



ARE YOU PREPARED TO BE

Incidents of harassment, damage to property, fire alarms, complaints and medical emergencies have been reported to campus security since January. In previous years, theft and sexual assault have also occurred. As I gathered information to write a report on the subject of campus security, I interviewed both key administrators and students. The question of our safety – and whether or not we really are safe – was raised repeatedly. This brought me to the realization that we, as students of the university, are woefully uninformed. Measures can be taken to prevent these crimes from happening to you. The first, most crucial step is to become educated about your surroundings. I have investigated the question at hand to provide you with what you need to know about crime at the University of St. Francis. Throughout this article you will find a comparison of our school's safety records to other schools in Illinois, cited research comparing male and female victims, prevention and coping techniques, the roles of security guards on campus and security measures the school has taken to increase student, employee and faculty safety.

What exactly do we know, and what should we have the right to know?

*"Dear Students,
Joliet Police are investigating a reported sexual assault. This reportedly occurred about 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5 in parking lot B of the University of St. Francis...Members of the university community are reminded to be cautious and aware of their surroundings when walking in streets or parking lots. All are encouraged to walk in pairs or to contact the Safety and Security Department for an escort to campus parking lots or other buildings."*

This is part of an email message that was sent to students of the university on December 6th, 2011 around 4 p.m.—almost a full day after the incident occurred. We were informed that the Joliet Police were involved in the investigation, and then heard nothing more about it. As a female on campus, would that make you feel safe? What happens when there are not enough officers to escort you to your vehicle? What if all of the parking lots are full and you have a three block hike to your car in the dark? Are you prepared to defend yourself? What actions can we take as a university to make sure everyone feels safe?

Female v. male victims

Before I get down to the "nitty gritty" effects of crime, I must first touch on how it comes about. Victims of crime are not to be blamed, but rather, we need to focus on the root cause of all of the violence. It may be true that women become victims of crime more often than men, and while men are responsible for nine out of ten alcohol and drug abuse violations at schools (according to *Why boys don't talk and why it matters*), one is not to be taken lightly over the other. Let's begin with women as the victims of crimes. In the book *Girls on the Edge* by Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D., Sax makes a few gender points. Girls try to look sexy at younger ages than ever before, which results in unintentional disengagement from their sexual identities. Also pointed out by Sax, girls are more likely nowadays to become "hyper-connected" with their peers through Facebook and texting, causing them to become more disconnected from themselves. Personal obsessions and environmental toxins that cause an early onset of puberty are also factors Sax lists as reasons girls are becoming the victims of crimes in increasing rates.

Why boys don't talk and why it matters by Susan Morris and Linda Perlman Gordon gives interesting insight as to the

A VICTIM?

cause of violence in boys; violence is a gender issue. In the book by Morris and Gordon, it states that "Eighth grade boys are 50 percent more likely than girls to be held back a grade. Boys are more likely to drop out of high school than girls. Boys are three times more likely to be victims of violence. Adolescent boys commit most of the adolescent crimes." I read on: "Teachers and administrators come to expect certain behaviors from boys v. girls." One male star athlete interviewed in the book recalled how he got the attention from his teachers that he wanted after several football victories. Males accused of school shootings reveal a crisis in masculinity: "If we understand the sadness in boys, we'll deal with that sadness and not have to wait to cope with their aggression." This quote by James Garbarino, author of *Lost boys: Why our sons turn violent and how we can save them*, validates that boys are more likely than girls to keep their negative emotions to themselves and, in the long run, commit more violent acts of expression.

When put together, males and females have different expectations of one another. The levels of respect young men and women have for each other in dating relationships today has greatly diminished. In a research assignment by Carlos Aquino, the university's Director of Counseling and Health Services, he asked what happened to respect in dating. He surveyed twelve-year-old male junior high school students, asking what would constitute that girls should have sex with them. In response, the young men said that if they spent money on girls, they should repay the boys by sleeping with them. Therefore, a date to McDonalds could be considered the male's "ticket to ride." You can't blame only the boys, however; Aquino went on to make the point that a girl can go gaga over a boy who simply winks at her. Whatever happened to doors being opened for women, along with the whole process of courting? When men and women expect different things from each other, conflict arises, which can, in turn, lead to emotional abuse and, in the worst cases, crime.

