Officials Expect Break-ins During Holiday

BY JEFF LUPO
Staff Writer

Students venturing home to stuff their stomachs this Thanksgiving weekend are being urged to use some common sense to avoid potential burglars eager to stuff their vans on unattended property.

Many student residents leave town to visit friends and family, often leading to increased break-in crimes during vacations. Sheriff's Sgt. Conn Abel said a general lack of residents in I.V. makes it harder to report and detect burglaries.

"When we have a large number of houses and apartments vacant for a period of time, the risk of break-ins increases because there are no neighbors to look out for or report burglars," he said. "This seems to be widely known, and unfortunately, it's a fact of life."

Abel said current trends in I.V. crime might point to more burglaries over holiday breaks this year than in the past.

"One thing that I'm really concerned about is that we've been experiencing upwards of 100 car burglaries within the past few months," he said. "With these types of burglaries on the rise, it seems that the chances of residential burglaries occurring will also go up."

UC Police Officer Bill Van Nueswoodius said students can take precautions if they are planning to leave I.V. for the holidays.

"If you leave a car behind, take the face plate off of the stereo, and take all potentially valuable items out of it," he said. "Also take all valuables out of your residence, and if you have a nice bike, make sure to lock it up."

Community Service on the Menu This Holiday Season

BY JEFF LUPO
Staff Writer

A traditional feast came a few days early for local needy families, thanks to a joint effort by several community organizations.

The Isla Vista Teen Center, along with Lambda Sigma Gamma sorority, Lambda Nu society, Hermanos Unidos and MUJER, held its second annual Thanksgiving dinner for over 100 people Tuesday. Teen Center Program Assistant Ricky Ortega, a senior sociology and Spanish major, said food for the dinner was donated by the various organizations involved, and prepared by volunteers throughout the community.

"Everyone was responsible for making something at home and then bringing it here so we could have a full feast of good food," he said. "The dinner is mainly for local Chicano/Latino community members and families."

Teen Center Director Richard Ramos said the dinner provided a chance for families in the community to give thanks together.

"Most of the people here are families that come to the Teen Center consistently," he said. "The food is served by student volunteers from different groups. We all have a good time while eating good food."

Among the student servers were members of Lambda Sigma Gamma sorority, who volunteered more than just their time this Thanksgiving, according to Vice President Jamie Gonzales.

"We have a food drive every Thanksgiving where we use the food that we get to make baskets for needy families," she said. "This is the first year we've worked closely with the Teen Center to work more closely in the community."

Gonzales said food for the baskets was donated by the Sisters of Lambda Sigma Gamma sorority serve a Thanksgiving dinner to local residents at the Isla Vista Teen Center on Monday night.

See SECURITY, p.3

On-Campus Crime

BY ALEX CHU
Reporter

While overall crime on campus decreased in the past two years, the number of reported forcible sex incidents doubled since 1996, a recently released report shows.

The report, released last week by the UC Police Dept., Rape Prevention Education Program (RPEP) and the Office of Student Life, shows that from 1996 to 1998 the number of on-campus forcible sex offenses increased from three to six. However, the number of "other sex offenses" (loitering in public restrooms, indecent exposure, prostitution), robberies, burglaries, bike thefts, other larcenies and arsons all decreased on campus since 1996, the report states.

The report was mailed to students, parents and faculty for them to evaluate their community's safety, according to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Michael Young.

"I think the brochure helps to make people aware of what kind of crimes are happening, and if you're aware you can operate to protect yourself," he said. "We have a range of programs to help educate people and to provide security personnel."

Although the information does not include hate-crime statistics this year, the university is working to compile numbers for next year's report, Chief of Police John MacPherson said. Young reiterated the university's position on crime with a statement in the brochure decrying acts of violence and hatred on campus.

"There is no place — absolutely no place — on the campus for physical violence, personal intimidation or demonstrations of hatred, as there should be no place in our society," Young wrote. "No one should have to walk in fear for any reason, and certainly not because he or she belongs to a certain group, a particular race, ethnicity, gender or has a certain sexual orientation."

