

## A MESSAGE FROM **Campus Safety**

### **Dear Union College Community Member:**

I have information to share regarding the robbery of a student on campus last Thursday and a similar incident that happened Friday.

Schenectady Police have arrested a 15-year-old juvenile and charged him with two counts of first-degree robbery, felonies, for both incidents.

As we shared in a RAVE alert last Thursday and in a message from me Friday morning, the first incident involved a student who reported that, while walking across campus at around 8:40 p.m. Thursday, he was approached by two males at the bottom of the staircase near West College. The suspects took money from the student, who was not injured during the incident, and then left campus. Police continue to work to identify a possible second suspect.

The second incident occurred Friday around 5:15 p.m., in which an employee reported an individual in the parking lot near Achilles Rink approached him and asked for money. The employee handed him money and the suspect left campus on foot. The suspect was clearly seen leaving the campus and Schenectady Police responded immediately to the area. No alert was sent because there was deemed to be no ongoing threat to the campus.

In both incidents, the victims stated to officers that the suspect displayed what appeared to be a handgun. When the suspect was arrested Tuesday night, police found a BB gun in his possession.

A third, unrelated, incident reported to Schenectady Police that occurred shortly before midnight last Thursday continues to be investigated by police. In that incident, a Union student reported being approached by two individuals near St. John the Evangelist Church, across from the College's main entrance, who wanted money. No money was taken and the student was not injured.

I want to assure everyone that the safety of our students, faculty, staff and guests remains our highest priority. Both Campus Safety and the Schenectady Police have increased patrols on and around the campus.

As I mentioned last week, it is important to remember that we are located in an open and densely populated setting. The campus and surrounding neighborhood are generally safe, but we share many of the crime and safety issues that exist in any city or college campus.

### **Safety tips**

There are steps we can all take to help minimize the risk of a crime occurring.

- Be alert to your surroundings as you walk around the campus and in the Schenectady community.
- Be mindful of [personal safety practices](#) and use the “buddy system” when going out and avoid walking alone at night.
- Security escorts are available at any time on campus by calling Campus Safety at (518) 388-6911 or extension 6911.
- Additionally, there are numerous “blue light” emergency phones on campus that allow for direct connection to Campus Safety.
- If you see suspicious behavior, do not confront an individual. Please contact Campus Safety. It is useful to put this number on the speed dial in your cell phone. You can also dial 9-1-1 at any time for an emergency.

We appreciate your help as we work together to keep the campus safe.

Best,

Tom Constantine, interim director of Campus Safety