

# Safety Resource Guide

A Supplement to *Almanac*

Produced by  
the Department of  
Public Safety and  
the Penn Women's  
Center

## Introduction and Background

When the doors of College Hall first opened in 1872, goats still romped through sparse vegetation and chickens strutted amidst the weeds. Proud of its new location, the University boasted, in its catalogue, of "The quietness, the absence of excitement, and the pure air which greatly tend to preserve health."

But with the expansion of the University and the growing urban problems of the West Philadelphia community, preserving our health has become more complicated these days, requiring one or two things not thought of in those simpler times. Personal safety, for instance.

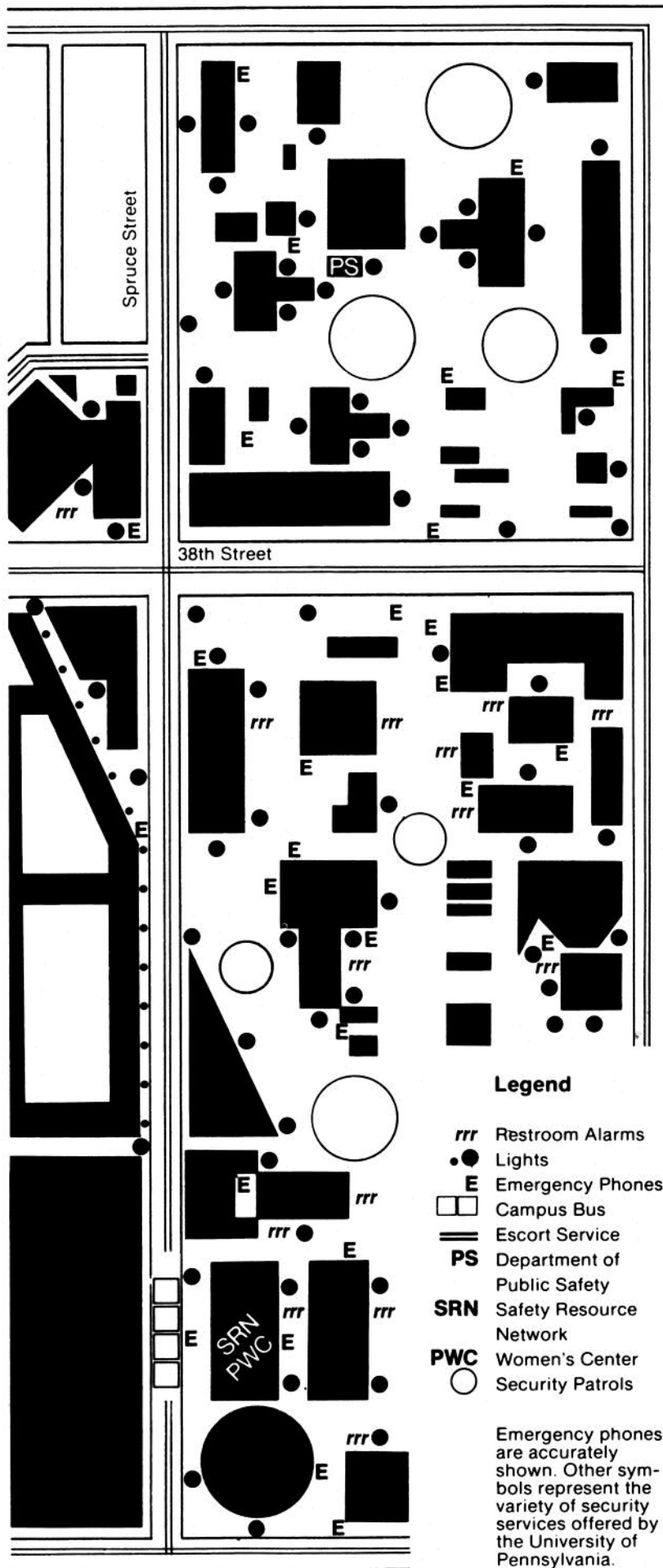
For years, public safety efforts emphasized protection of property. In the early seventies, when violent crimes against people increased, the emphasis shifted to personal security. In particular, the treatment of rape victims roused public anger.

