



# COMMON GROUND

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Winter 2013

Dear Karen,

Greetings MCSA members, I hope that all is well within your businesses and families as we move into 2013. I am pleased to announce our first members meeting will be taking place on February 20, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Novi, featuring Gary Kutty. Gary serves as Senior Consultant and CEO of [Kutty & Associates, LLC](#), a professional security management, marketing and consulting agency with its corporate office located in Dayton, Ohio. The agency specializes in offering management, marketing and sales strategies to contract security companies. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and encourage each of you to bring one or more guests. This is how we develop new members and increase our membership and effectiveness.

*Watch your email for more information and how to register!*

I want to remind our members about the benefits of obtaining liability and workers compensation insurance through the [Campbell Group](#). If you have not talked to [Kevin Whaley](#) about your insurance needs yet, I strongly suggest that you do so, to benefit from the savings offered through your MCSA membership. What could you do with the savings you receive?

If you haven't renewed your membership, I ask that you do so as soon as possible. All renewals were due by January 1, 2013. It is important that we present a united front to the new legislators who will be asked from time to time to support our industry. Your renewed membership in MCSA is money well spent. You will see in the Legislative Report that we have several pieces of Legislation affecting our industry and we must be ready to promote what is best for security.

This edition is our new digital newsletter that allows for direct links to

[Kevin Whaley -  
Ex-Officio](#)

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Join Our Mailing List!

Save the Date!

**Mark your  
calendar  
and bring a  
guest (or two!)**

**MCSA Membership  
Meeting  
February 20, 2013  
at the  
Crowne Plaza in  
Novi.**

**Watch your email  
for more  
information!**

emails, websites and allows you to share this newsletter with your personnel and potential members with just the click of your mouse. Sharing this information with others is a great way to recruit new members and build strength in our industry.

Thank you for your support in 2012 and I look forward to what 2013 brings all of us.

Regards,

Dale White  
MCSA President

## SECURITY OFFICER STOPS KIDNAPPING

**WENATCHEE WA** - An alert security officer helped an 11-year-old girl escape from an attempted kidnapping late Saturday morning on the Wenatchee Valley College campus.

Arrested on suspicion of first-degree attempted kidnapping was John A. Graff, 43, of Leavenworth. The security officer, Kevin Edwards, also detained the suspect until Wenatchee police arrived at the scene.

About 11 a.m., the Wenatchee girl was walking home from Western Market at Fifth Street and Western Avenue through the college campus when a man approached her and asked what she was doing and what her name was, said Detective Edgar Reinfeld. She kept walking and tried to ignore him until he grabbed her around the shoulders and asked if she wanted to get into his truck.

Edwards, a few minutes earlier, had noticed the girl and the man walking through campus in opposite directions, Reinfeld said. He started watching the man intently when the man turned and started walking in the same direction as the girl.

When the girl started screaming and trying to get away from the man, Edwards ran toward them, allowing the girl to break free, Reinfeld said. Edwards told the girl to run home and then he detained the suspect.

After police arrived, responding to Edwards call for help, the girl's father came to the scene. Police later interviewed the girl. The assault happened about 11 a.m. near the east end of the fountain near the library, Reinfeld said. He said Graff has a



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previous conviction for assault but he had no details.

This is the second time that Edwards has helped police capture a suspect, Reinfeld said. On Dec. 19, 2010, Edwards was also working as a security officer when he helped police locate a man suspected of robbing Walgreens.

Edwards pointed out footprints in the snow that belonged to the suspect and he pointed out a jacket and money that the suspect had dropped while fleeing the scene of the robbery. Edwards was honored by the police department in 2011 for his actions in helping solve that robbery.

Reprint from Private Officer International December 31, 2012

## Legislative Report - Julian Vail, LLC

### State

#### State House Leadership Elections

The Michigan House of Representatives began the session on January 9, 2013 with election of the speaker and approving general operating resolutions for this term. The House voted to support Jase Bolger for a second term as Speaker without any challengers. House Majority Floor Leader Jim Stamas and Speaker Pro Tem John Walsh were also retained by vote of the House of Representatives. The Republicans retain majority with 59 members and the Democrats have 51 members.



