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Lourdine Florek
editor

Just the facts

Thursday, Aug. 17, 1995

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Police step up patrols in downtown to curb loitering

They're young. They want to see and be seen. And some cause problems for some downtown Hoopeston merchants, using doorways as public restrooms and leaving litter that ranges from plastic cups to condoms.

They're loiters, and police are cracking down on them.

The Hoopeston police department has arrested

13 youngsters for loitering in the past 30 days. Most are in the 13-15-year-old age range.

According to Officer Jim Goodrum of the Hoopeston Police Department, the crackdown came as a result of merchant requests for patrols downtown. Goodrum said merchants complained of urine and feces in doorways, garbage, fighting

See **LOITERING** on other side

Changing mind can be costly for unwary consumers

Editor's Note: The following column was written by Hoopeston attorneys Calvin Hultquist and Kate Giffin. Columns will run as space allows.

Question: If I purchase a product from a store and later I decide I don't want it, am I entitled to a refund by law?

Answer: It depends. Because so many stores tout a "satisfaction guaranteed" policy, many of us have become accustomed to being able to return products without hassle. Typically, however, retailers have no obligation to refund your money if you later change your mind.

There are several notable exceptions. First, if the product is defective, the retailer and/or manufacturer are liable to return your money, exchange your purchase or repair the defective product. Generally it is the retailer's option as to which of the above remedies to employ. If the product is, in your opinion, too badly damaged to be repaired, you may be able to force a refund or exchange.

Second, if the retailer advertises a "satisfaction guaranteed" type policy, then you are entitled to a

refund regardless of the reason. The retailer may set some restrictions, such as requiring a receipt or place reasonable time limits on refunds.

When purchasing something by contract, such as a new car, home improvement or appliance, many people mistakenly believe they have three days to cancel a contract they have signed. This is not correct. The legislature has provided for a three-day right to cancel in only a few situations,

typically in high pressure sales industries, such as door-to-door sales, time share sales and credit services. Because there is so much fraud in the mail order hearing aid business, the legislature provides purchasers 45 days to cancel once they have received their hearing aid.

Generally when you sign a contract, there is no way out, so be a careful consumer.

We will respond to reader mail. Address inquiries to Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942.

Legal principles discussed are general. For more information, see your lawyer.

Legally Speaking
by Calvin Hultquist/
Kate Giffin, attorneys



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Loitering continued from other side
 and blocked traffic caused by youngsters standing in the streets.

Some merchants have noticed a visible change since arrests increased.

"Since they cracked down, it's 100 percent better than it was," said Terry Prillaman, owner of Illiana Real Estate, 107 E. Main.

Prillaman's business has not been damaged, but trash left in his entryway has been a problem.

Roger Ball, owner of Weber's Drug Store, 221 E. Main, said the doorway of his business, and those of fellow merchants, have been used as restrooms. "I had a customer come in one day and say there was a strong odor of ammonia," Ball said.

Ball, like Prillaman, has noticed a decrease in trash since police started their crackdown. "I don't see nearly as much as I did," he said.

Subway, 115 E. Main, has been damaged, said manager Shanon Hoskins. Several windows and a planter at the restaurant have been broken and bathroom sinks have been torn off the wall, she said.

Because of interior damage, only paying customers are allowed to use restrooms during evening hours. "It's terrible to have to do that, but with the amount of damage, we didn't have a choice," Hoskins said.

Loiterers have hurt Subway's business, Hoskins said, because customers are sometimes afraid to walk through groups of youngsters.

Owners of another restaurant, Pizza King at 111 E. Main, have not noticed damage, according to co-owner Carl Shipman.

Litter has been a problem, but Shipman does not want to blame evening loiterers. "That goes on during the daytime, too," he said.

Between Shipman, and his brother, Jim, few stragglers stand in front of the eatery. "We go out if they start grouping and tell them to move along," he said.

Shipman said people are quick to blame youngsters for damage, but young adults are often

responsible. "Kids are bearing the brunt of it and that's not always right," he said.

The crackdown is popular with business owners, it's not popular with some parents, Goodrum said. "Parents get mad at the police," he said. "They ask 'Where are kids supposed to go, what are they supposed to do,' but it's not a police job to babysit the kids."

Police News



Patrick E. Clingenpeel Jr., 19, 606 W. Elm, was arrested at 5 p.m. Tuesday, charged with disorderly conduct - falsifying a police report.

Clingenpeel reported earlier Tuesday that several pieces of stereo equipment and cassette tapes had been stolen from his 1989 Buick while it was parked in the 200 block of South First Ave.

Two boys, ages 14 and 15, were arrested at 5:09 p.m. Tuesday, charged with malicious mischief after they allegedly threw "No Swimming" signs from the McFerren Park lagoon into the lagoon. Both boys were released to their parents on notices to appear.

Lonnie T. Bolton, 31, of 841 E. Seminary, was arrested at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, charged with domestic battery on a complaint from Willa M. Burton, 830 N. Market. Bolton was released on \$100 bond.

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Aug. 15, 1995

Admitted: Aaron Danron, Hoopeston.
Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly sunny, hot and humid today with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. High in the low 90s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 70s. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High near 96, low near 74.

Rummage Sale

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