

# Plainclothes agents stalk Central Square

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

Over 90 per cent of all persons apprehended for theft in the York bookstore, drugstore and Oasis last year were arrested and subjected to summary conviction under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Loss Prevention Services, an external security agency that was hired last year by York to curb the increasing rates of shoplifting incidents in Central Square, was responsible for the arrests of 200 shoplifters.

George Dunn, Director of York Safety and Security Services said that the incidence of losses for these three stores caused York to hire the agency. The bookstore experienced a loss of \$55,000 for the

73-74 year and \$29,000 last year.

According to Joan Hill, manager of Oasis, the store lost \$5,400 between January and April last year, including a \$2,000 loss in magazines alone. The drugstore also lost several thousand dollars in merchandise stock over the past two years.

Raphael Barreto-Rivera, director of the bookstore said that the reduction in last year's losses can be attributed to the recently-hired security agency.

Arnold Donsky, pharmacist and manager of the Super Discount Drug store said that the agency saved him approximately \$4,000 in merchandise last year.

According to Ron Harrington,

president of Loss Prevention Services, there are 28 plainclothes private investigators working in Central Square on a rotating assignments basis.

Any person spotted leaving the store without paying for merchandise is apprehended outside the store. The thief is then required to provide his personal data for legal ratification for an apprehension form used by Metro Toronto police for their record files.

When the Metro police arrive on the scene, they relay the information to CIPIC, a computer in Ottawa, to check for any previous criminal offenses the thief may have committed.

Providing that the thief has no previous convictions, he is usually given a summons to appear in court at a later date. In the case of York, all persons arrested are tried in the provincial court on Keele and Densley.

Harrington said that "if the person refuses to give his name to the police, he can expect to be escorted directly to police headquarters (possibly in handcuffs), and if he still refuses to give his name, he would conceivably be put in a cell for the night and appear in court the next day."

Age, value of stolen merchandise and nature of the offense are used as criteria for determining the charge the defendant will face.

As outlined under Section 313 of the Criminal Code of Canada, punishment for theft under \$200 can result in up to a maximum of two years imprisonment.

Dunn would not disclose the nature of the charges given to the arrested people but maintained that most were given fines or conditional discharges. A conditional discharge includes a probationary period anywhere from six months to two years.

If the person is given an absolute discharge from his trial, he has to wait a year before he can apply for his record to be expunged. The application is then sent to the Solicitor-General's office in Ottawa and an investigation is carried out by the RCMP.

Upon completion, the report of

the investigation is then sent back to the Solicitor-General, who will then pronounce his decision for pardon.

In the case of a conditional

discharge, the defendant must wait until his probationary period is completed, and then wait three years before he can apply for pardon.



Dave Fuller's candid camera catches unsuspecting student stuffing briefcase with bag of chips. Photo was later used as evidence and student is now serving five to life in Kingston.

## TTC tickets

TTC bus tickets went on sale Tuesday at Margle's clothing store in Central Square. Ancillary Services had asked the Bookstore and Oasis to sell the tickets over two weeks ago, but both declined due to the small profit involved.

The problem of getting a ticket outlet arose when the TTC adopted its exact fare system. Prices are three tickets for a dollar, and will be sold during Margle's operating hours. Margle's staff did not anticipate any problems due to the increased traffic through the store.

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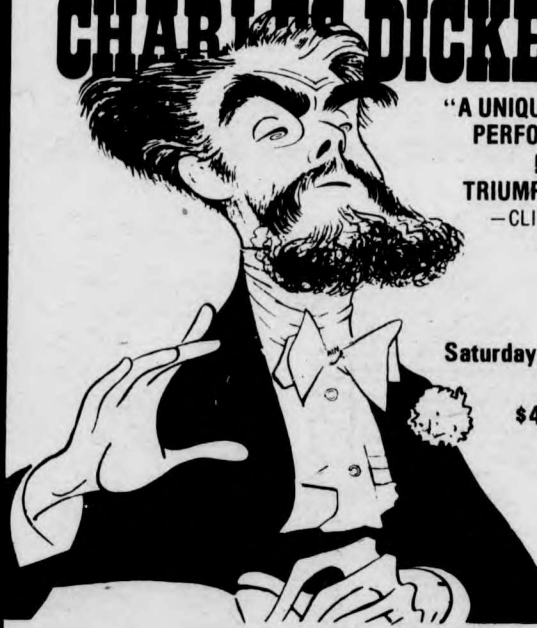
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**Margarita**  
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1 oz. Triple Sec  
Juice of ½ lime or lemon

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