For the first time, the annual report compared crimes on campus housing, university-affiliated off-campus housing and other campus locations, and included statistics for crimes in Isla Vista, Goleta and the south county, according to RPEP Coordinator Carol Mosely. The County Sheriff's Stations in Goleta, Carpinteria and Montecito reported a total of three homicides, 21 forcible sex offenses and 551 burglaries, the report states. The Santa Barbara Police Dept. dealt with three homicides, 18 forcible sex offenses, 407 aggravated assaults and 238 bicycle thefts.

See REPORT, p.6
AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — Sparing by recent federal recommendations, colleges are mounting a widening attack on meningitis this fall with health advisories, educational campaigns and vaccination clinics. The aim is to curb the spread of meningitis in dormitories.

However, the latest studies suggest that only a few meningitis deaths might be avoided each year in college — leading some health authorities to wonder if they could do better by working more closely with common college scourgis like drunken driving or sexually transmitted diseases.

"You're talking about millions of dollars per life saved. There are known to be many interventions in college," said Marvin Gapultos, former campus health officer at Harvard University. "But it's going to be hard to get access to the meningitis vaccine, especially for college freshmen."

Yet, of 3,000 cases nationwide in a typical year, just 100 to 125 occur at colleges. The death rate is highest among freshmen living in dormitories. With about 520,000 such freshmen this fall, five deaths would be expected.

"If you look at the national figures and you look at meningitis as a whole, it's a minor problem," said Dr. Joseph Wintro, a Roman Catholic who had walked more than 2,400 miles in May on a pilgrimage from his hometown to the Holy Land, who often says the mass for previously non-Christian prisoners. "It's a minor problem.""There are good drivers who usually keep a low profile to avoid friction with Muslims."

The dispute has spilled over into Middle East peace talks, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat backing Christians in Nazareth in hopes they will support his position as the negotiations terminate the Jewish settlement of the Holy Land. Christians, a tiny minority of about 100,000, had to take the initiative and actually initated the removal of driving privileges for Muslims."

The dispute is uncharacteristic of Israeli Christians, who usually keep a low profile to avoid friction with Muslims."

"Nazareth should be a city for everyone," said Joseph Wintro, a Roman Catholic who had walked more than 2,400 miles in May on a pilgrimage from his hometown to the Holy Land, who often says the mass for previously non-Christian prisoners. "It's a minor problem.""There are good drivers who usually keep a low profile to avoid friction with Muslims."

Nazareth, Israel (AP) — The gates of churches across the Holy Land swung shut in protest Monday as Christians leaders made a final attempt to block the building of a mosque in the heart of Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood.

The two-day, Vatican-backed closure highlights the increasingly volatile relations between Christians, Muslims and, as Israel's ambiguous — some claim politically tainted — role as mediator.

Experts Wrestled With Problems of Unsafe Senior Drivers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It was a baby-boomer answer to having too many drivers: give 'em ‘til Daddy takes the T-Bird away. But as car-crash victims brought in to grandparents, the question is becoming: when to take Daddy's key away.

At the American Gerontological Society's annual meeting this weekend and around the country, experts are trying to figure out how to get unsafe older drivers off the road without unfairly penalizing those who drive well.

Statistics show that drivers over 65, along with teenagers, have the highest accident rates per miles driven. Proposals in several states to tougher requirements for older drivers have been thwarted recently by a combination of lobbying groups who say age-based measures are discriminatory.

"The good drivers and bad drivers of all ages," said Nina Glasgow, a Cornell University researcher who opposes age-based testing and favors screening targeted at all unsafe drivers.

Several states require elderly drivers to renew their licenses more frequently than other drivers, but very few require road tests or medical exams. Lawrence Nitz, a political scientist from the University of Hawaii, presented a three-year study of Hawaii traffic records at the gerontological meeting. It found that drivers over 75 were far more likely than other motorists to be cited for certain offenses, including failing to yield to pedestrians, backing up unlawfully and failing to stop at a flashing red light.

To deal with problematic senior drivers, Nitz suggested a phased removal of driving privileges, comparable to the phased adding of privileges for young drivers. An elderly driver might be barred from driving at night or restricted to an area near home.