After two student nurses became the victims of a gang rape on the Penn campus in 1973, women on campus banded together to stage what was perhaps the most successful College Hall sit-in in University history. They demanded security be beefed up where they found it lax and called for preventative and cautionary measures in areas where none existed.

Responding quickly and effectively, the University installed high-intensity lighting throughout the campus, hired a crime prevention specialist to develop crime prevention programs, and formed a women's center, to help respond to the needs of, among other things, security for women on campus. And the campus bus and the escort service made their debuts.

## Bus and Escort Services

"You'll never walk alone," the song says. At Penn, after 5 p.m. you don't have to. If you need one of the 20 escorts (the program is supervised by the Department of Public Safety) just dial 243-7297. An escort will accompany you from one campus location to another, to the Houston Hall terminal of the campus bus, to a SEPTA stop, 30th Street Station, or to your door, if it's within a mile of campus. Guidelines are available from the Department of Public Safety. The escort service has a new station wagon this year to further facilitate the service. Because the service is heavily used, callers may have to wait



Hall. Anyone concerned about safety around Penn or West Philadelphia is invited to attend or call the Women's Center, 243-8611, about the security issue you would like discussed at the next meeting.

### Crime Prevention Specialist

Promoting awareness of possible dangers is the *raison d'être* of a crime prevention specialist at the University. Ruth Wells, who currently and capably fills that role, cannot stress enough the importance of knowing what *might* happen so that it *won't* happen. She's something like a missionary spreading the word.

At the beginning of the academic year she is particularly busy—instructing, talking, explaining, training. There are, among other things, presentations for freshman orientation and transfer students, a safety awareness and instructional program for the some 140 resident advisors, and 4-hour training sessions for 300 work-study students who will fan out into all University buildings as monitors, guards and security marshalls. She goes to dormitories, meetings, anyplace anyone wants to know how to improve safety standards, on campus and off. She stresses that officers of the campus police are not the only ones responsible for campus security: *safety is everybody's business*.

### Department of Public Safety

Ruth Wells' professionalism and concern is typical of the Department of Public Safety, directed by David Johnston. "We don't have security guards," Mr. Johnston explains. "They are commissioned police officers, trained at the Philadelphia Police Academy." On staff are 33 uniformed officers, one sergeant and four detectives. (Five officers and one detective are women.) Thirteen more officers are being hired. Applicants are carefully screened, and their backgrounds and stress levels are investigated.

Mr. Johnston cannot emphasize enough the need for awareness. As he puts it, "The overriding need is that the community realizes that it plays the most important part in crime prevention." He and Ms. Wells bounced precautions off one another—take the time to take normal everyday precautions...report all intruders...don't leave purses in unlocked desks...notice strangers...lock doors, bicycles...don't open doors to strangers....

In short, use your head, your wits, your common sense.

Dozens of aids for personal and property safety are available through this department—stickers, pamphlets, posters, newspaper clippings, papers and films. Newly updated crime prevention material has been distributed to all incoming freshmen as well as to students off campus and all building administrators and deans; dropped off at certain key spots on campus and at every program or discussion in which a department member participates; and put in paychecks. Simply by calling the public safety department, any aid or tip is yours for the asking.

### Publications...

Here are some of the booklets available: *Attention U of P Bicycle Owners* tells you how to be 10 speeds ahead of thieves, and 50 ways to improve personal and mechanical safety while

## Need a Ride?

For those who live in West Philadelphia, the Office of Transportation and Communications provides a campus bus as a courtesy service. Buses depart from Houston Hall at the following times (unless noted, buses operate seven days a week):

4:50 p.m. (weekdays only)	9:20 p.m.
5:10 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
5:50 p.m.	10:40 p.m.
6:40 p.m. (weekdays only)	11:10 p.m.
7:20 p.m.	11:50 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	12:30 a.m.
8:40 p.m.	1:10 a.m.

