

# Shoplifting big problem here

By ROANN BISHOP  
Staff Writer

Shoplifting is one of the most common crimes in Chapel Hill, and it's pushing up prices for all consumers—even students—a local public safety officer said recently.

"When the student pays 20 percent more for goods this year than he paid two years ago, he can blame it on shoplifting as a major factor," said Richard Butler, an officer in the Crime Prevention Office of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Area merchants are losing as much as \$18,000-\$20,000 every year from shoplifting, Butler said.

According to a recent report by Dan Robertson, director of marketing at Georgia State University, nationally shoplifting losses are costing consumers approximately \$16 billion each year.

"Every household in America gets a bill of \$200 per year for shoplifting in the form of higher prices in the store," Robertson stated in the report.

"Shoplifting is a major crime in Chapel Hill," Butler said. "If we worked routinely checking stores, we'd have to hire a whole additional police department."

Retail and drug stores are hardest hit because they have larger merchandise inventories and larger crowds, he said.

Items of merchandise which most often appeal to shoplifters are clothes, jewelry, small appliances and food, he said.

John Griffin, assistant manager of Kerr Drugs in University Mall, said that his store was losing between

\$2,000 and \$3,000 a year in shoplifting costs.

"We have to raise our prices 20 cents on the dollar to balance the shoplifting costs of our store," Griffin said.

There are no stereotypical shoplifters, Butler said. They vary from the bands of professional shoplifters that pass through town—called tribes—to students and professors.

Shoplifting is defined under North Carolina law as the "willful concealment of goods or merchandise at a store, without authorization, without having purchased a good or merchandise, while still upon the premises of the store."

The penalty for a first offense is a \$100-\$500 fine or six months to one year imprisonment or both.

And the punishment for a first offense is the same if a shoplifter has stolen \$5 worth of merchandise or \$5,000, Butler said.

Some offenders, he said, don't realize that they have a problem.

"There are professional shoplifters who steal for profit, but there are others who steal that don't realize they're breaking the law," Butler said.

"These people can get help, but they must first recognize their problem. Many times this means that they must first be caught."

The Mental Health Service at North Carolina Memorial Hospital or the Mental Health Center on 333 McMasters St. offer services to shoplifters in this area.

Local merchants employ several tactics to deter shoplifters, such as mirrors, turnstiles, surveillance and electric indicators geared to sound when unpurchased merchandise is removed from a store.



Shoplifting a major crime in area ...stores losing \$18,000-\$20,000

But Robertson said in his study that the most effective means of cutting the shoplifting rate is education.

"We're starting to get through to them, especially in TV and radio commercials," Robertson said.

Because of the growing concern about shoplifting crimes by both merchants and consumers, local authorities are cracking down on shoplifters, Butler said.

Many of the local merchants interviewed said that they didn't hesitate to prosecute if a shoplifter was caught in their stores.

# IM floor managers no longer to be paid

By KERRY DEROGHI  
Staff Writer

Intramural floor managers will not be paid this year, Charlie Brown, chairman of the IM-REC Council, said Thursday.

Brown said the council decided at its first meeting Wednesday night that area managers will still be paid but the individual floor workers will work on a strictly volunteer basis.

Floor workers organize teams from individual dorm floors while area managers handle districts.

This way one person will be paid a little more to do a little more work," Brown said. "In the long run it's better because a lot of dorms had floor managers who didn't do anything but still got paid."

Student Body President Bob Saunders said the position of floor manager may become an elected position.

"They are replacing the reward of being paid by making it an elected position," Saunders said. "It remains to be seen whether the plan will work or not."

Three subcommittees were formed at the meeting Wednesday night. The Bylaws Committee will be headed by Brown and will write bylaws for the council to explain its duties. Chuck Garner, president of the Sports Club Council, will be chairman of the Facilities Use Committee, which will serve as a complaint board. A Budget Committee was established to review the intramurals budget of last year and compare it with this year's budget.

Jeanne Pemberton will be chairman of the Budget Committee.

The IM-Rec Council was formed last year to serve in an advisory capacity to the Sports Club Council. Brown, who also is president of the Carolina Athletic Association, said he feels the council should be consulted on many matters this year.

## Fragile

Mark Ehrlich, a graduate student in marine sciences here, gently balances this friendly butterfly on his finger. The butterfly appears to be perfectly comfortable on his perch and in no hurry to leave. It's a picture of peace and serenity—things we all need at one time or another in this frantic world of ours.



# Local cable companies see no program changes

By CHARLES HERNDON  
Staff Writer

Deregulation of the cable television industry over the summer should result in an increased demand for cable services nationally, but the two cable companies in the area said this week there will be no immediate programming changes.

"Any regulation that gives the consumer more choice is a good thing," said Treff Faubert, general manager of Alert Cable Co., which serves about 3,000 customers in Carrboro and Hillsborough. "The more options he has, the better off he is," he said.

