

# YSU maintains status as safest Ohio campus

■ 1.06 percent of YSU students were affected by campus crime.

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YSU has again been named the safest campus in the state according to the 1996 Uniform Crime Report.

The UCR, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a voluntary survey containing statistics about violent crimes and property crimes committed on college campuses. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and assault. Property crimes include theft, burglary and arson. The statistics provided by YSU said crimes on campus affected only 1.06 percent of its students.

YSU's safe campus is not a result of a magic formula said YSU

Police Chief Jack Gocala.

"A police department is only as good as the people it services

allows them to be," Gocala said. "It's a partnership between the police and the university community."

Very few violent crimes occurred on YSU's campus. Most of the

crimes committed on campus were minor property crimes such as theft from unlocked cars.

Gocala said the goal of the YSU police is to minimize the opportunity for crimes like this to be a success. This includes students, faculty and staff being aware of their environment and reporting any suspicious activity or people.

"The police are proactive. We take the time to look for unsafe conditions or unsavory characters," Gocala said.

Gocala said a police presence combined with student responsibility are factors that help make a campus safe.

The YSU disciplinary board and housing coordinators also help maintain a safe environment for students living on campus. An average of 50 to 80 student discipline cases are handled every quarter. Most of these cases concern nuisances such as quiet hour, visiting violations or alcohol violations. Students committing these crimes are reprimanded with sanctions such as probation, community service and restitution.

Dormitory students are provided with special programs that address safety and increasing awareness, however many students do not attend. Marty Manning, associate di-

rector of Student Life, said although most campus crimes are minor, many students do not take safety seriously.

"Until [crime] affects you, it doesn't take a priority," Manning said.

He said students must be aware and know what they can do to protect themselves if they need to.

"Ultimately campus safety is a shared responsibility," Manning said.

Students can protect themselves by increasing their awareness about safety through workshops and brochures provided by the YSU police department.

Also, students can use the escort service when walking to their class, car or dorm.

"The men and women of the (YSU) police department work very hard," said Gocala. "The campus is as safe as I can make it."

Other universities participating in the UCR survey were the University of Toledo, Ohio University, Kent State, Miami, Bowling Green, University of Cincinnati and Ohio State.

The percentage of students affected by crime at these universities ranged from 1.49 percent to 3.37 percent.



**Chief Jack Gocala**