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## Police investigate student's fall from dorm's third floor

No criminal activity is suspected in an investigation that started when a University student fell from the third floor of Tingle Dormitory on Tuesday night, said Sgt. Chuck Tilby of the Eugene Police Department.

Peter McKenzie Frangos, an 18-year-old University freshman, is in critical condition in the intensive care unit at Sacred Heart General Hospital, officials said.

Frangos, who lives in Room 302 Tingle, fell from the dorm's third-floor window Tuesday at 9:45 p.m. According to Tilby, Frangos was apparently attempting to climb from one room to another when the accident occurred.

## Security Continued from Page 1

pretty good at what we do," Williams said. "It's always challenging when you have new security people coming in, but we have enjoyed a tremendous reputation for getting good people to come work at the bookstore."

Williams said almost every security guard who has worked for the bookstore has moved on into law enforcement. Currently, several former bookstore security personnel are Eugene police officers, "and getting on the Eugene police force is very difficult," Williams said.

Eugene Police Sgt. Tim McCarthy said the bookstore's program is excellent because "they have probably the best training for their security people — the most diligent and disciplined training of anybody we ever come in contact with. Their procedures are fine-tuned, time-tested and court-tested."

Members of the bookstore's security staff wear plainclothes and pretend to be average shoppers. According to one of the store's undercover guards, who must remain anonymous because of job security, a good security guard is characterized as having four qualities: inconspicuousness, intuitiveness, alertness and a desire to do the job well.

Another guard, under the pseudonym "Kodi," described a good security guard as one who maintains "commitment to the job, stamina to get through the boring and frustrating periods, and definitely the honesty and ethics which the job stands for."

The extent to which shoplifting is a problem is difficult to measure, Williams said.

"I've been here since 1972, and the bookstore started a security program around 1968. We've basically seen an even flow of shoplifting ever since. There hasn't been a single year with a significant number of people who shoplift," he said.

Security guards at the bookstore must consider all who walk through the doors as potential shoplifters. Although Williams says there is no profile of a typical shoplifter, he listed two common characteristics: Almost all are college students, and almost all have enough money on them to pay for what they steal.

The latter of the two struck Williams as being highly unusual years ago, but no longer.

"You would think people would steal more for need.... But typically, it's more spontaneous when people steal. I'm not so sure it's premeditated," he said. "I do know that, almost without exception, people have enough money to pay for what they take, even if on their person they don't have the money."

According to Kodi, people steal for many reasons, from being short on cash to being hungry.

"Very rarely do you get a person who is a true kleptomaniac," Kodi said. "But there are those who steal purely for fun."

Another guard, "Harry," said probably only about 5 percent or less of shoplifters steal because they need to. He said most steal because they think it is easier than purchasing the item.

In recent years, bookstore security has begun to combat shoplifting of a different sort —

theft of merchandise intended to be sold for drug money.

"We're starting to see more people taking higher ticket items, perhaps doing some things that are kind of irrational as far as what they're doing and how they're doing it," Williams said, concluding the influence of drugs exists by questioning suspects and from observing theft of expensive items such as telephones and rental VCRs.

"Typically in the past, people would not strive to take things out of our electronics department, but we're finding that there's a larger percentage than in the past that are doing just that. Maybe it's for their own personal use, but there's also a realization that it's probably for resale," Williams said.

"Some of them whom we've apprehended over the past few years have been known to have drug problems. There are records which indicate that's a problem for them," Williams said, adding he thinks drug users' habits almost force them to steal, "and the bookstore isn't immune from them coming here."

According to Dan Barkovic, city attorney with Harrang, Long, Watkinson and Arnold of Eugene, a lot of University students shoplift, "but I don't see a lot of those people stealing to support drug habits."

Primarily transients and fringe citizens in Eugene shoplift for drug money, Barkovic said. "We frequently see a lot of theft of cartons of cigarettes that people resell to use for drug money," he said.

Barkovic said although a lot of the shoplifting complaints filed result with the suspects pleading guilty before the case goes to trial, upwards of 100 complaints for suspects 18 and older are prepared each month, "of which maybe 10 percent eventually come to trial."

He added the penalties for a first-time shoplifting offense usually include a fine of about \$350 and one year of probation as well as possible community service. For repeat offenders, a jail term and longer probation are standard parts of the sentence.

Williams, however, remains rather congenial toward those caught stealing from the bookstore. "I would say the people who steal from us are good people. They're not your hardened criminals. They probably steal more spontaneously than they do premeditatedly."

Williams suggests one reason that University students choose to shoplift may stem from a lack of accountability while growing up, compounded by the freedom gained when a teenager leaves high school and enters college.

"They (student shoplifters) don't really feel they've been held accountable, and there's a tendency to believe nothing will happen.... (they believe) either, 'I won't get caught' or 'If I do get caught, I'll probably be let go.'"

These attitudes turn into myths, as the bookstore is known for consistent prosecution of shoplifters.

"We evaluate every single case on its merits," Williams explained. "In essence, we prosecute every case that we know meets the criteria of probable cause and intent beyond a reasonable doubt."

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Turn to Security, Page 5  
Thursday, April 2, 1987

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