

GENERAL NEWS

Campuses

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Started with just seven volunteers in 1977, it now has 200 part-time student employees who shepherd more than 100 students a night around the 411-acre campus. In addition, vans provide nearly 385,000 rides a year.

Thanks to escort and van services, says John Barber, chief of U.C.L.A.'s police, violent crime is five to six times lower on campus than in surrounding communities.

Curb alcohol abuse. According to studies by Towson State University, alcohol is involved in 80 percent of rapes, assaults and acts of vandalism on campus. Most states have raised their legal drinking age to 21, disqualifying roughly three-fourths of undergraduates. But the laws are useless unless schools enforce them.

Since Texas raised the drinking age in 1986, alcohol consumption at Rice University in Houston has dropped markedly. "Alcohol-related crimes at Rice--assaults, criminal mischief and walking home alone at night. They can use U.C.L.A.'s campus escort service. public intoxication--are trending downward too," says Mary Voswinkel, chief of the Rice police.

A key factor has been the involvement of Rice students in designing the school's policies. Any campus party where alcohol is served must have a student bartender trained by Rice's police to know when to cut off an intoxicated person's liquor before trouble starts. Parties that last more than two hours and have more than 200 people must have two university police officers in attendance. And trained student "drunk sitters" stay with intoxicated party-goers until they sober up.

At first, attendance at on-campus parties was down, but no longer. "Before the law changed in 1986, the main draw was all the alcohol you wanted for only a dollar," says Scott Wiggers, a recent graduate. "Now alcohol is secondary, and people are having fun just dancing and socializing."

Even Rice students out on the town are protected, thanks to a transportation service that picks up those who have had too much to drink at area bars. The school also has a counseling center to

help students deal with alcohol abuse, stress, depression and other problems.

Fight rape with education. The chances of a woman's being raped at a college are astonishingly high. "Some 25 percent of the female college population have been victims of rape or attempted rape," says Claire Walsh, director of the Sexual Assault Recovery Service at University of Florida. In most cases, the rapist is an acquaintance or date.

Gang rapes, which typically occur at fraternity parties, "are all too common on many campuses," report Julie Ehrhart and Bernice Sandler, who studied the subject for the Association of American Colleges. They've documented 100 such cases at colleges of every stripe--public, private, big, small, religiously affiliated and Ivy League.

Determined to reduce rape, Claire Walsh established Campus Organized Against Rape (COAR) in 1982. Her research shows that women who recognize potential danger are better able to avoid an attack. So COAR runs awareness seminars, which are attended by men as well as women. Walsh stresses that men need to take responsibility for stopping rape and that most men are allies of women in the war against rape; they have an interest in protecting their mothers, sisters and girlfriends.

Walsh's advice to women for avoiding rape: Date in groups until you get to know your dates. Avoid being in any isolated situation. Don't drink with people you don't know well. Beware of men who talk about women as conquests or as adversaries.

Keep students and parents informed. "Students must be aware that there is crime on campus," says Dan Smith, Stanford University's special services manager. Since 1984, Stanford has issued a 48-page booklet on safety, covering everything from protecting dorm rooms or apartments from burglary to describing a suspect. The university also offers crime-prevention seminars.

Clean up bad neighborhoods. No college can isolate itself from the community. If a school is surrounded by a high-crime area, crime will seep onto campus unless people fight back. The typical response is to close ranks and battle crime at the gate. Lt. Calvin Handy, of the University of California at

Berkeley campus policeforce, took different approach.

On Friday and Saturday nights, more than 1000 teen-agers would swarm onto Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue to hang out. Gangs saw an opportunity, and rat packs of ten or 12 youths began robbing and assaulting students and residents alike. Vagrants and panhandlers were drawn to the area; drug-related crimes were rampant.

Then Handy began working with Berkeley police to clean up this Southside neighborhood. He aggressively moved his troops off campus. Joint city and university police foot patrols were increased. Task forces were established, which over the past two years have made more than 1000 drug- or weapons-related arrests. Doormen were installed in university buildings and residence halls to check for school ID cards. Campus lighting was improved, escort services were increased, and crime-prevention seminars taught students to protect themselves.

Although crime has not been eliminated, results have been dramatic. Stranger rapes were reduced from seven in 1986 to zero in 1988. Violent crimes were cut 40 percent. The rat packs have been driven out. Most important, students and residents have reclaimed the community from the gangs, drug dealers and other criminals. "Statistics don't measure fear," says Handy. "Our students had given up the Southside. Now they have it back."

To ensure the safety of students, colleges must develop an aggressive strategy against crime. Parents should encourage college administrators to adopt proven safeguards, and students must

exercise common-sense precautions. If all do their part, the scandal of campus violence can be ended.

Editors note: Penn State Harrisburg has an escort service available to students. Anyone needing an escort should call police services at 948-6232.

Odd Fellows

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and further renovations will not be finished until they have the money in hand.

Peavy said lots of people have misconceptions about what the facility is. Even after they know it is a nursing home, many are surprised to find women among the residents, since the Order is restricted to men.

The Order has a female counterpart, called Rebekah Assembly, so there have always been women in residence, although their numbers have increased since 1964.

Whenever we have to explain who we are, we begin by telling them "We're not all odd, and we're not all fellows," Peavy said.

He said the home welcomes volunteers, and students and area residents alike are encouraged to get to know their neighbors in the stately brick mansion.

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Penn State Downtown Center 234 North Third Street
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Speaker Dr. James A. Lynch
Associate Professor of Forest Hydrology
Penn State University

Professor Lynch will present a summary of the proceedings of the conference "Atmospheric Deposition in Pennsylvania: A Critical Assessment"

A question and answer period will follow the presentation.
Refreshments will be provided.

This presentation is sponsored by the Penn State Downtown Center and is one of a series of lectures on public policy-related issues. For more information on the lecture series, call the Downtown center at (717) 783-0433