August 10, 2010

Dear International Student,

Due to an incident which occurred today near UB’s South Campus, I’m writing to send you some safety tips, which I hope you will take to heart.

Since UB’s Safety Shuttle does not run in the summer, I have also included some information about taxis at the end of this message.

Please read the safety tips below and follow them! Read also the University Police’s Top 10 Safety Tips at www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/public-safety/pst.php.

Sincerely,
Ellen Dussourd

SAFETY TIPS

General Safety Tips

1) Never walk or run alone at night. Try to avoid walking or running alone during the day, especially if you are a small person. Remember: There is safety in numbers!!!

2) Walk confidently and assertively. Look directly at others, but keep your distance and keep moving. (Attackers often look for someone who appears vulnerable.)

3) Travel on well-lit streets where there are other people around. Avoid taking shortcuts through parks, vacant lots, etc.

4) Try to vary your route and the time of day when you walk or run.

5) Ignore verbal harassment. Use discretion in acknowledging strangers. If a stranger talks to you, it’s often best to ignore him/her.

6) Be alert at all times. Do not use earphones while walking, jogging, bicycling or driving.

7) Walk close to the street curb. Avoid bushes, doorways and parked cars where an attacker can hide.

8) In case someone who has a weapon approaches you and asks for money, it is sometimes a good idea to keep a lot of $1 bills in your pocket. In that way, you can give the person the money, run away and hopefully avoid being injured.

Home and Apartment Security
1) Lock your doors and windows at all times.

2) Leave some lights on in your home when you go out.

3) If strangers telephone or come to your door, do not admit that you are alone.

4) Never let strangers into your home.

Residence Hall Security

1) Lock the door to your room when you leave your room (even for a short time) or go to bed.

2) Do not prop open locked residence hall doors. If you see a propped door, close it.

3) Be observant of any strangers loitering or checking doors in your building. Note their description and call University Police (645-2222) immediately.

Vehicle Safety

1) Park in well-lit areas.

2) Have your keys ready before you reach your car. Check under your car as you approach and check the interior of your car before entering it.

3) Always lock your car doors after entering or leaving your car.

Taxi Services

The following taxi services run after midnight.

Airport Taxi - 633-8294
Kenmore Cab – 876-3030
Amherst Taxi – 875-1900 / Tonawanda Taxi – 875-1800 (operate 24 hours per day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, only operate until 10:00 p.m. on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays)