Making College A Safe Experience Part 1

The years you spend at a higher education facility are designed to help you learn and grow as a person. It will be an extremely busy time with classes, homework and social functions. Your college schedule will most likely be so hectic that it be difficult to focus on anything else. However, in the modern society we live in, everyone must understand and learn about the possibility of becoming a victim of crime.

Tips To Avoid Crime
Wherever you go, you should always be very aware of your surroundings. Are you passing by dark alleys or large bushes - anywhere that a predator may hide from your view until it is too late? Are you walking boldly and with confidence, or do you give the appearance of being meek, lost or afraid? Are you spending more time texting and on your iPod rather than watching your surroundings?

Make sure you don’t look like an easy target. Avoid areas where criminals can remain hidden, and walk quickly and confidently. Make brief eye contact with people you pass and keep your shoulders and head held up high. Never look like an easy target.

You should always know where security is located on campus. Put Public Safety’s telephone number 209-946-2537 or the police agency’s number in the area you are residing in your cell phone. If you ever need help at school, the police will be the first source of assistance. When you drive anywhere on or off campus, be sure to park in well lit areas, preferably near other cars. Avoid dark and isolated streets and garages. Avoid short cuts through the alley. If possible, choose a parking lot that is monitored by a security guard. Whenever you leave your car, always lock it. You may plan to be right back, but it only takes a minute for someone to open your door and get in. Never leave personal items in plain view in your car. Valuables and other goods that are displayed on the seats of your automobile will tempt criminals to break in and steal them. When you return night. Arrange for others to walk to classes with you. A predator is not very likely to attack a group of people. They usually look for someone who is alone, and therefore more vulnerable.

Get to know the people in your residential hall. Start your own Crime Watch Group on your floor to help provide a safe hall. Work together to watch for people who should not be in your building, people who are loitering and anyone who is acting suspiciously. Watch for “tail-gaters”, those who follow you into the hall when you unlock the door. They act like they live there but in reality, they are looking to get inside. When people are watching out for each other, it helps to keep everyone safe. Have everyone write down a list of emergency contact numbers, such as the home or cell phone number of a parent or trusted relative. Keep the list of numbers in a safe place where it can be easily found if needed. Keep the doors leading into your hall locked at all times.

Become Students Of Crime Prevention
You will be taught many things at college; among them should be how not to become a victim. Criminals are always on the lookout for easy targets - people who seem to be timid, uncertain and unable to fight back. When you are aware of what criminals are looking for, and where they may be hiding, it is easier to avoid them.
Public Safety Statistics

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Alarm, non-fire | 15 | 23
Alarm, fire | 8 | 9
Alarm, tampering | 0 | 0
Arrests | 18 | 32
Assault, Aggravated | 0 | 0
Alcohol Violations | 4 | 3
Annoying phone calls | 0 | 0
Arson | 0 | 0
Battery, physical fight | 0 | 2
Burglary, resident | 2 | 2
Burglary, auto | 1 | 19
Calls for service | 550 | 542
Disturbance | 15 | 8
Escorts | 56 | 29
Forcible sex - Rape | 0 | 0
Forcible sex - Date rape | 0 | 2
Forcible sex - Forcible Fondling | 1 | 0
Indecent exposure | 0 | 0
Motor vehicle theft | 0 | 2
Narcotic possession | 2 | 6
Open door/window | 4 | 23
Report Taken | 96 | 118
Felony | 15 | 33
Misdemeanor | 27 | 39
Incident | 54 | 46
Robbery weapon | 0 | 0
Theft, grand over $400 | 6 | 2
Theft, petty under $400 | 6 | 4
Traffic stop, citation | 47 | 33
Traffic stop, warning | 88 | 53
Trespass violation | 1 | 4
University regulation violations | 2 | 3
Unlock, building or vehicle | 182 | 197
Vandalism reports | 5 | 8
Warrant arrests | 4 | 11

Dumb Crooks

A Sheriff’s deputy said he was recently on patrol when he noticed three males drive a car into the lot of a liquor store, walk in and make a purchase. The liquor store had a history of selling to underage drinkers so he stopped them and asked the young male driver if he was old enough to purchase liquor. He replied that he was over 21. He looked fairly young so the deputy asked him to display his driver's license and I explained that if he was 21 he was free to leave. The driver, still seated in the car, patted all of his pockets repeatedly and announced that his license was in his trunk. The driver got out and opened his trunk in front of the deputy which just happened to be full of illegal fireworks along with 5 bags of marijuana wrapped for individual sale. The driver then patted his front pants pockets and, with relief, told me the deputy he had found his driver’s license in his front pants pocket. It was there from the beginning. The driver, who was old enough to purchase alcohol and his two companions all went to jail.

Public Safety Reminder

Over the past few weeks, Public Safety has documented several thefts of computer equipment. Some of the equipment was taken from unlocked offices. Public Safety would like to remind the campus community to safeguard their electronic equipment by securing your doors even for a short period of time. Make sure you pull on the door after you lock it so you know the lock is secure. One report indicated the door was locked but did not secure properly. You may want to invest in a cable lock. Public Safety officers have seen several lap tops unattended for a period of time in the library. A cable lock may be able to prevent someone stealing your investment.

Comings and Goings

Welcome Aboard

The newest member of the Public Safety team is Jackie Galvan. Jackie was raised here in the Stockton area and attended Stagg High School. She has worked on the campus as a part time dispatcher while attending Delta College where she is working on a degree in the medical profession. Please stop by and welcome Jackie to the campus.