"If I became a victim of crime on campus, what actions should I take?"

Due to the recent cases of sexual assaults and stalking on campus, I thought it would be important for me to talk to a couple people about actions that should be taken if someone else were to become a victim of this today. What I found out is that every higher educational institution must conduct an annual exercise of a violence prevention plan. This began as a result of the shootings at Virginia Tech. As I sat down with our school nurse, Phyllis Peterson, to ask some questions, she pointed out to me that "Campus violence is an ongoing process that we as a University need to continually educate ourselves on, as well as exercise." I was curious to look more into the plan. The violence prevention plan is presented by the Alcohol, Drug and Violence Committee. Within the policy plan, I looked up their definition of violence and one in particular stood out to me: "Violence as used in this policy pertains to unjustified acts that have harmful effects on its victims or the environment. Such acts of violence frequently

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by: Heather DeLong

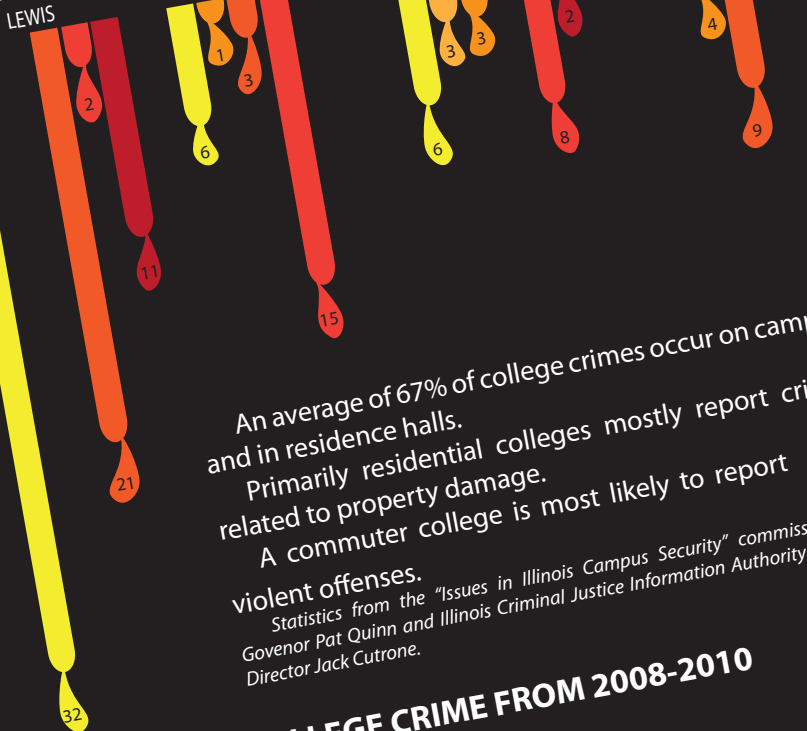


Pictures taken and submitted by Jorge Carmona & News Editor and Staff Writer Heather DeLong. All photos are fictionalizations of potential real-life situations.

LOCAL STATISTICS ON REPORTED COLLEGE CRIME FROM 2008-2010

- Forcible Sex Offenses
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Weapons Law Violation
- Drug Law Violation

Statistics from the respective school's reported crime statistics. Often this information can be located under a section entitled "your right to know" or "student's right to know" on their websites.



An average of 67% of college crimes occur on campus and in residence halls.

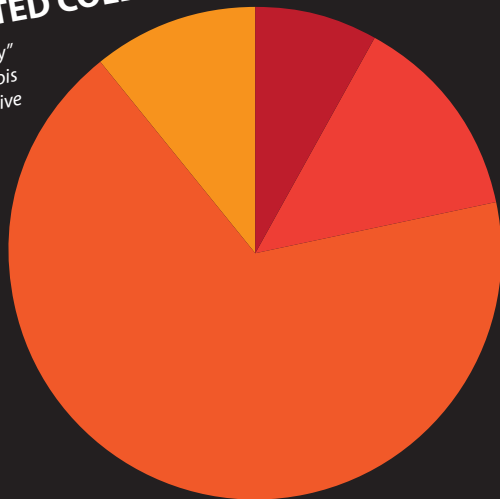
Primarily residential colleges mostly report crimes related to property damage.

