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Leading history

Black history month person of the day

Ralph J. Bunche was born Aug. 7, 1904, in Detroit. He attended UCLA on an athletic scholarship and graduated in 1927 as valedictorian.

Bunche earned his masters and doctorate degrees in government and international relations at Harvard, finishing in 1934.

During World War II, Bunche worked for the federal government, and in 1944 he was moved to the

State Department, becoming the first black to hold a desk-level position. In the late 1940s, he helped write the United Nations charter, and he was appointed to serve on the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine in 1947, which recommended separate Jewish and Arab states.

War broke out when Arabs refused to accept the plan, and in 1948, Bunche became the U.N. chief

mediator between the two sides. In 1949, his negotiations led to an armistice, and he was awarded with the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize — the first black to be given the honor.

Bunche worked with the United Nations the rest of his life, and President John F. Kennedy awarded him the Medal of Freedom in 1963. Bunche died Dec. 9, 1971.

—Michael J. Kleckner

Shoplift

continued from page 1

said small items, such as make-up products, remain the No. 1 theft targets. When actively watching for theft, Hirons said he apprehends one person every day. Currently, Hirons said traditional penalties for shoplifting are "adequate," but not ideal.

"Every shoplifter should have to stand outside the store that they shoplifted in with a sandwich board that reads, 'I am a convicted shoplifter,'" he said of a possible prevention method. "This would send a message to people that if they shoplift merchandise, they risk public embarrassment."

In theory, if a defendant chose that option over a fine, the city prosecutor said the sandwich board alternative would be allowable. But such alternative punishments could not be considered until vendors approach the courts or the Legislature with their ideas, Richardson said.

To send an intolerant message to shoplifters, the University Bookstore prosecutes to the full extent of the law and uses a unique method of prevention besides camera surveillance — "plain clothes" loss-prevention officers.

"Potential shoplifters just don't know who is and who isn't watching them," Humphrey said of the undercover tactic used by the bookstore staff.

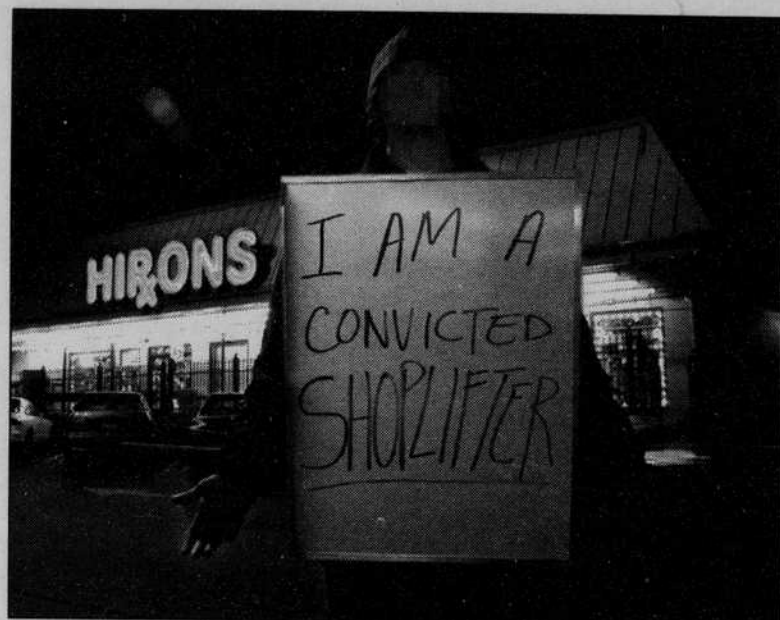


Photo illustration by Mark McCambridge Emerald

Steve Hirons, manager of Hirons Drug Store, wants shoplifters to carry the burden of their crime on their shoulders in the form of sandwich boards.

As another prevention method, costume jewelry was removed from stock because it was almost "too attractive" for shoppers not to steal, bookstore manager James Williams said. An annual estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000 in revenue is lost at the bookstore due to shoplifting and fraud cases — including bad checks — and more than 100 individuals are prosecuted every year, he said. Considering the store is partly-owned by University students and faculty, however, he said shoplifters are often stealing from themselves.

Locally-owned Little's Market, located at 544 East 13th Ave., uses its "Wall of Shame" to deter and punish local thieves. After a shoplifter is

captured on video surveillance, photo stills of the culprits are displayed on a post by the cash register.

"At least people know who their neighborhood petty thieves are," manager Pete Enfield said, adding that the majority of cases involve small items people don't really need.

Little's also prosecutes shoplifters to the full extent to maintain a tough local reputation. But despite cameras, photos and word on the street, Enfield said shoplifting will continue to be a problem. "No matter what you do, people will always be stealing," he said.

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

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