**Crime report**

**Purpose:** In light of the recent attack on Prof Ciara it is opportune to review UCT’s provision for safety and security. This report provides a view on the safety of staff and students on campus and whether there is a greater risk in the surrounding suburbs or nationally.

**Summary:** The two recent attacks have been opportunistic. There is insufficient evidence of a trend in violent crime on campus. UCT has experienced far less crime than the surrounding areas or nationally. We have invested in combating crime and the return on the investment is evident in the details and outcomes. The external environment is concerning and CID’s, Community Courts and extension of our services are options to consider. A change in behaviour by our staff is evident. A trial lockdown is planned for the summer vacation. Further investment in upgrading and renewal is necessary. Limited but important information must be shared.

**Context:** Council receive a 3 monthly report on crime. The report highlights areas concerns, overall trends within UCT and where countermeasures have been implemented and successful. I am pleased to report that during the past 5 years there has been a significant downward trend in reported UCT crime. This is best illustrated in the overview graph below:

![Overview graph of UCT Risk Management - Total number of Crimes January 2000- June 2006 Excluding Trespassing and Cellphones](image)

The priority behind counter-measures has been firstly; crimes against persons – and this encompasses crimes of violence - and secondly; property crimes.

In order to provide meaning to the statistics of crime on campus it is necessary draw comparisons with others. I have tried to obtain statistics from other tertiary institutes but have not been successful. At the annual Camprosa (Campus Protection Officers SA) meeting, UCT is the only institute that presents annual crime stats. Other institutions cite the effect of adverse publicity as a major barrier.

I am thus reliant on the SAPS ([www.saps.gov.za/statistics/reports/crimestats](http://www.saps.gov.za/statistics/reports/crimestats)) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) ([www.iss.co.za/CJM/stats09](http://www.iss.co.za/CJM/stats09)) for comparative statistics. This is not ideal as we...
are in a specialised sector, the various dimensions of the whole of society are different to what one may find at UCT and, the SAPS stats are viewed as “unreliable”. But it does provide us with some indicators and a basis for broad reflection and comparison.

The table below has been compiled utilising UCT’s records, ISS reports for surrounding neighbourhoods and the SAPS statistics for national figures for the periods 2004 and 2005. They apply in the main to crimes against persons, but I have included “theft of and from motor vehicles” where I have expressed concern in the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004 National Per 25000</th>
<th>2004 Rondebosch Per 25000</th>
<th>2004 Mowbray Per 25000</th>
<th>2004 Woodstock Per 25000</th>
<th>2004 UCT Per 25000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault GBH</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Assault</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unarmed Robbery</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Motor vehicle</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>1552</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crime comparisons 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 National Per 25000</th>
<th>2005 Rondebosch Per 25000</th>
<th>2005 Mowbray Per 25000</th>
<th>2005 Woodstock Per 25000</th>
<th>2005 UCT Per 25000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault GBH</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Assault</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unarmed Robbery</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Motor vehicle</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>1553</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I have purposely excluded trespassing and cell phone theft from these comparisons. The apprehension and arrests of trespassers are a direct result of proactive policing whilst with cell phone theft, 95% of the cases reported indicate negligence and not theft. Also excluded are the cases of common theft in the residences where the community is enclosed and most of the theft can be attributed to “student on student” with a degree of negligence.

There have been 3 high profile cases where members of UCT’s community have suffered from violent crime whilst on campus. (1) The murder resulting from the assault on Prof Hahn in February 2004 – it is not reflected here but the SAPS statistics are 42.7 murders per 100,000 population (i.e. 10.6 per 25,000 population). (2) the assault on Dr Douglas in November 2005 as reflected above and (3) the more recent attack on Prof Ciara in July 2006 – not reflected here.

From the above, one can deduce the following:
(a) There is insufficient information to indicate a trend in “violent crime / high profile cases” at UCT. 3 cases of violent crime over a 3 year period do not indicate a trend.
(b) Of these 3 cases, one involved members of our community (Prof Hahn) whilst the other two were perpetrated by strangers and were motivated by theft. These must be viewed as opportunistic.
(c) The statistics in priority crimes (crimes against persons) are much lower within UCT than immediately without or nationally, and even by applying large discounting for contextual variances, these figures do not compare with what is taking place externally.
(d) Other tertiary institutions do not provide comparative statistics or any form of benchmarking.

An approach to combating crime on campus

Our approach is “zero tolerance” and “one crime, is one crime too many”.

The combating of crime must be seen as establishing the right balance between physical security (fences/CCTV/gates etc) and behavioural awareness. The more emphasis we place on physical security, the closer we move towards a “private or closed” environment.

We have invested heavily in protecting the institution from a security aspect. Some of the measures that have been taken are:

- CCTV – 230 cameras installed with wide coverage and a re-action team. This is more cameras and coverage than the CBD.
Properties and Services

- Lighting – completion of camera friendly lighting on large portions of all campuses. We are entering the final two phases.
- Patrols – aside from internal patrols, 4 external patrols on the fringes of our campus (Stanley, Main, Cecil, and Matopa roads)
- Safe walk route – alarm beacons every 200m from the student village to upper campus. Also covered by CCTV.
- Access control – most entrances to buildings are on swipe card access control.
- Fencing – secure fencing around “Private” areas such as residences.

