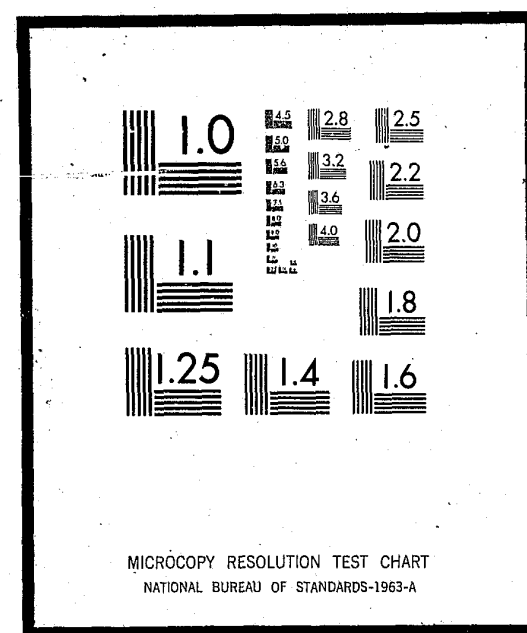


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REHABILITATIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM AS
ALTERNATIVE TO ARREST AND PROSECUTION IN
LOCAL STUDENT SHOPLIFTING CASES

BY

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014379

-Preface-

Without the sincere concern and interest shown by Mr. Harry G. Headlee and Mr. Ted Ankeney of the Maryland Book Exchange the formation of this counseling program would not have been possible. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous work by Mrs. Barbara Holtz, Director, Judicial Office, and Mr. Bob Caruso, Assistant Director, in getting this program off the ground. They are to be highly commended for their involvement.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In a five (5) month period from September, 1970 to March, 1971 over 332 students from the University of Maryland were apprehended for shoplifting by College Park merchants.

Over the past two (2) years several hundred of these youthful offenders now bear the burden of having a criminal arrest record for the rest of their lives. Not to mention the psychological scarring that resulted from being incarcerated and forced to undergo the civil judiciary system.

The rehabilitative counseling program that was initiated last spring at the University of Maryland is in danger of collapse. Without some sort of financial assistance the program will be unable to continue.

I strongly feel that preventing a young man or woman from receiving a life long criminal record and improving their conduct as citizen's is just as important as the great emphasis we are placing on the use of drugs and other related fields.



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Program:

Counseling Program as Alternative to Arrest and Prosecution in
Local Student Shoplifting Cases

Objectives of the Program:

- A) To provide the student offender with a rehabilitative development alternative to those methods presently available to the Civil Courts in the prosecution of shoplifting. This rehabilitative counseling while improving the students conduct as a citizen would avoid, (1) the permanency of an arrest and conviction record, as arrest and conviction records will probably never be totally expunged. (2) time spent by local and State Police in processing student shoplifters could be put to better use. (3) the counseling program would also avoid costly court time and would avoid the expense that employers incur when employees are summoned to court.
- B) To reduce the frequency of shoplifting and prevent recidivism.
- C) To educate the student as to his role and responsibility in the community that serves the University, as well as in society at large.

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND STATE POLICE

- D) To provide a service to both the student and community in a period when University and Community relations are extremely important.
- E) To prevent psychological scarring that may result from being incarcerated and labeled as a criminal.

Procedure:

- A) Students who are apprehended for shoplifting at an area store and who have no previous record of misconduct at the store will be provided with an alternative to arrest and prosecution in Civil Court. After the student is advised of his rights, information concerning the counseling program will be made available, and the student will then be given a choice of either Civil Court or participation in the counseling program.
- B) Once the referring official recommends that the student participate in the counseling program all pre-charges are dropped.
- C) Upon referral to the Judiciary Office, the student will be interviewed by a member of the Judiciary Office staff who will determine the form of counseling (individual or group) that he believes to be appropriate for him. The staff member will also explain the possible consequences of a repeated infraction and indicate what an arrest and conviction

record may mean on the student's record when applying for positions after graduation.

D) Students will then be required to attend the counseling sessions prescribed by the staff member. Failure to participate would result in the renotification of the referring official. The judges have indicated that these students may possibly receive a jail sentence.

E) The Judiciary Office will inform the area merchants of the type of program in which the referred students are involved.

F) Because the official jurisdiction of the Judiciary Office is limited to on campus offenses, information acquired as a result of this program will not be reflected in the Judiciary Office records.

Evaluation:

A) Simple description data on the number of shoplifters and the frequency of recidivism.

B) Motivational and Attitudinal studies.

C) Comparative studies of shoplifters vs "non-shoplifters" on a basis of selected characteristics.

D) Pre- and post studies of the student offender and his

perception of the efficiency of individual and group counseling.

E) Geographic studies of students apprehended.

F) Comparative studies of shoplifting rates at community or two year colleges vs the four year colleges.

Proposed Expenses:

A) Office Supplies (paper, postage, xerox, sec. fees) \$ 300.00

B) Audio-visual aides (video tapes, films, tape recorders) \$ 400.00

C) Two graduate assistants to work 20 - 25 hours per week to screen, counsel, and assign individuals to other types of counseling. Professional backup is included. For a ten month period. \$5600.00

D) Use of selected undergraduates for the purpose of peer counseling with student offenders. Also included is professional backup. \$2500.00

E) Honoraria fee for guest speakers, resource persons, and other outside assistance. \$1000.00