

# The Claremont Colleges

The Department of Campus Safety

May 2009

## May 2009 Crime and Incident Report

### Trends and Analysis

May is always a bad month in terms of thefts and vandalisms. As the year draws to a close, members of the College community find themselves distracted with exams, grading exams, and packing up for the summer.

Frequently, these distractions result in areas left unsecured and unattended, where thieves can easily prey on belongings. This May, thankfully, has shown a marked improvement over the past two years, at least in the realm of burglaries.

Only nine burglaries were reported in 2009, as opposed to 22 in 2008 and 17 in 2007.

Since other areas of theft, including bike thefts, remained relatively steady—9 bikes (and 1 bike seat) were reported stolen this year, as compared to 4 in 2008 and 7 in 2007—this suggests that the criminal element has not decreased. If this is the case, then the marked decrease of burglaries can be attributed to more conscientious community members providing less opportunity for the local thieves to prey on us.

### May 2009

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

- An employee reported that a male subject took a meal without paying for it and refused to identify himself. Campus Safety officers responded and identified the subject as a student. The matter was referred to the deans.
- A student reported that his laptop and charger were stolen from a dorm lounge.
- A student reported three male subjects drinking in a parking lot. Campus Safety officers made contact with the subjects, who had been visiting friends on campus. The subjects were advised of policy and left campus.
- A student reported that he heard noises like someone may be breaking into an academic building. Campus Safety officers responded, but did not find anyone in the area. Two broken windows were later found.
- A student reported that a bicycle seat was stolen from her bike, which was locked near a dining hall.
- A parent of a student reported that the student's off-campus apartment, arranged by the campus' housing department, was ransacked and burglarized. Claremont Police officers responded.

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- A student reported that her bike, which was unsecured, was stolen from near an academic building.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from her dorm room. The student secured the room before leaving for a weekend trip, but the room was unsecured when she returned.
- A student reported two subjects selling candy in a dorm. Campus Safety officers responded, but the subjects entered a vehicle and left the area.
- A student reported four subjects ringing door bells and soliciting inside an apartment complex. Campus Safety officers responded, but the subjects had already left the area.
- An employee reported that a rock was thrown through the second floor window of an administrative building.
- A staff member reported that a rented flatbed cart was stolen from a dining hall. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded. The employee later reported that employees from another campus had taken the cart, thinking it belonged to them. The report was canceled.
- An employee reported a male subject sitting in a hallway of an academic building. Campus Safety officers responded, and determine that the subject was an off-campus subject using the building's power outlet and wireless network. He also attempted to leave with a trash bag filled with toilet paper from the building.
- A Campus Safety officer reported multiple off-campus subjects drinking in a restricted area. They were advised of private property rights and were escorted off campus.
- A student reported that his car was involved in a hit-and-run while parked near an administrative building. A witness left a note with the offending vehicle's information. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, and the owner of the vehicle was contacted. The victim declined to press charges, and both parties exchanged information.
- A student reported a male subject, who had previously approached the student to panhandle, walking by an administrative building. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded and advised the subject of private property rights.
- An R.A. reported an unauthorized bonfire. Campus Safety officers responded, and doused the fire, which had been left unattended.
- An employee reported that the latch to a locked athletic storage shed was pried open. It was unknown if anything was taken.
- A student reported that a duffle bag was stolen from his vehicle. He did not know if he had secured his vehicle.
- A student reported that a friend left her wallet and keys in the bushes of a parking lot, so that she could retrieve them later, and they were stolen.
- An employee reported that her vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run while parked on a campus street.
- A guest reported that her vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run while parked on a campus street. She declined to file a report.
- An employee reported that the doors to an art studio were damaged with pry marks. Nothing was taken from inside the studio.

- An employee reported that students threw eggs at her cart. Multiple parties reported students throwing eggs near a student center, and Claremont Police officers responded.
- An employee reported that a cart, a street sign, and a door to a dining hall were vandalized with graffiti.
- Professional staff reported students put something into a portable toilet that made it smoke. Campus Safety officers responded, and students reported someone throwing fireworks into a crowd.
- Multiple students reports several loud banging noises near a dorm. A Campus Safety officer responded and located an odor of black powder and pieces of a plastic trashcan that may have been blown up.
- A student reported a large fire near a student apartment building. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, along with the fire department. A burning sofa was located and extinguished.
- A student reported a broken window and pry marks on the door of an academic center. Nothing was reported missing.
- A student reported a broken window on the first floor of a dorm.
- An employee reported that her office window was broken by a rock thrown through it.
- An employee reported that his vehicle was scratched by a sharp implement while parked on a campus street.
- A student reported that his unsecured bicycle was stolen from an exterior dorm courtyard.
- A student reported that a male subject followed her to her car, which was parked near an academic building, and stood behind her car until she started to back up. He did not say anything to her or touch her car.
- A student reported that her laptop and charger were stolen from an unlocked study room in a dorm.
- A student reported that her laptop was stolen from an unlocked dorm lounge.
- An employee reported a male subject in his 30s following students and taking photos of them. The subject entered his vehicle and left campus prior to the employee reporting the incident.
- An employee reported that a laptop was stolen from an unsecured academic building. The door had been left unsecured due to damage.
- An employee reported that the catalytic converter for his vehicle was stolen while parked on a city street near campus. Claremont Police officers took a report.
- A student reported that his bicycle, which was secured with a cable lock, was stolen from near a student apartment building.
- An R.A. reported multiple intoxicated students driving a forklift. She confiscated the keys, which were turned over to responding Campus Safety officers.
- A student reported that her carry-on bag, which had been left in a parking lot next to a storage unit, was stolen.
- A student reported that his digital camera was stolen from the back pocket of his jeans while he was at a party.
- A student reported that her bike, which was locked with a cable lock, was stolen from a shed.

