Hate Crime	0
Indecent Exposure	0
Prowling	0
Rape	0
Robbery	1
Sexual Battery	0
Other	0
Crimes Against Property	
Arson	0
Burglary	6
Theft (from vehicle)	0
Theft (Bike)	3
Theft (from building)	3
Theft (Other)	0
Grand Theft Auto	2
Trespass	0
Vandalism	1
Other	1**
Arrests	1

Published By:

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: mollyr@cuc.claremont.edu
Web page:
www.cuc.claremont.edu/cs

* 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 drug related crimes