Fencing of perimeters has taken place at the Residences, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Orange Street Campus.
It is neither practical nor possible to fence off the upper, middle and lower campuses as we would be in conflict with the Rhodes Will Act and the M3 and Main road would present difficulties. In the absence of fences as a first line of defence is becomes necessary to “harden” the externals of buildings and to ensure the external grounds are surveyed and patrolled.

An approach to combating crime off campus

I have been concerned with the real dangers that members of UCT’s community face when they leave the safe confine of our premises. As indicated from the stats above, the surrounding precincts have experienced much higher levels of crime. Our own statistics support this view. Crime is usually displaced once countermeasures become effective. It is my view that the Civic Improvement Districts (CIDs) in the central CBD and more recently at Claremont have moved crime from those areas to areas that have fewer countermeasures in place and where there is a degree of affluence. It is therefore not surprising that the areas surrounding UCT have experienced a general rise in crime. This comes from both the CID’s and UCT’s efforts.

The SAPS have concurred with this and have found it difficult to stem the increasing tide.

We have had to invest in patrolling the external environment, and we now have 4 patrols that cover hotspots. These have been supplemented by CCTV where it has been possible.

It is proposed to re-direct some resources to assisting with the establishment of CID’s for Rondebosch and Observatory. It should be noted that the Orange Street Campus and the Breakwater Campus are part of the CID in the CBD.
I have started the process of consultation in both Rondebosch and Observatory and have drawn in the businesses, residents, shoppers and traders. A perception survey will form the basis of need; will require a well formulated business plan and wide consultation. Whilst UCT will be seen as a major party, it will not operate the CID. It is hoped that both of these CID’s will be established in the second semester of 2007 and be run as independent bodies, answering to key constituents. UCT would in such an arrangement be able to exercise influence over the safety of students and staff in the external environment.

The CID may prove to be a vehicle for entering into an agency agreement for traffic compliance. Parking, traffic and congestion have been identified as key areas of the Access Management Plan for 2009. In preparation for such an agreement, all of UCT’s traffic officials have been accredited as “Peace Officers” and have similar powers as police officers.

It is also opportune to revisit the possibility of establishing a “Community Court” in this area (possibly in Observatory – serving Rondebosch, Mowbray, Observatory and Woodstock). There are three such courts in Cape Town; in the CBD, Mitchell’s Plain and Kayalieshita. They are run by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in conjunction with the Department Of Justice. UCT is a founding member of these courts in Cape Town. Their aim is to dispense quick justice for petty crimes, and where sanction involves supervised correctional community work. They have been effective in freeing up the Magistrates courts for more serious crimes, whilst effectively dealing with petty crime.
Plans for further improvements to security on campus

The following measures have recently been implemented:

- Encouraging staff to display their UCT identification cards. This has met with broad acceptance but we await the behavioural change. The leadership and administrative offices in Bremner have been first to respond and with effect from 1 October 2006 staff entering the building will have to produce their ID cards. Similarly at the Faculty of Health Sciences this together with anti-pass back software has been introduced. The Dean of Law has indicated the introduction of a similar rule for his faculty, and sections of the Faculty of Science are to introduce similar changes.

- Additional visible policing and patrols on upper campus. This has commenced and patrols are entering buildings to undertake security sweeps and leave calling cards where security is lax.

- Lighting Audit. Preparation for the vacation upgrade to North West sector.

In addition to the above, plans are under way to renew the access control system after the completion of the Tsupasela project (mid 2007). This will see the introduction of a new combination card (combi-card) incorporating a smart electronic chipset, a wired integrated proximity aerial and the traditional mag stripe. The new system will move UCT out of a decaying and risky system into the next 7 year electronic era and will allow for much value added services (monitoring, bio-informatics, electronic payments and purses, etc)

A building-by-building audit has been undertaken on the upper campus. We have received overwhelming support for a partial shutdown of buildings during the summer vacation from the HOD’s interviewed. This will per building for a trial period where “public” spaces within buildings will be converted to “private” spaces. This is obviously not possible during term time as the volumes of students and staff passing through, are too great to control. The objective is that during vacation time the buildings will become private spaces and all but a single (as opposed to multiple doors) will be left open but on access control. This limited access programme will make control more effective. During the process of consultation we have had to pay attention to fire regulations, disabled access, the use of book able venues and functions.

I will await the outcome of this trial to establish the possibility of automating the process concurrently with the access renewal plan. The longer term plan is to install CCTV at access controlled doors and to automate alternative doors as far as is possible. I envisage an initial period of adversity as occupants will be deprived of the convenience of multiple access points.

Communication: reporting crime and crime trends

Every crime that is reported to CPS is recorded and a “daily report” is produced. The daily report is utilised by our security officials as source information and copies go to the Deans, Executive officers and HOD’s. The reports are descriptive so as to allow detection of suspects, and to establish modus operandi and trends. The daily report is the basis for the monthly statistics.

I believe that this information is not for public consumption. To do other wise would be to provide criminals with information that would assist them and make detection much more difficult.

Bi-weekly summaries of hot spots, trends and crime patterns are published in the Monday Paper. They do not provide the detail of daily reports but relevant information to assist the reader to be aware of certain areas, times and suspects.

The bi-weekly reports are being posted to the UCT’s website.

In addition the 3 monthly crime report to Council will be posted to the web and updated in a similar fashion.