A commuter college is most likely to report more violent offenses.

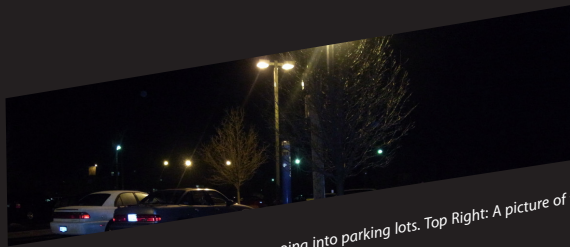
Statistics from the "Issues in Illinois Campus Security" commissioned by Governor Pat Quinn and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Executive Director Jack Cutrone.

STATE STATISTICS ON REPORTED COLLEGE CRIME FROM 2008-2010

Statistics from "Issues in Illinois Campus Security" commissioned by Governor Pat Quinn and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Executive Director Jack Cutrone.



- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Burglary
- Aggravated Assault
- Forcible Sex Offenses



Top Left: A picture of the new lights going into parking lots. Top Right: A picture of the walkie-talkies and uniforms used by campus security. Pictures taken and submitted by News Editor and Staff Writer Heather DeLong.



include the imposition of one's will or psychological dominance over another party without humane respect for their dignity as a deliberate creation of God."

As I spoke more with Carlos Aquino, Director of Counseling and Health Services, I asked about the long-term side effects that an assault or harassment can have on a person. He said that among the most common were post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety. Aquino is certified in sexual assault trauma. He reinforced the idea that if something was to happen to you on campus, "You're not alone; you don't have to deal with this by yourself, we're here to help."

What I got out of speaking to both of these key administrators is that even though the school is required to maintain our safety through prevention and coping, the harsh reality is that crime is still happening all around us on campus and many students still do not feel safe.

Role of a student security officer on campus

I had the opportunity to interview Tom Uraski, Director of Safety and Security at St. Francis. I was curious about the role of a student security officer on campus. He answered with: "The student workers are the eyes and ears only; they're not trained to go into combat." When students are on duty, their job is to run and get help if they see a questionable situation. The specific role of the student security worker is to man the security desk and make rounds on campus looking for suspicious activity. "They are very valuable in support of the department," Uraski added. An issue that came to my attention and to the attention of some fellow students was whether or not the school is liable for an injury suffered to a student worker while on duty.

As I sat with Tom Uraski, he reassured me that Chief Mike Trafton of the Joliet Police Department has made a huge commitment to St. Francis. The Cathedral area is heavily patrolled by the Joliet police, making it a much safer place to reside. Toward the end of the interview, Tom Uraski strongly suggested that all denizens of the school should keep the Safety and Security Department phone number (815.740.3200) on their speed dial. One mistake that students make is not knowing what number to contact when they need to reach security.

Security measures

Are you afraid of the dark? Well, you should be, but a security measure has recently been enacted on campus to make St. Francis a safer place at night. Security lights of up to 400 watt high pressure sodium (HPS) have been installed throughout parking and walking areas. It is still advised by the Student Government Association President, Christian Pendleton, that safety precautions should be taken: "Don't walk alone at night and ask security for an escort if you have no one to walk with."

The University has also installed new cameras, giving security eight new views. Also added was a 360 degree camera, giving the security department four different views of one particular area. Additionally, all outdoor cameras have been supported by extra lighting. The locations of the new cameras will remain confidential in this article for personal safety reasons. These new installations have been part of St. Francis' improvement plan, phase one. Phase two will hopefully begin September 1st, according to Tom Uraski. The improvement plan has been supported by the President and Vice President of the University. Uraski continues, "We don't have unlimited funds at St. Francis, so we need quality ideas. I am grateful that the ideas of the Safety and Security Department have been supported."

There will always be those who feel safe while on campus, and those who don't, but Uraski's goal for the improvement plan is to "hopefully get to a point where everybody feels safe, regardless of their point of view."

**"You're not alone;
you don't have to deal
with this by yourself,
we're here to help."**