



Safety concerns after robberies at UWI

KALIFA CLYNE

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Student Guild is calling for improved security at the St Augustine campus following a spate of robberies in the new school term.

Just last Monday evening, the campus recorded three robberies—a female student and a couple who were walking on the campus after classes. Students have complained about poor lighting and inadequate security presence at the university.

Guild president Jonathan St Louis-Nahous said they have been discussing student safety with campus security and university administration.

“We created a group for on campus complaints so that students could inform the Guild when things like that happen. It seems that at evening times within the last couple of weeks there has been an increase in the number of robberies—from the time the sun goes down, the hours when we still have classes happening,” he said.

Nahous said the Guild sees the need to “build up the security” on campus. “We informed them that incidents were happening in areas that were not well lit. There is a big field near the tennis court and students use that field to access the exit faster. Campus security responded by setting up temporary lighting towers in the area and state police came on campus to do more patrols but it is still happening and students do not feel safe.

“On Thursday, the Guild met with the students and are compiling a list of short-term and long-term recommendations. I understand it might require more manpower and equipment that they might not have,” he said.

He said while students need to play their part by wearing identification badges, there was also the question of whether security cameras installed by the university covered the entire area and whether the guards have enough security equipment.

Attempts to contact director of security Noel Corbett for comment over the weekend were unsuccessful. A security officer told the T&T Guardian Corbett could only be reached Mondays to Fridays during office hours.

Robbery victim Rachel Ramdhan said the lack of adequate campus security is one of the reasons she is still traumatised. The post graduate student, who was robbed at gunpoint last Monday, said since the incident she is unable to eat or sleep and feels paranoid while walking in public.

“Once I close my eyes the flashbacks happen. The gun, the person’s face, the fear is always there. I cannot sleep because my body is under constant alert,” Ramdhan said.

“Before I would have walked on campus calmly. Campus was a place I used to feel safe.”

She said what made it worse was that when she returned to campus on the Thursday after the robbery, there was no security at the pedestrian entrance at 11.20 am.

“Everybody I see, I feel like they could possibly be a criminal coming to rob or attack me. It’s not like I was robbed in the street. We don’t have control over that but I got robbed on my campus, a place it should never have happened and to come back on campus and no security guard, that made it worse.”

On Tuesday, following the robberies, the university posted a statement on social media advising students that additional steps were being taken to make the campus safer. “In recent years, we have strengthened the safety of campus and the surrounding areas through an increase in highly trained personnel, deployment of better technology and equipment, and strengthened partnerships with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and other law enforcement,” the statement said.

“We are constantly reviewing the measures we have in place to identify opportunities to make our campus safer, and we are taking additional steps in this academic year.”

Sweet tassa

The all-female tassa drummers from Trinidad Sweet Tassa Academy performing on Friday at the Divali Nagar, Chaguanas. PICTURE SHASTRI BOODAN

Get the news as it happens in your T&T Guardian



FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

for OCTOBER 12, 2017

CURRENCY	CASH	BUY	SELL
US	6.1500	6.6059	6.7793
Can	5.0034	5.2667	5.6881
Stg	8.2397	8.6734	9.3568
Euro	7.4551	7.8475	8.4753
Yen	*****	0.0588	0.0632
Swiss	6.4100	*****	*****
EC	2.2272	2.4209	2.6170
Bdos	2.7086	*****	3.5092

©2 FIRST (34776)
www.firstcitizens.com

First Citizens

MRI of Trinidad & Tobago Ltd.

*MRI Scanning is our Speciality,
Patient Care is our Priority.*

The country’s most
Advanced MRI Scanning Technology

with qualified MRI Technologists,
MRI Radiologists and MRI Physicists.

#1-7 Fitz Blackman Drive
(next to the Rasely Crawford Stadium)
Port of Spain, Trinidad W.I.
Fax: 868 623-6766
E-mail: info@mritnt.com

623-4MRI (4674)
www.mritnt.com

