

CUASA COMMUNIQUÉ

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Security on Campus

A spate of vandalism on campus over the weekend of April 10-11 has served as a sharp reminder that we all need to be aware that the campus offers a lot of access to intruders. At the request of CUASA Council, a memo has been sent to President Van Loon expressing Council's concern about the recent incidents and suggesting that a system be put in place to alert the community about such acts. Council also encouraged a public education campaign on this issue.

Like any public institution without perimeter fences, a university campus cannot be sealed off against agents of disorder. Not only vandals, but sexual predators, thieves, flashers and their ilk are attracted to universities, where a labyrinth of buildings, offices, stairwells, alcoves and walkways provide cover. Campus Safety cannot be everywhere all the time, so it is important to be alert and to be street smart. Things to do and not do:

- ◆ Do report all crimes, including vandalism and graffiti, to Campus Safety immediately (4444). If necessary, they will contact the Ottawa Police.

- ◆ Do use good sense in avoiding unlighted or isolated areas of campus when alone, especially after dark.

- ◆ Do pay attention to posters by Campus Safety with information about security incidents on campus.

- ◆ Do use the Carleton Foot Patrol (4066) when working late on campus; they serve faculty as well as students.

- ◆ Do not leave your office unlocked at any time. It takes only seconds for a thief to snatch something.

- ◆ Do safeguard valuables, even in locked offices. Make sure equipment is securely fastened and marked for identification.

- ◆ Do not attempt to apprehend offenders on your own; report what you see to Campus Safety.

- ◆ Do report all graffiti immediately to Campus Safety. Particularly ugly forms of vandalism are sexist, racist and obscene graffiti. The University has a zero tolerance policy against such forms of aggression and will respond quickly and professionally.

- ◆ Do bring books and other library materials that have been defaced with sexist, racist or obscene markings to the attention of Library staff.

- ◆ Do take the time to educate students: aggressive graffiti are a form of hate crime and known perpetrators will be prosecuted; vandalism is not a "victimless" crime: we all have to pay to repair damage done to our common property.

Everyone has the right to expect our campus to be safe, free of physical and psychological threats. As a community we must continue to work together towards making that expectation a reality. Ignoring problems will not make them go away. But you should never forget that there are sources of assistance, whether for dealing with emergencies or for improving the campus security climate. Don't hesitate to contact Campus Safety or CUASA if you have concerns or suggestions.