

Shoplifting

(Continued from Page 1)
arrests in perspective."

When a case gets to court the bookstore must show probable cause and intent to steal the merchandise, says Williams. If these are shown, the city wants the case prosecuted. There is no defense; the judge must convict or violate his oath.

According to Municipal Court Judge John Biggs, there are two kinds of shoplifters. One goes into the store intending to steal while the other steals an inexpensive ar-

ticle impulsively.

"I'm all for conviction of the first kind. Chances are his record will show he's a thief," says Biggs. He is less emphatic about the second.

"I'm not all that sure a conviction for a first-offense shoplifter is all that wise," he says. "You could find that conviction of the second type is counterproductive to rehabilitation. A kid can be arrested for the theft of a candy bar and he could find it will keep him out of the Oregon Bar."

The shoplifter quoted earlier had some comments on the courts. "You deal with people on a cold level. They look at you and tell you where to go. I felt like I had killed someone—it was unreal." He describes the arrest as "a little 'Dragnet.'"

Security guards at the bookstore are given "extensive training courses," according to Williams. Their official equipment consists of an identification card and a pair of handcuffs.

When an arrest is made outside the bookstore, the suspect is escorted to the records room in the back of the store. The suspect is shown and asked to sign a warning card stating his rights.

The Eugene police have a minimal role in the procedure. They

show up after the arrest is made and either issue a citation or take the suspect to jail.

Records are kept of the worth of the items in question and the amount of money the suspect was carrying. Often the shoplifter was carrying more than enough money to cover the cost of the items stolen.

If the suspect waives his right to

be silent, he is asked why he stole the merchandise. Responses range from "I've never been caught before," to "I was late for class and didn't want to stand in line."

Books are the most common prey of the bookstore shoplifters. One of the titles recently recovered from a would-be shoplifter was "Revisions in Mercantilism."

Fluorocarbon ban considered

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration is considering a ban on fluorocarbons, which are used as propellants in some spray cans, says the head of the FDA.

"We already have banned use of vinyl chloride in aerosols because of the cancer risk," Schmidt said in an interview Sunday in

U.S. News & World Report. "Now there is a theory that fluorocarbons may destroy the ozone layer in our atmosphere that filters out ultraviolet light. The fear is that the result may be an increase in skin cancer."

Schmidt said the National Academy of Sciences is studying the available evidence now and expects to produce a report within the year. Then the FDA will make a decision, he said.

"I don't think we can afford to wait a decade or two decades for incontrovertible proof that the ozone is disappearing," Schmidt said.



Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

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