The arrival of Spring signals the winding down of the academic year. There are many reasons the warm weather and end of the semester are welcomed, but there are some pitfalls that come along the way. Warm weather draws students outdoors, and leads to windows and doors being left open. Both of these increase noise levels that can disturb neighbors or draw attention to a gathering. Students need to remember that enjoying the improved weather and the company of friends must still be balanced with their responsibilities and respect to others.

The California Borough has a Disorderly House/Gathering Ordinance that students should keep in mind to avoid jeopardizing a successful end of the semester by getting a citation from the borough and/or student conduct sanctions from the University. Students visiting friends off-campus should be aware of their environment by paying attention to their surroundings including how many people are at a residence, recognizing noise levels and whether any questionable activities are occurring, especially if outside.

Another cautionary pitfall that occurs at the end of a semester is theft. Students should mark valuables and not leave them unattended. Students often take books, electronics and other valuables to meals, classes or to study. Leaving these items, even if just to go to the bathroom, to get second helpings at the Gold Rush, or to find a book in the library, gives the opportunity for something to come up missing.

Students should also remember to lock their rooms when leaving. It is a good idea to keep serial numbers of electronics and other expensive items somewhere safe so that if a theft occurs, police could possibly use these numbers to track an item. It is also recommended that valuables be engraved or marked with the owners name, initials or other unique identification. Do not leave cash, credit cards or checks in unlocked desks or cabinets. Books should also be marked to help avoid them from being stolen and sold back for cash – pick the same page in each book to initial or somehow mark them to identify them to potential buyers. Any theft should be promptly reported to police.

Submitted by Mr. James Pflugh, Associate Dean for Student Conduct