Buses stop at the following locations. Stops for 33rd & Market, 30th Street Station and 32nd & Market are on request only starting at 6:40 p.m.

3417 Spruce	44 & Walnut
Ravdin	44 & Pine
33 & Walnut	47 & Pine
33 & Market	47 & Baltimore
30th Street Station	48th & Chester
32 & Market	42 & Chester
33 & Powelton	42 & Spruce
38 & Powelton	3417 Spruce
38 & Walnut	

Passengers wanting to return to campus after 6:30 p.m. may call Public Safety (243-7297), who will notify the bus driver that passengers will be waiting on a particular corner at an appointed time. Outbound passengers may ask the driver to take them to their nearest corner from 6:30 p.m. on.



## Women's Self Defense Classes 12 weeks

**Monday 4:30—6:00 p.m.**

**Weightman Hall Dance Studio**

**Fall term begins September 18th**

**Registration:**

**Hutchinson Gym**

**Tuesday September 12, 4:00—7:00**

**Wednesday September 13, 4:00—7:00**

**Fee:**

students—\$10.00; faculty, staff, alumnae, dependents—\$15.00; community residents—\$20.00

For further information contact Department of Recreation, 243-8387

up to 30 minutes for an escort. So plan your calls and departure times accordingly.

Escorts may also be reached through the yellow emergency phones. Strategically placed, 174 such phones can be found in elevators, subways, parking garages, walls of buildings and many other areas on campus. These phones are hooked up directly to the central security system. Just by removing the receiver the dispatcher knows the location of the call and a University officer will respond.

## Forewarned is Forearmed

Forewarned is forearmed. Recognition of the possibility of personal danger prompts women to be alert, exercise greater caution, carry safety devices such as a Freon horn (a safe non-violent sound alarm to startle assailants and call for help), learn self defense, and generally be prepared. The Department of Public Safety and the Philadelphia Police Department circulate descriptions of assailants in order to expose them to wide public view, and thus help police officers to identify and apprehend them.

## ...If It Happens to You

If you become a victim, call Ruth Wells, the University crime prevention specialist, 243-6600, available 24 hours a day to assist victims and to provide supportive service. Those services include someone to go with you to the hospital, the police administration building and court. If you need any social or therapeutic help, she can direct you to the best source, including our own University Counseling Service.

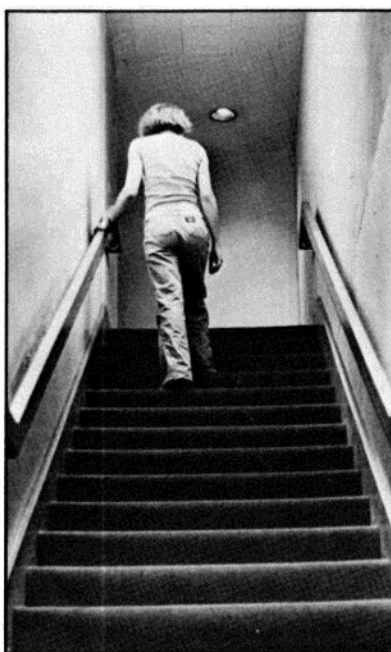
If you decide not to notify police of the rape, you should still call the W.O.A.R. (Women Organized Against Rape) hotline, 922-3434, the Penn Women's Center, 243-8611, or talk to the crime prevention specialist, 243-4481, so that you can be directed to proper medical and emotional support. Detailed information on W.O.A.R. and the Center for Rape Concern is available from the Penn Women's Center, located on the second floor of Houston Hall, and the Department of Public Safety, 3914 Locust Walk.

