

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS

"Am I witnessing a crime?" Most of us have found ourselves wondering this at some time or other. However, because we are not really sure, we tend to ignore what we have just seen and, hoping it wasn't so, we continue about our business.

"PEOPLE AREN'T SUSPICIOUS, BEHAVIOR IS!"

Here are some signs or behaviors that may be suspicious:

A person running would be suspicious if he or she were looking about furtively, as if he or she were being watched or chased.

A stranger carrying property at an unusual hour or location, especially if the items are stereo equipment, office machinery or a locked bicycle.

A person going door-to-door in an office building or a residential area may be looking for an opportunity to steal. One of the leading crimes at USP is theft of unattended property from unsecured offices and rooms.

Any person forcibly entering a locked vehicle, especially at night and in one of our parking areas, is highly suspicious.

Property in vehicles. This may not be suspicious unless the property is of an unusual nature: television sets, stereo equipment, un mounted tape decks or auto parts. Possible significance: could be stolen property.

Transactions being conducted from vehicles, especially near schools or parks. You may be witnessing an illegal drug sale or sale of stolen property.

One or more persons sitting in an parked car closely scanning the area around them may be lookouts for a burglary or robbery in progress, or for a crime being planned.

Certain moving vehicles, such as vehicles moving slowly and running without lights or one that keeps passing the same area. It could be casing a building or house to burglarize, someone pushing drugs or someone planning another crime such as a robbery, kidnapping or sex offense.

A person (especially a juvenile or female) being forced into a vehicle may be a kidnapping.

A person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms may have been injured in an accident, be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medications, or otherwise need medical or psychiatric assistance.

Unusual noises, including gunshots, screaming, sounds of fighting, barking dogs, or anything suggesting foul play, danger, or illegal activity.