





Shoplifting

Penalties decreased

"Cats in a Cradle" is a 45 r.p.m. record priced at 97 cents. Earlier this semester it cost a university student over \$100 and a night in jail.

Opting not to pay, the student bypassed the cash register and was stopped by a security officer when leaving the store. He was charged with petit larceny, second offense.

Under Nebraska law, a second offense petit larceny is a felony, punishable by not less than one year and not more than two years at the State Penal Complex.

As explained by the Police Community Relations Office, though, however dogmatic a law is in written form, it becomes flexible in the courts when applied to the individual case.

Charge amended In this case, the County Attorney's Office amended the charge from second to first offense petit larceny and turned the case over to the City Attorney's office.

Now, after a night in jail, a day in court, \$100 in fines and court costs, the student still does not own "Cats in

Changing the degree of the offense within court departments is common, according to a police department spokesman. Since a majority of shoplifting charges involve merchandise under \$50, it becomes ludicrous, he said, for an individual, often a juvenile, to face felony charges for a magazine, record or

"ten-cent" cigar.
Until July, 1974, petit larceny constituted theft or destruction of property valued at \$100 or less. Last year the law was revised, raising the property value requirement to \$300.

A few years ago, \$35 was enough to warrant a felony charge. Laws raising the limit of property value reflect general rising costs.

"Out of hand"

Before July, almost every time a bicycle was stolen, it constituted a felony. Police department spokesmen noted that the situation was getting "out of hand."

In 1973, 640 cases of shoplifting were reported in Lincoln, according to police records. However, only 76 of the cases involved merchandise over \$50.

The vast majority of shoplifting cases probably will remain petit larceny, unaffected by the \$300 limit, a police spokesman said.

However, even a first offense petit larceny is a misdemeanor, involving a fine, court costs, possibly jail or probation. It is an expensive way to buy a record.

Aid forms available

All students wishing to apply for financial aid (scholarships grants, loans, work-study) for the 1975-76 academic year should pick up application forms before going home for Christmas vacation. These forms must be mailed by Feb. 1 at the latest in order to meet the Financial Aids Office deadline, according to the financial aids office.

Forms are available in Financial Aids Office Administration 113.

Rap sessions about financial aids opportunities will be held in the residence halls second semester, according to Bev Redler of the Financial Aids office, and more information will be made available later.

Dec. 14, 1914-"The girls of the Physical Education department are planning a rousing good time for Tuesday noon. A sumptuous "feed," served in the locker rooms, will be first on the program. Later on the girls will have a Christmas tree with all the necessary trimmings. There will be an inexpensive and appropriate gift for each girl to bring out her particular faults or fancies. Although the gym "feeds" are notorious for good "eats" and for good times, this one is expected to be an exception."

calendar

Friday 9 a.m.-Mini University -Nebraska Union

12 p.m.—Teachers College Dean's Office - Union

12:30 p.m. -- Muslim Student Association - Union 12:30 p.m.-The Way, Campus Outreach - Union

1:30 p.m. -- American Pharmaceutical Association - Union

1:30 p.m.-Educational Psychology, Interpersonal Awareness Group - Union 3:30 p.m.-Jass and Java -

7:30 p.m.—Inter Varsity
Christian Fellowship - Union
8 p.m.—''Camino Real'' Howell Theatre
8 p.m.—University Lab
Bands I, II, and III - Kimball
Recital Hall