## Safety Resource Network

Last fall, after a series of assaults against University women, on and off campus, concerned individuals from various offices and organizations drew together to form the Safety Resource Network—a network that, working with appropriate University officials, has been instrumental in developing creative solutions to difficult problems.

Central to the network's ability to solve problems is the variety of the group, gleaned from diverse University offices and organizations. The group includes representatives from WEOUP (Women for Equal Opportunity at the University of Pennsylvania), the Women's Faculty Club, Student Life Office, Undergraduate Assembly, School of Social Work, Penn Consumer's Board, Office of Residential Life, School of Veterinary Medicine, University Counseling Service and the Vice-Provost's office. The network is co-chaired by Carol Tracy, director of the Penn Women's Center, and Ruth Wells, Department of Public Safety.

The network meets on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in the Women's Center, second floor, Houston



## There's Safety In Numbers

*(All University numbers have a "243" exchange)*

### Emergency Numbers:

#### Fire/Police/Medical

On Campus—University Police 243-7333

(General Business 243-7297)

Off Campus—Philadelphia Police 911

(General Business 231-3131)

#### Rape/Assault

Crime Prevention Specialist

Rape/Sensitive Crimes (24-hours) 243-6600

W.O.A.R. (Women Organized Against Rape

24-hour hot-line) 922-3434

Center for Rape Concern 568-6627

#### Counseling/Psychiatric Service/Crisis Intervention

University Counseling Service 243-7021

Chaplain's Office 243-8456

Peer Counseling Hotline 243-6568

Psychiatric Clinic (HUP) 662-2800

Suicide & Crisis Intervention (HUP) 662-2350

Suicide & Crisis Intervention (City) 686-4420

#### Medical

HUP Emergency Room 662-2350

Student Health 662-2850

Children's Hospital 387-6000

Poison Control Center 922-5523

#### General University Services

Bicycle Registration 243-7297

Campus Bus Information 243-8667

Escort Service 243-7297

Operation Identification 243-7297

Physical Plant Emergencies 243-7207

Safety Hazards (falling bricks, potholes) 243-6921

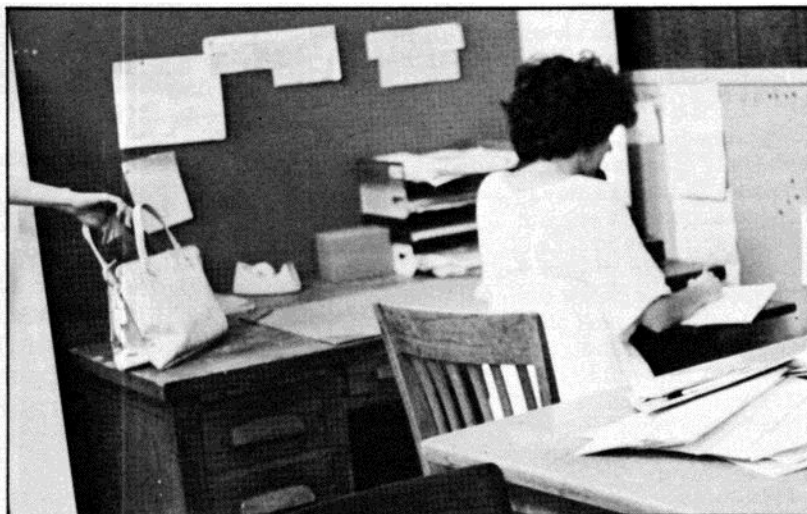
Service for Emergency Telephones 243-7297

Burned Out Lights 243-7207

U of P Weather Number School Code 102



Carol Tracy for the Women's Center; David L. Johnston and Ruth Wells for the Department of Public Safety  
Written & Photographed by: Jeanne McCleary  
Designed by: Deborah Levinson



In an emergency, yell loudly and specifically words like, "POLICE," "HELP," "RAPE," or "FIRE."