

consumption. We just want criminal activities reported to us so that we can prevent someone else from becoming a victim as well.”

Whether students agree that crime statistics are useful or not, they have been made available to everyone. In 1990, lawmakers passed the Clery Act (then called the Campus Security Act), which requires all colleges to publish their crime statistics, issue timely warnings in events of emergency and uphold a Sexual Assault Victim Bill of Rights.

Spilman said that the Clery Act issued in a new standard for reporting criminal activities on campuses across America.

“With these new guidelines, families can compare crime activity on campuses in a kind of apples-to-apples fashion because definitions of crimes have now become standardized,” Spilman said.

Law officers did their own statistics research. According to an article on washingtonpost.com, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Education and the Secret Service worked together to compile an analysis of violent attacks carried out on U.S. college campuses in the past century. The finding: three-fifths of campus attacks in a 108-year span occurred in the past two decades.

Lucchesi said that victims of crime, especially serious crimes like sexual assault, need to be aware that they have rights. The Victim’s Bill of Rights requires that all colleges and universities participating in federal aid student programs afford all sexual assault victims basic rights and the school to notify victims of their option to report their assault to the proper law enforcement authorities, according to securtyoncampus.org.

“The Victim’s Bill of Rights... is helping victims to be really fully supported and protected by the university through the process of getting justice on campus,” Lucchesi said.

Though knowing how to deal with crime on the campus is beneficial, college students shouldn’t have to worry about their safety constantly, according to Hebbalalu.

“Though there are going to be unsafe situations in all schools you consider, I don’t think I’d be able to fit into an environment where I have to constantly worry about safety,” Hebbalalu said. “When you’re trying to

worry about your education, you shouldn’t have to worry too much about your safety. ... Hopefully you feel comfortable.”

Hallum said that students are not worrying alone, though; services provided by campus security such as emergency buttons make it easier to stay safe. But there are flaws to the system.

“One time, I was walking back with my friends from the *Twilight* premiere, and we called campus security to come pick us up,” Hallum said. “They were booked for the night, though. It wasn’t an emergency, but not everyone can get help all the time. There is only so much the security services can do for so many students. They do their best, but it’s still a little concerning.”

Spilman said that common sense and instincts are important to rely on in a campus setting.

“We’ve got feelings and instincts for a reason,” Spilman said. “If you’re constantly ignoring signs and signals from instincts of personal safety, eventually you’re going to find yourself in a dangerous situation. Listen to those instincts.”

According to Lucchesi, though prospective students and their families need to be thinking about personal safety and crime on campuses, college doesn’t have to be scary.

“We can’t always 100 percent prevent crime,” Lucchesi said. “But there are always things you can do. Educate yourself as much as possible on what’s going on in your campus and the resources that are available. Be aware of the people you’re meeting because the majority of crimes happen with people that you know and potentially trust. Be aware of your surroundings. Trust your gut; if you have a bad feeling that something is going to happen, you’re probably right.”

Hallum said she is still learning her new environment.

“Be cautious, you’re just meeting everyone, and everyone is just meeting you,” Hallum said. “There are some people who might take advantage of that, but there is no need to be scared; safe is definitely doable. Be smart. You’ll be okay.”

THE EMERGENCY CALL BOX

- Emergency call boxes are located various places across campuses
- Use the call boxes for: emergency assistance and information, medical assistance, fire alert, reporting crimes or suspicious persons, reporting vehicular accidents, or if you feel unsafe for any reason.
- Emergency call boxes call 9-1-1 and connect you to the University Police dispatcher when the button is pressed
- Push the button, and you will be able to communicate with a safety officer
- Officers will respond to the call location immediately

Information provided by www.muohio.edu and www.kenyon.edu



“Report instances of strange behavior or a crime if you see it.”

Lt. Ben Spilman

“Lock your dorms like you would your front door.”

Lt. Ben Spilman

“Take advantage of campus transport systems.”

Lt. Ben Spilman



REPORT