- A student reported multiple graphic images spray painted on the wall of a dorm hallway.
- The Claremont Police Department reported a brush fire in a campus wilderness area. A spark from equipment being used to clear the brush accidentally started the fire.
- A student reported that his bike, which was locked with a U-lock, was stolen from near a dorm.
- A student reported that he confronted two male subjects who were stealing his tool set from a dorm courtyard. When he attempted to contact Campus Safety, one of the subjects knocked the phone from his hand, then took the phone. The subjects then entered a nearby vehicle, where the driver told them to give back the phone, which they did. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded.
- A student reported that a box of assorted belongings was stolen from his unlocked dorm room during move out.
- An R.A. reported that students set a couch on fire near a student apartment. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, along with the fire department, and the couch was extinguished.
- A Campus Safety officer reported two subjects refusing to identify themselves. Claremont Police officers responded, and one of the subjects was arrested on a prior warrant.
- A student reported that her window screen was cut and her window, which had been left slightly ajar, was fully opened. Nothing was reported stolen.
- A contractor reported that the window to a construction trailer was shattered and a level, which was within reach of the window, was stolen.
- An employee reported that a laptop was stolen from an unlocked office, which was in a locked hallway. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded, due to suspect information.
- An employee reported an 18-foot banner stolen from a stage.
- A Campus Safety officer reported several possibly anti-Semitic messages painted on an expression wall. A dean was notified, and requested a bias-related incident report.
- A student reported that his cloth convertible top was cut open and his tennis racket was stolen from his vehicle.
- An employee reported an off-campus subject sitting in the hallway of an academic building. Campus Safety officers responded and determined that the subject, who was using campus power and wireless network, had previously been warned about being on campus. He was escorted off campus.
- A staff member reported that \$300 was stolen from an envelope in the trunk of her car. She declined to file a crime report due to not knowing exactly where the theft occurred, but she reported that she may know who took the money.
- An employee reported that a student was engaged in a verbal confrontation with another student. Campus Safety and Claremont Police officers responded and determined that the student had had previous warnings about his behavior. The student was subsequently banned.

- A student reported that his bike, which was locked with a cable lock, was stolen from near an academic building.
- A student reported that she left her dorm room window partially ajar; when she returned, the window was completely open and the screen was damaged. Nothing was missing from the room.
- Two students reported that their bicycles were stolen from outside a student lounge. One bike was unlocked and the other was locked with a chain and lock.
- A student reported that derogatory remarks were written on her dorm room whiteboard.
- A student reported a couple engaged in a domestic dispute at a student apartment building. Campus Safety officers responded, but were unable to locate any disturbance.
- A Campus Safety officer reported that pennants set up for a campus event were knocked down and one of the pipes was broken.
- An employee reported that copper and electrical circuit breakers were stolen from an electrical switch gear inside a gated yard.
- Claremont Police officers, on campus, reported multiple subjects refusing to leave a campus event. Campus Safety officers responded and determined that the subjects were attendees of an event on another campus. They were escorted back to their own area.
- Subjects on campus for an event stole a fire extinguisher from an administrative building and discharged it near a dorm. The extinguisher was recovered and returned.
- An employee reported that 120 baseballs were stolen from a secured shed.
- A dean reported that two bicycles belonging to her family were stolen. Another dean located one of them in an alley by a dorm. Both bikes had been left unsecured in a gated patio area.
- An employee reported that three doors in an administrative building showed pry marks, and two of the doors had severe damage to the locking mechanisms. Nothing was reported stolen.
- A community member reported that three padlocks were cut near a wilderness area. Two locks were securing storage sheds, and the third was on a gate. Nothing was reported stolen.

## Crime Prevention Strategies and Tips

- Never allow someone you do not recognize to get close enough to easily touch or grab you. Safety trumps social niceties every time, so do not worry about offending someone or acting strange if you are not comfortable with a situation.
- Likewise, never approach a person, especially someone in a vehicle, when you are asked for directions or other assistance. Keep a safe distance, and remember to keep watching the person. If you need to point in a direction, do not turn your back to do so.
- Never leave any valuables visible in your car. This is a particular concern if you have left your vehicle parked on campus for summer break. Either take belongings with you, or lock them in the trunk, preferably before you reach your destination.

- If you lose your key or ID card, report it immediately. Most ID cards can be immediately deactivated at <https://cards.cuc.claremont.edu/>. Especially during the summer, when many buildings may be sparsely populated, a found ID or key, in the wrong hands, can grant access to valuable belongings.
- Campus Safety continues to offer twenty-four hour safety escorts to anyone remaining on campus during the summer. If you feel unsafe for any reason, call Campus Safety at x72000 or (909) 607-2000, and request an escort.
- Never confront someone that you suspect of committing a crime on campus, for any reason! Get a good description of the person, including which way they are going, and notify Campus Safety immediately.
- Campus Safety provides an anonymous “Silent Witness” program available through the website at [http://www.cuc.claremont.edu/cs/silent\\_witness\\_program.htm](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 2009 Statistics\*

### Crimes Against Persons

Annoying Call	0
Assault	0
Assault w/Deadly Weapon	0
Battery	1
Disturbance	0
Hate Crime	3*
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)	8
Theft (from building)	4
Theft (Other)	2
Grand Theft Auto	1
Trespass	0
Vandalism	5
Other	0

Arrests 3

\* 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

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