Such phrasing appears to be reaching the ears of church leaders that it favored the Muslims because they have more political clout. The vast majority of Israel's 1 million Arabs are Muslim.
DINNER
Continued from p.1
UCSB Visitor Center, Smart & Final, Santa Cruz Market and families in Ellwood.
"We were able to get nine turkeys, six of which were donated to local families who were picked by us and the Teen Center, and the other three will be raffled off after the dinner," she said. "We wanted to be able to help those in the community who are less fortunate than the rest of us."
The I.V. Teen Center has numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Anyone wishing to get involved can contact the Teen Center at 685-9170.

SECURITY
Continued from p.1
either take it home or put it in your apartment."
Measures should also be taken to secure residences before leaving for breaks, according to Abel. "Make sure the house or apartment is fully secured, which includes dead-bolting and locking everything, as well as putting sticks in the windows to keep people from going in that way," he said. "Also, all computers, stereo, pocket organizers, jewelry and anything else that is considered valuable should be either taken out of the residence, or locked and secured in a closet."
Abel said that over past holiday breaks, I.V. has experienced upwards of 50 to 60 residential break-ins in a two-week period.
Junior communication major Jennifer Johnson said she plans to protect her possessions over this holiday season. "I am going to go home for the holidays, and I'm definitely going to take my car as well as some of my more valuable things like my stereo," she said. "I heard last year about a lot of people having their apartments being broken into and I don't want to encourage anything like that."
Van Nieuwenhuize gave a final piece of advice for those who plan to leave I.V. for the holidays. "All these break-in crimes are crimes of opportunity," he said. "The harder you make it for someone to take something quickly, the more discouraged they'll get and hopefully go somewhere else."
Isla Vista Foot Patrol officers will be on duty, routinely patrolling throughout I.V. over holiday breaks. The IVFP office can be reached at 681-4179, or in emergencies, 911.

The Daily Nexus wishes you a happy Thanksgiving.
Not in Our Water

The City Council Should Vote to Prevent the Addition of Flouride to the Local Water Supply

HyO, two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen, makes up 70 percent of the human body. These two elements represent the molecule necessary for survival. This basic molecule, then, does not require the inclusion of F⁻, the fluoride ion. The Santa Barbara City Council will decide today whether fluoride should be added to the local water supply. For a number of reasons, the council should reject the additions of fluoride to the water.

The health risks posed to those who ingest fluoride in their water give cause for hesitation. Potential dangers include weaker bones and increased cancer risks. In fact, a study by the National Cancer Institute showed a 5-percent increase in all cancers in communities with fluoridated drinking water. The only benefit from the addition of fluoride is the reduction of tooth decay. Therefore, the only guaranteed benefit is better teeth, while individuals' health and lives may be compromised.

Instead of risking their safety through fluoride in drinking water, citizens may use other methods for tooth care. In addition to daily hygienic practices of teeth brushing and flossing, regular dental checkups should be made. Every major brand of toothpaste contains fluoride, and most dentists give fluoride treatments with every checkup. In addition, some brands of bottled water include fluoride. There are no known health risks in ingesting fluoride through these methods, and they are more than sufficient in preventing tooth decay, so there is no need to fluoridate the entire community's drinking supply.

Santa Barbara tap water is notoriously unattractive, and fluoridation will do nothing to alleviate this problem. Whether fluoride is present or not, people will not drink the tap water if it doesn't taste good. Therefore, the money and energy spent on fluoridation would be wasted.

Proponents of fluoridation argue that the addition is necessary for children and their teeth. First, most children already receive fluoride from toothpaste or dental appointments. Second, efforts to educate children on dental health would be more effective than fluoridation. If children could learn how to appropriately care for their teeth and not rely on the lazy man's method, their teeth would be just as healthy.

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Finally, the only benefit from the addition of fluoride is the reduction of tooth decay. Therefore, the only guaranteed benefit is better teeth, while individuals' health and lives may be compromised.