Tim Greimel, a 38-year-old labor attorney from Pontiac, was elected the Michigan House of Representative's Democrat Minority Leader. Greimel joined the House in February after winning the special election called when former Rep. Tim Melton left the Legislature. Greimel served five terms on the Oakland County Commission and worked in the UAW's legal department.

The rewrite bills for MCSA of P.A. 330 have been prepared for introduction by Senator Booher early in 2013. Don Grant and Dale White have reviewed them for clarity and are working diligently with [Julian Vail, LLC](#), bill sponsors and attorneys.

SB 1321 signed into law, January 7, 2013.

PA 591

Senator Rick Jones introduced bill that require security guards to report crimes to law enforcement. This bill is now PA 591 of 2012.

Julian Vail, LLC continues to monitor the question of licensing of Security Guard Company's in Michigan. The Office of Regulatory Reinvention has recommended legislation to de-regulate the industry. MCSA will be opposing this legislation if and when it is introduced as the association believes it is in the public's best interest to have a regulatory system for Security Guards.

#### **Federal**

##### **Elections**

Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry, handily won re-election to her third term.

Michigan's Congressional incumbents maintained their seats, Dan Kildee (D) won his effort to replace Dale Kildee and *Kerry Bentivolio* (R) will take the seat held by former Congressman McCotter.

### **Are Campus Crime Statistics Believable?**

Moving into the new environment of the college or university residence hall is a frightening experience for some teenagers. To others, the naivety of the sheltered family continues. These young people eventually adapt to reality-some because they change attitudes to accommodate the new situation. Others, unfortunately, learn some hard and frequently costly lessons. Going from the family setting where members are protective of each other, to one where there is a collection of frequently conflicting personal values, leads the unsuspecting student into an area with new threats and risks.

The college residence hall is only one of many separate and unique environments in which new students find themselves. Their room is a sanctuary from potential criminal incidents-burglary and theft of valuable property, and unwanted sexual activity. Similar exposures exist in all areas of the campus. Parents want to ensure their prospective college student will be in an environment relatively free of danger. A problem arises when attempting to identify potential risk information that is sometimes confusing, and occasionally deliberately misleading.

#### **The Campus Security Act**

The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act (Public Law 101-542) was signed into law in November 1990 and amended several times in subsequent years. Title II of this Act is known as

the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990. This Act requires institutions participating in student financial aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to disclose information about campus safety policies and procedures and to provide annual statistics of certain crimes occurring on campus-the statistics may be found on the Internet at [www.ope.gov](http://www.ope.gov). The report is to be distributed to all current students and employees and, upon request, to prospective students and employees.

Over the years, the reporting criteria have changed. The latest crime statistics available encompass 1998 - 2000, with available enrollment figures based on 2000 Fall enrollment. The required offenses to be reported in 2000 included:

- Murder/non-negligent manslaughter
- Forcible sex offenses-forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling
- Nonforcible sex offenses-statutory rape, incest, public lewdness, and indecent exposure
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault
- Burglary
- Motor vehicle theft
- Arson
- Negligent manslaughter

An exception to the mandatory reporting criteria of the Campus Security Act is that crimes reported to counselors or clergy enjoy completely optional reporting for all calendar years. Depending on the institution, this could cause considerable under-reporting of criminal offenses. At an institution supported and directed by a religious group, the individual responsible for campus security could be a member of the clergy. The question is whether the crimes are reported to this person in his role as a clergyman or as the person responsible for security-an issue of mandatory versus optional reporting.

### **Are the statistics reliable?**

A southwestern college reported 12 forcible sex offenses occurred in on-campus residence halls in 2000. Another college in the northeast reported three forcible sex offenses for the same period. Which school is safer for dormitory residents?

At first glance, it would appear that the college with 12 offenses was more dangerous. However, it must be remembered that the reported statistics reflect only the number, not the relative ratio, of incidents. When measured against the student population, the

institution with 12 offenses had 0.19 percent of the total number of female students as a victim of a forcible sex offense-the other college had a rate of 3.85 percent. The offense rate is a better indicator of exposure than the number of offenses.

