

Been caught stealin'

When criminal minds steal from stores prices increase and innocent people suffer

By RHONDA REINHART
Staff writer

Burglars, bank robbers and car thieves come to the media's attention on a daily basis. Their names are the subjects of television shows and movies, and the general public knows how much harm these criminals can do.

But there is a category of thieves out there who continually escape the public eye: the Bonnie-and-Clyde-style notoriety. These sticky-fingered criminals are known as shoplifters, and their five-figure discounts are costly to consumers.

The National Retail Merchants Association estimates that \$16 billion is lost to shoplifting each year, and the National Coalition Against

Shoplifting estimates that if the costs of shoplifting were coupled with the costs of electronic detection and security personnel, the cost of shoplifting would be about \$24 billion annually.

Jerry Moore, a crime prevention officer with the Bryan Police Department (BPD), said shoplifting is a widespread crime that affects everybody.

"It (shoplifting) crosses over all socioeconomic boundaries," he said. "I've arrested business people that were in a hurry and just didn't want to take the time to stand in line. They might have had \$100 in their possession."

Moore said shoplifters increase prices for everyone because store owners cover themselves by increasing the

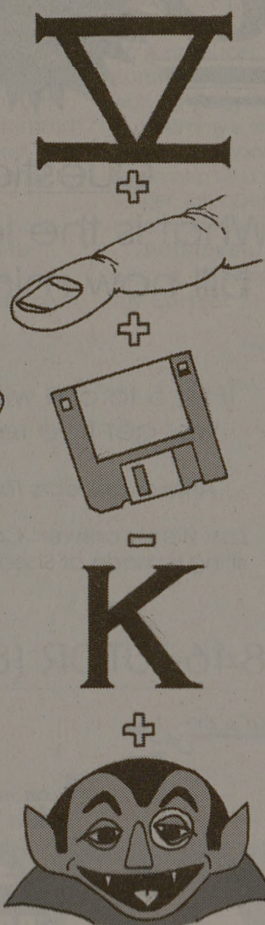
cost of merchandise.

"I'm sure that almost every store experiences it," he said. "It's a problem because some people think it's OK to steal."

The BPD Website (<http://www.ci.bryan.tx.us/police>) divides shoplifting methods into three categories — concealment, subterfuge and speed.

Concealment shoplifters hide stolen merchandise inside clothing, purses, shopping bags or hats. They may also hide items within another package which is then purchased.

The shoplifter who chooses the subterfuge method may use an accomplice, price tag switching or fraudulent refunding.



PLEASE SEE SHOP ON PAGE 5.

University Plus offers students fun in form of class

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
Staff writer

Biology 113, History 106 and English 104 are the exciting classes students have the option of taking. These classes are required and most students have to endure them. Imagine, however, spending the days studying for these classes and the nights learning how to belly dance, stain glass or perfect a billiard game.

Welcome to University Plus, the on-campus, art class, dance class, framing, matting, photography, darkroom and wood shop, shop.

Dr. David Capeheart, MSC program manager, is the epicenter of the art booming from the basement of the MSC, known as University Plus.

"The MSC is the cultural center for campus and the center of A&M life," Capeheart said. "Every culture on this campus comes through these doors. This is why we are here. The University provides the academics, and University Plus provides the art."

Capeheart said the shop is open 50 hours a week so the goal of learning is available for all.

"We provide a

membership which allows people to come and do what they wish," Capeheart said. "If they have a broken drawer or need to fix a little something, they can come in and work on it."

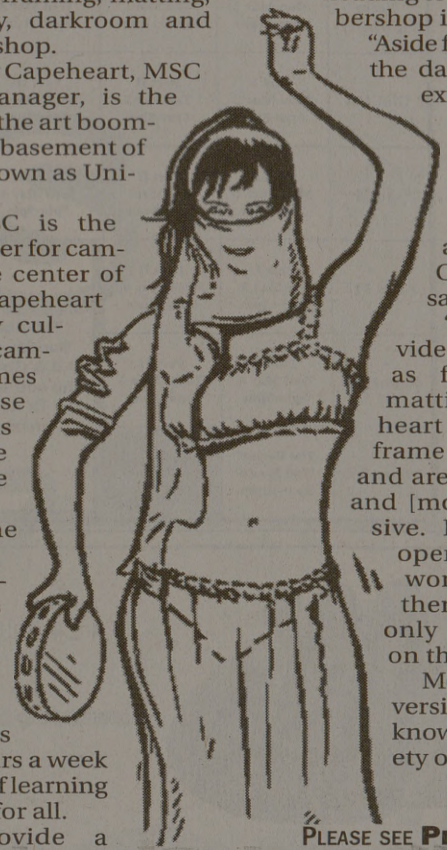
"We want people to learn how to throw a pot, take a picture or cut wood, and we want people to feel good about it. There is no place in the Brazos Valley like this."

However, Capeheart said there is more to University Plus than the shop that most people have walked by when heading toward the barbershop in the MSC.

"Aside from the shop, the dark rooms are extremely popular. These are the only dark rooms that are available to anybody," Capeheart said.

"We also provide services such as framing and matting," Capeheart said. "We frame diplomas and are the quickest and [most] inexpensive. It is student operated. All the work is done by them. I am the only non-student on the block."

Most of all, University Plus is best known for its variety of classes.



PLEASE SEE PLUS ON PAGE 4.

Reckless Kelly crashes Northgate

Reckless Kelly, the most promising band to come out of Austin in the past year, could change that. The band's strong hick-rock sound is laced with smooth harmonies, wailing harmonicas and catchy melodies.

"The kind of music we play is just what happens when we come together," said Reckless Kelly drummer Jay Nazz.

Reckless Kelly has been working the Austin club circuit endlessly since moving from Oregon in 1996.

"We knew it would take a strong commitment when we moved down here," Nazz said. "We've been able to get a good following. We all got other jobs when we first got here, but after three or four months we were able to start making enough money to quit our day jobs."

Besides Nazz, the band includes Willie Braun, singer-songwriter and guitarist; brother Cody Braun on fiddle, mandolin and harmonica; Casy Pollock, lead guitarist; and Chris

Schelske, bassist.

Reckless Kelly has established a reputation as being one of the hardest-working bands in Austin, including playing 13 consecutive nights in one stretch.

The band will make its second stop in Bryan-College Station today, after opening for the Derailers at the 3rd Floor Cantina last October.

Reckless Kelly will perform an acoustic set at Marooned Records at 5 p.m. and will play at Shadow Canyon tonight at 10. The Marooned show is free, and the Shadow Canyon show is \$6.

Reckless Kelly released its debut album, *Millican*, on Chris Wall's Cold Spring Records in October '97.

The album has an electro-acoustic rock sound with a country edge, and owes a heavy debt to Steve Earle.

PLEASE SEE KELLY ON PAGE 4.



Reckless Kelly (back left, clockwise): Cody Braun, Jay Nazz, Willie Braun, Chris Schelske and Casey Pollock.

By ROBERT SMITH
City editor

"Alternative country" has been one of the biggest buzz words in the music industry the past several years. Although the genre has spawned a nice underground following, commercial success has been limited.

Replant '98



Replant '98 March 7th Lake Somerville

Individuals and small groups are still welcome to sign-up!

Sign-up in Koldus 127 and

<http://stuact.tamu.edu/stuorgs/replant>

Pot and Plant Classes
Feb. 26 & 27
7 - 8:15 • MSC 292A
&
March 1st
7 - 8:15 • 501 Rudder

Give A Hand To A Growing Tradition