Last summer the Federal Communications Commission made it possible for cable services to compete more easily with commercial

broadcasters by removing restrictions on the airing of syndicated shows and the importation of distant signals.

Though the ruling will not take effect until the next release of the Federal Register, the deregulation will allow cable systems to broadcast some syndicated shows which previously had been blacked out. The register is due sometime within the next two weeks.

"The cable industry will benefit from the ruling because it will provide more diversity to its customers," said Cynthia Jeffries, chief of the FCC's Information Bureau.

Jeffries said appeals will be filed by commercial broadcasters to prevent the ruling from taking effect, but the impact on the broadcasting industry would be unclear.

"Less than 25 percent of the broadcasters asserted their rights to

complain about the ruling. Therefore we are not sure how the broadcasting industry feels because evidently close to 75 percent of them have not bothered to object," she said.

Locally, spokesmen for both Alert and Village Cable Service said deregulation would help the industry and consumers. However, they said no programming changes were planned.

"It is not official until it appears in the register," Faubert said. "We are examining different programming and we will implement any decisions to carry more programming when we are able," he said.

Lu Stevens, general manager of Village Cable, which serves about 1,000 customers in Chapel Hill, said programming on Village's 35-channel system would remain unchanged until studies indicated that new programming

would be marketable. "Our system has more programming than most cable systems, so we are not anticipating any changes," she said.

Neither Alert nor Village Cable expected any increase in the number of customers as a result of the deregulation. "There will be no immediate effect on customers," Stevens said, noting that Village expects to serve 6,000 to 7,000 people by December.

Both companies said rates would not be affected by the ruling though it was too early to tell how future rates might be affected. Faubert said he did not know how it might affect Alert's rates, (\$6 a month for the basic package), and Stevens said the rates Village Cable charges (\$7.95 a month for the 35-channel standard) are set for two years and thus not subject to change.

## CGC district petitions available

Petitions for students interested in serving as representatives to the Campus Governing Council for district 17 or 19 will be available in Suite C of the Carolina Union through Thursday.

Applications for Elections Board members are available in Suite C today. Deadlines for these applications are Monday.

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## Noisy party leads to one arrest

A non-UNC student was arrested and fined \$27 early Thursday morning at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house when a "disco machine" that was running was determined to be above the decibel level allowed by the noise law. Chapel Hill police arrested David Morrison Haw at 3:30 a.m. when the

machine was recorded at 65 decibels, 10 decibels over the legal 55 decibel limit. Police had given him a verbal warning two hours earlier when the machine was recorded at 75 decibels. Haw is a student at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia and is not a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

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**"WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"**  
Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

We trust it will be encouragement to all the true and sincere people of God to be reminded of several long periods of time in the earth when man dwelt without fear for their families, loved ones, and property, due to kings, rulers, and governing authorities who would not countenance or put up with lawlessness. May I ask any of the "birds," or "beasts," or "humans," or in whatever category you may belong who claim to believe that the "death penalty" does not prevent crime: Did you ever see a dead man commit murder? Did you ever see a dead man rape a woman or girl? Do you reckon there was any rape, adultery, homosexuality, or other crimes in Sodom on that morning shortly after Lot went out of the City and God rained fire and brimstone from heaven upon it?

The following statement is made not for the purpose of offending any man, but rather for the purpose of the writer not offending God Almighty: From my knowledge of the Bible if I take the position the "death penalty" does not restrain and prevent, I make God hold out to be a liar many times in His Word, and in fact reject the entire economy of the Almighty revealed in John 3:18: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Maybe we need to meditate on these words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "Ye do err not knowing the Scriptures, nor the Power of God!" Meditate on them, AND REPENT! Regardless of what others do, or profess, you continue to "FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: FOR

THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN." "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season we will reap, if we faint not." Continue to pray as Christ taught us: "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, DELIVER US FROM EVIL."

"Democratic institutions exist by reason of their virtue. If ever they perish it will be when you have forgotten the past, become indifferent to the present, and utterly reckless as to the future." — From the Monument of Thos. E. Watson on the Capitol grounds in Atlanta. "For nothing should the people of God more devoutly pray than that "their great god might be good and God-fearing men!"

633 YEARS AGO: in the year 617 A.D. Edwin was crowned King of Northumbria, one of the seven divisions of England. He was the most powerful of the several kings. It was said first of him that in his days "a woman with her babe might walk scatheless from sea to sea." The people tilled their fields and gathered their harvests in quiet and safety. The church as the great civilizer, had already begun its work in Teutonic Britain.

What is the trouble? The answer is as plain as the nose on your face: We have forsaken the Commandments of our God! There is almost no end to the numbers of our churches, but righteousness is about as scarce as "han teeth!" There is no end to our schools and educational institutions, church and secular, but it looks as if we are "fools for want of sense!" God help us!

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