Compliance with the Act obviously varies with the institution and is complicated by a mixture of conflicting interpretation of the requirements. A review of some of the statistics brings the validity of the offense numbers into question. Is it believable that a college in one of the largest cities in the United States and with an undergraduate enrollment in excess of 15,000 students had no forcible sex offenses and only three burglaries committed in residence halls during a three-year period? The statistics may be completely accurate but it is important to identify security related factors that could make this possible.

As with all crime statistics, it is important to remember that they are based on "reported" crimes and not necessarily actual crimes. Forcible sex offenses are considered the most under-reported crime.

The number of reported crimes may be influenced by many factors:

- Some institutions may actively, or through subtle pressure, discourage reporting of criminal incidents because of the impact on public relations and future student applications
- Administrators may manipulate the statistics for various reasons, e.g., the security administrator to justify job performance or to obtain increased resources
- The crime victim may be embarrassed by the incident
- There may be a perception that nothing will be done to rectify the problem or that the victim may be subject to censure or removed from the college
- The victim may be unwilling to identify the attacker

### **How should I evaluate the safety of the dorm?**

The reported statistics should be evaluated against different criteria to determine the "real" residence hall safety and security issues. The geographical location is a major influence on college campus crime. When the institution is located in a deteriorating section of a large metropolitan area, the potential for crime may be entirely different from a college located in a very small town or a remote area. With increased population comes an increase in the number of individuals with a propensity for committing crimes.

An institution may basically be a closed community with very limited access to the property. A small college in the southern

United States reportedly is completely enclosed with a fence and entry is strictly controlled at all times. Naturally, this will control the number of unauthorized persons entering the property. Crimes still may occur, however at a lesser rate.

In this era of co-ed college living, access control to the residence hall is fundamental. The best and most modern building access control system will not protect a residence hall in the desired manner without constant monitoring and maintenance. A residence hall access control program is virtually worthless if everyone with access to the college property, either as a student or employee, has unrestricted access to every residence hall. While some employees may require complete freedom of access to perform their duties, employee access should be limited to normal work hours. Students should not be granted automatic access to a residence hall other than the one in which they reside. Maintenance of exterior and interior doors is a continuing problem. There is currently ongoing negligent security litigation against a college where this is the primary negligence issue. A female student was raped in her dormitory room. She had previously complained to several members of the maintenance and administrative staff that the lock on her room door would not function properly. Additionally, she reported that the exterior doors, even though allegedly locked by the campus security patrol, were routinely propped open or, if locked, could easily be pulled open.

Many colleges and universities provide a security presence of some type. The quality of the security force has a direct impact on criminal incidents. Campus security may be provided by a member of the maintenance staff who has been assigned the responsibility as a secondary duty solely to satisfy a legal requirement. In this instance, security is frequently ignored until after an incident has occurred. Other institutions, normally with a large student population, will have a highly professional police or public safety organization. Where there is a dedicated professional security staff, the rate of criminal incidents is lower. Normally, a residence hall has one or more resident supervisors. Their presence does not necessarily make the residence hall a safer place for the student. The manner in which these resident supervisors perform their duties is a key security issue. One of the matters at issue in the litigation mentioned above is that the resident supervisors were apathetic and tended to ignore problems and complaints. The supervisors' rooms were also located in areas where they had a very restricted view of corridors and common areas. One of the senior residence hall

supervisors complained to the administration when a security officer attempted to quell a disturbance in a residence hall common area. Her attitude was that she was responsible for what happened within the building and security officers should not interfere. Unfortunately, the administration supported the residence hall supervisor and directed that security officers could intervene only at the request of a residence hall supervisor. When you evaluate the statistics in relation to the above issues, a determination of the relative safety and security of the dormitory resident can be more realistically assessed.

### Summary

Residence hall safety and security is only one factor in the college decision process. It is especially important when there is a requirement that first-year students reside in a residence hall. Identifying the many factors determining the actual level of security is a complicated task. Each factor must be evaluated in relation to the other: the validity of crime statistics, security measures in place, potential for compromise of security features, and supervision of residence hall security related activities. Don't be misled by marketing statements. Make an informed decision.

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