



been Caught Stealing

University Police Department studies show not every Aggie lives by the Code of Honor

By CHRIS MARTIN
Staff writer

Johnny Backpack is a freshman general studies major from Littleton, Texas. Johnny is fired up to be an Aggie, and would never lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do, as the Aggie Code of Honor states. Johnny left his dorm room open one day when he went to do his laundry. It is too bad that his trusting nature cost him his wallet, calculator, CD player and lucky bandana.

Theft is one of the biggest problems on campus and the most often reported crime, said University Police Department spokesperson Lt. Bert Kretzschmar.

Stealing may bring to mind an image of cat-suited burglars with suction cup shoes and night vision goggles intricately planning to swipe the great baseball diamond. But as a student at Texas A&M University, one can also be wary of a Polo-shirted sophomore with shaky scruples and an opportunity to strike when no one is looking.

Kretzschmar, a member of the UPD's Crime Prevention Unit, said most thefts on campus are not break-ins

or grand heists, but so-called "crimes of opportunity."

"Crimes of opportunity happen when people see open doors, unsecured windows or purses and backpacks lying around unattended," Kretzschmar said.

Many students do not think twice about leaving their backpack on a library table or in a classroom seat for a few minutes. This is why crimes of opportunity are successful.

The most common items stolen include purses, wallets, jewelry, backpacks, calculators and computer parts — basically anything that can be carried out of an area inconspicuously, Kretzschmar said.

"The contents of an average backpack may be worth from \$300 to \$400, and a purse may be worth up to \$10,000 in credit cards," Kretzschmar said. "One student I know of had two years worth of research stolen that was in his backpack. When people are not paying attention someone can walk right out with your belongings."

Labs and open areas are the most popular feeding grounds for thieves, according to the UPD.

"Students must remember that A&M is an open campus, where anybody can enter and leave," Kretzschmar said. "It's not as much a problem in the residence halls, which have restricted card access and locked doors. But a large variety of people have access to the common areas on campus. It's not just students that are stealing."

There are those who believe that the Code of Honor is doing its job. Stella Roberts, director of the University Book Store, said she believes most students are honest and abide by the Code of Honor.

"We have had extremely good luck in the bookstore with customers and student workers," Roberts said. "Stealing has not been a problem, and I hope it won't soon be. If a student is stealing out of a situation of need, I hope they would come talk to us first. Students need to think of the lasting consequences that a little shoplifting can create."

I think we have a very high caliber of students at A&M, and that goes along with the Code of Honor."

There are others who are not so trusting in the student body. Tammy Amaro, a junior English major, is a bit more cautious in her attitude.

PLEASE SEE STEALING ON PAGE 5.

Music to their ears

Local merchants provide equipment, entertainment for aspiring rock stars in the Brazos Valley

By STEPHEN WELLS
Staff writer

Joe Aggie, guitarist supreme, put on a hot show last night. Unfortunately, he woke up this morning to discover that his guitar lay in several pieces on the floor. The drummer has no more sticks to play with and his vocalist is now the proud owner of one messed up microphone. Across town, Jill Aggie decides she is a talented vocalist who deserves a bigger venue than her daily singing in the shower can accommodate. These are people with needs. Where do they go?

Fortunately, Bryan-College Station supports a large number of businesses catering to aspiring professional musicians. Students at Texas A&M are able to pick and choose musical suppliers at their leisure without stooping to haggling with some burned-out '70s rocker because he owns the only store in town.

For those who prefer Charlie Parker to Rage Against the Machine, Bryan is the home of the String and Horn Shop. The String and Horn Shop is the largest store in Bryan-

College Station dedicated to the sale of wind and orchestral musical instruments. They maintain all manner of music-making instruments for sale or on a rent-to-own basis, and provide the various greases, polishes and oils required

"A lot of people come at Christmas with a New Year's resolution to learn to play guitar, and we try to help them out."

TOM BYER
EMPLOYEE OF TIP TOP MUSIC

to keep a horn or violin in working condition.

This shop serves many of the Brazos County school districts and offers every brand of item from manufactured tin horns to renowned European-made string instruments.

For those dyed-in-the-denim ska artists, this is a good place to pick up an easily-abusable stage horn and get a few private lessons for a reasonable price.

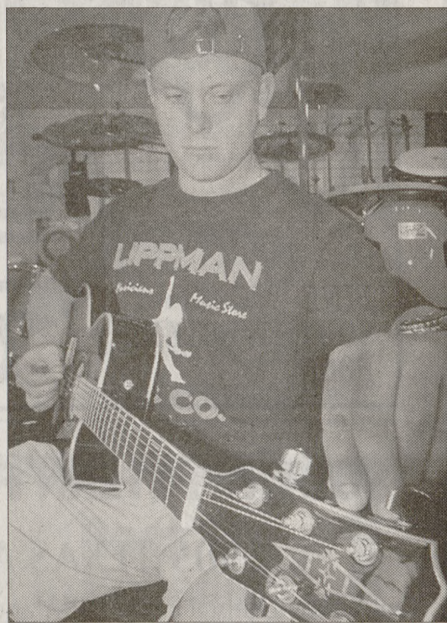
A wide variety of private lesson teachers and repair specialists have set up shop near Coulter Drive on Texas Avenue. Vocal teachers, piano repairmen and guitar lessons can be found in a two block radius of Coulter.

Tom Byer, an employee of Tip Top Music in downtown Bryan, said the area where the shop is located is somewhat unknown.

"Unfortunately, not many students know about what's available once they get past Villa Maria," he said.

On Coulter Drive are Tip Top Music and Lange Music City. Both stores sell guitars and guitar-related equipment. The only difference is the brand names they sell. Lange Music City also offers drums, drum hardware and drum microphones. Tip Top Music employees are interested in the beginning guitarist and offer a free half-hour lesson with every new guitar purchase.

PLEASE SEE MUSIC STORES ON PAGE 5.



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Brendan Murphy, an employee of Lippman Music Store and junior construction science major, tunes a guitar at Lippman Music Store.

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