

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you see anybody in a store take something without paying, report it to a salesperson, security guard, or a cashier. The person is really stealing from you.

For a class project, interview the security managers of department stores or malls to find out how much shoplifting costs them. Ask about what they do to prevent it and if they would write an article for the school newspaper.

Remember – stealing from a store is a crime. It's the same as stealing a bike from a garage, money from a wallet, or a radio from a school locker. Have the courage to help your friends say no.

Crime Prevention tips from:

The National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street, NW, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-466-NCPC

**SHOPLIFTING:  
THE EXPENSIVE  
CRIME  
EVERYONE  
PAYS FOR.**



**CHEEKTOWAGA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHIEF BRUCE D. CHAMBERLIN**

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**LOOK OUT FOR  
YOURSELF, YOUR FRIENDS,  
YOUR COMMUNITY,  
AND HELP ME . . .**



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME®**



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## SHOPLIFTING— THE CRIME THAT EVERYBODY PAYS FOR

When you are shopping, do you get irritated or angry because:

You can only take three pairs of jeans into the dressing room?

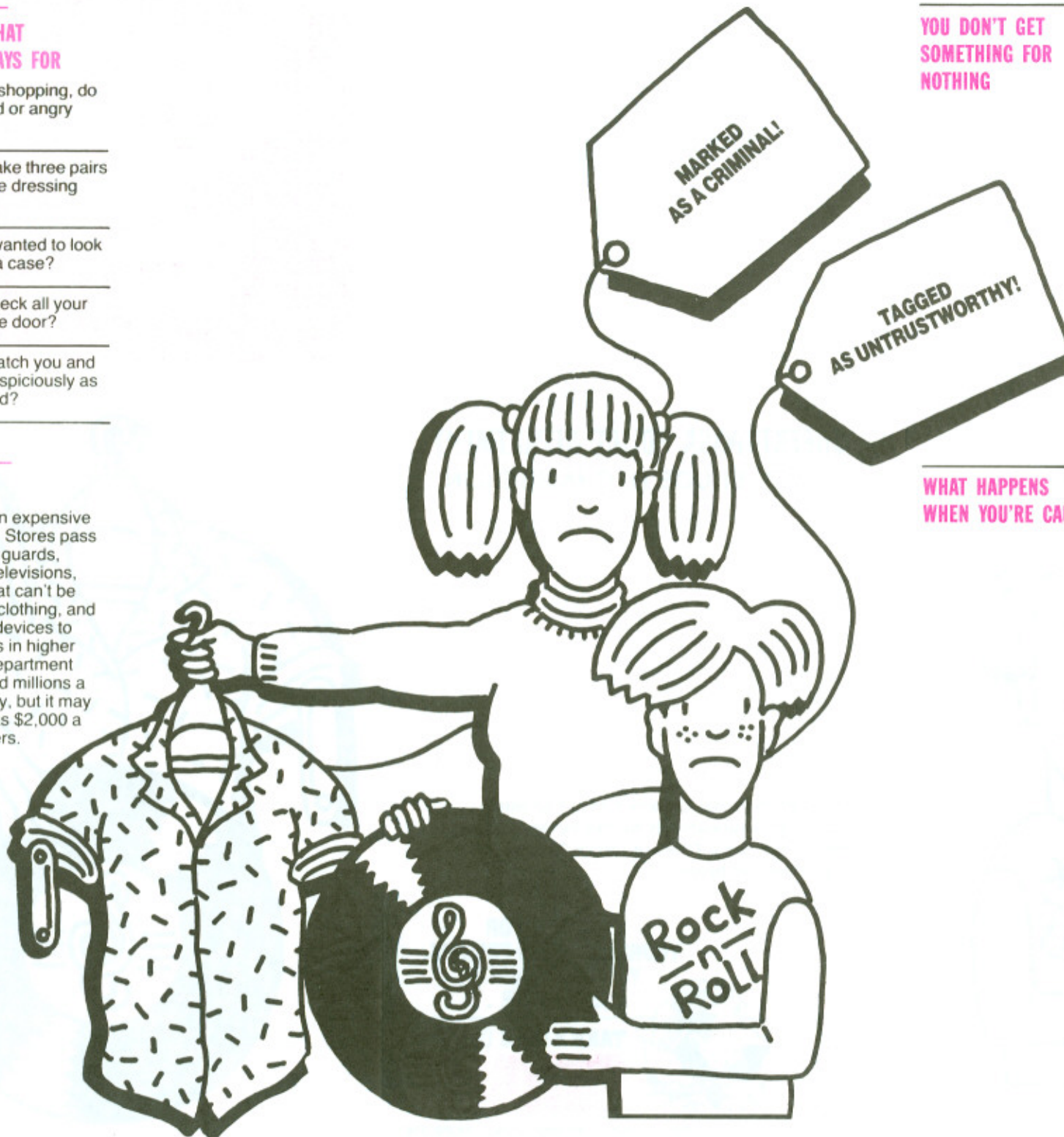
The tape you wanted to look at is locked in a case?

You have to check all your packages at the door?

Sales clerks watch you and your friends suspiciously as you look around?

## SHOPLIFTING — WHO PAYS?

Shoplifting is an expensive problem today. Stores pass on the costs of guards, closed circuit televisions, special tags that can't be removed from clothing, and other security devices to their customers in higher prices. A big department store can spend millions a year on security, but it may lose as much as \$2,000 a day to shoplifters.



## YOU DON'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Shoplifting hurts you in two ways. **FIRST**, you help pay for stores' shoplifting losses through the ever-increasing prices of the clothing, records and tapes, make-up, jewelry, and personal care products you buy. **SECOND**, you give teenagers a bad name. Teenagers are one of the major groups that shoplift - usually with friends on a dare, looking for excitement, or on impulse. But this makes life harder for other teenagers in stores and malls and can lead to trouble with the police.

Worried that your friends will call you "chicken?" *They may actually be relieved* that someone had the courage to say "no."

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE CAUGHT

Your friends may think that stores don't have teenagers arrested, but that's not true anymore. Because shoplifting keeps increasing, major chain stores and stores in shopping malls now prosecute all shoplifters except very young children.

When salespeople or security officers catch shoplifters, they call the police who arrest the thieves and take them to the police station. Children and teenagers may be released to their parents' custody if it's a first offense. The case might be referred to a juvenile office which can recommend an appropriate punishment, or sent directly to the juvenile court where a judge decides the penalty.

Everyone finds out about the arrest because police or court officers must talk to the shoplifter's parents, neighbors, and school to make their report. It also means that if you get caught shoplifting you will have a police record that might hurt your chances for a job or getting into a college.