The Only Best Way

The Reader's Voice

LIVING LA VIDA LOCA AT THE BASKETBALL GAMES

Editor, Daily Nexus

The talk of the campus last weekend was the men's basketball season opener against Stanford, which took place Saturday night in the Thunderdome. The tickets were advertised to be given away by the Gaucho Locos from noon until 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

Unfortunately, many people were turned away last year as early as 12:35 because all 2,500 student tickets were already accounted for.

The line was large and growing a full hour before the designated distribution time, so by the time the bells rang at noon the line already looped around Storke Plaza five times and moved up the steps and into the UCen. For all of the people who expected to show up around 1 p.m. and pick up their tickets there was nothing other than a prayer for a friend to have an extra one.

The line at the student entrance was also a mess through the designated distribution time, so by the time the bells rang at noon the line already looped around Storke Plaza five times and moved up the steps and into the UCen. For all of the people who expected to show up around 1 p.m. and pick up their tickets there was nothing other than a prayer for a friend to have an extra one.

The line at the student entrance was also a mess.


It's Only a Movie

Rears Its Dogmatically Controversial Head

Kerry Smith (of "Cherries," "Mallrats" and "Chasing Amy" fame) has just released his newest film, called "Dogma." His reasons for this film, based on interviews with him, seem quite well-intentioned. In fact, Barkley Smith of Variety is quoted as saying, "It's only a movie."

And so the saga begins. This film is being protested across the country by Catholic groups in the same fashion that "The Last Temptation of Christ" was protested by Christian groups.

And just like the Christian groups that protested that movie in 1988, the Catholic groups have also refused to even see the movie, with the excuse that their faith will not allow them to do so. Doesn't this amount to ignorance?

I've never been too fond of the Vatican's past policies and history. Jailing and torturing respectable scientific minds such as Galileo for heresy and attempting to wipe out two races (Mohammed and Jews) during the Spanish Inquisition doesn't amount to anything righteous, in my humble opinion. Then there's the refusal to say or do anything about the Holocaust during Hitler's rule, and what you have is a question of faith for convenience.

Regardless of these historical facts, I have never had any desire whatsoever to hate or despise the Catholic Church. Basically, the Catholic Church's track record gives it no ground to stand on if you weigh the severity of its actions and history in comparison to Kevin Smith's film "Dogma."

But still, the worst part is the Catholic Church's decision to base their protest on frivolous grounds of ignorance due to their refusal even to check out the flick, based on the excuse that their faith won't let them. I refuse to believe this.

It amounts to internalizing on the side of the Catholic Church, and this is something that the Pope is currently preaching against, and devout rude-and-file Catholics are in agreement against as well.

Perhaps these religious groups protest something as meaningless as a movie because they feel that this "let form" is in direct competition with their belief system. But the questions I have for these people is simple: If you have scriptures that have withstood the test of time and faith, then why worry about a mere movie by a mere mortal? Let your God do the judging.

Look, nobody is perfect, especially in the eyes of God, Allah, Jehovah or whoever your faith calls upon as its supreme being. We're all human, and can be asked to do no more than that. It's a pretty simple scheme that is proven daily.

Humility before the eyes of the grace that will grant you salvation must come first, and this humility is not based on hatred or judgment. I assume we all know what hatred is based on: ignorance and intolerance. Is it either righteous? I think not. So to all of you Catholic protesters, protesting the movie "Dogma" all I can say is know what you're protesting before screaming "blasphemy" at anyone.

Dare to step outside of the faith bubble and see what it is you're being told to protest. It may surprise and even shock you.

As for myself, I haven't taken the time from my busy schedule to see this movie, but I'll eventually get myself to the theater to see it. If it sucks, it will be based solely on the fact that the plot or direction or whatever aren't good, and not on the film's religious content. And even if I don't agree with the content of this movie on religious grounds, there is one basic, simple fact to remember when all is said and done: It is only a movie.

Henry Sarria is a longtime Idaho Vista resident and a Daily Nexus columnist.

Letters to the editor MUST include the author's FULL name, phone number, year and major.

Full name, phone number, year and major.

Letters to the editor

From: DIANA GINNS

Re: Rears Its Dogmatically Controversial Head

I think in color will not work for all the people. This is understandable. It is critically and unknowingly taken as a white privilege, if it is coming from the races in which I have been understood.

These are just a few of the unearned assets that a white person possesses. This privilege is an unrecognizable and powerful advantage. It is only after people like John begin to process and accept this oppression may begin to subside.

This reason should be enough to convince one that diversity should be appreciated, because without it, ethnic groups become subject to the white domain. Drawing attention to the groups, whether it be by clubs or ethnic studies classes, is an answer. In this way, who are you to say the groups aren't better off, because is that what we are really striving to obtain here?

If that were the case, then by your standards, all races and ethnicities would live according to white standards. Is this the understanding you were speaking of when you stated, "Rather, we need to shift the emphasis from diversity to understanding among all people?"

Let me clear this up for you: Diversity is not about dwelling on surface differences. It is recognizing a culture as a product of the struggles and triumphs they have achieved. It is realizing the sameness between people of different races is a relationship that white people cannot understand, because we are for the most part always winners.

Education is the key to overcoming the obstacles that lie before us regarding race relations. It is only through the understanding and appreciation of other peoples that we can collectively appreciate the diversity of other groups. By doing this, we can cherish them for their differences.

So, I urge you, take an ethnic studies class — take two, three, four — and finally you will find it may surprise and even shock you.

Diana Ginn's is a senior environmental studies major.

The Untold Benefits

Offshore Oil Drilling Bears Good Reason

MARK PIFKO

Proposed offshore drilling is good for the South Coast, good for California and good for the United States economy.

Proposed offshore drilling is good for the South Coast, good for California and good for the United States economy. Opponents of new oil-drilling developments are only concerned with their personal desires and think about what's good for our local, state and federal communities.

People who are members of VST's Santa Barbara counties have been forced to take jobs below their abilities because of the anti-oil development politics. Money earned by these oil company employees and subcontractors will be spent right here in our local communities, supporting local businesses. Salaries generated from this additional income can then be used to purchase the goods and services made here.

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Call Santa Barbara Travel Bureau:
Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the display advertising deadline for both Monday, Nov 29th and Tuesday, Nov 30th is Wednesday, Nov. 24th by 11am!

*strictly enforced!
UCSB Not Quite Ready to Run With the Big Dogs

BY MATT HURST
Staff Writer

The Georgia steamrollers this fall out of the final game of the Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament, and the UCSB women's basketball team was caught looking into the headlights of the #3 team in the country.

The Gauchos, ranked #10 by the ESPN/USA Today poll and #12 by The Associated Press after knocking off #15 Illinois a night earlier, didn't look like a team ranked in the top 25 against #3 Georgia on Monday night at Illinois Assembly Hall, losing 85-64 in the final game of the WNIT.

From a defensive standpoint, we let Georgia do what they wanted to do, and they're very good at what they want to do," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "They killed us on the boards in the first half and they did a good job of reversing the ball in the second half."

"Kills" might be a little too kind for what the Bulldogs (8-2) overall did to UCSB (3-1) on the boards; "muder" might be more like it. Georgia out-rebounded Santa Barbara 48-36.

We were not up to the challenge today," French said. "You let a team like Georgia do that and they're very hard to beat."

Georgia outscored the Gauchos 46-35 in the second half, keyed by the twins Coco Miller and Kelly Miller's combined 28 second-half points. Kelly finished with 16 and Coco had 15 total points. Georgia also forced 23 total turnovers from Santa Barbara.

"We played our best game of the season tonight," Georgia Head Coach Andy Landers said. "We rebounded and we moved the ball and found the open player and got into transition. We played more aggressively than they did."

"We just need to come out and play our game and we didn't do that tonight," Clemensmith said. "We came in with a different feeling than the other games. It's hard to explain what the feeling was, but they easily took us out of what we wanted to do."

Maybe it was because Landers challenged the Bulldogs to come out more aggressively after only defeating #20 Virginia Tech by five points and #18 Boston College by eight points in their previous two MWF games.