

# To catch a thief

It's a holiday, but relentless Roy Crew is on the case. On a hunch, he goes to the office early.

His heart thumping, Roy opens the door and...

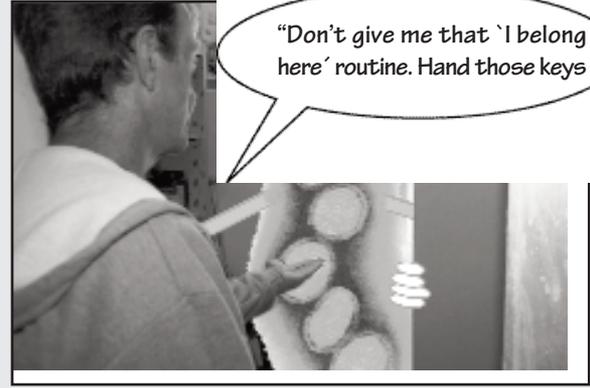
Roy demands the keys to all the offices the thief has been pilfering. But the thief feigns innocence.



"What are you doing in here you germy good-for-nothing!"



"Don't give me that 'I belong here' routine. Hand those keys"

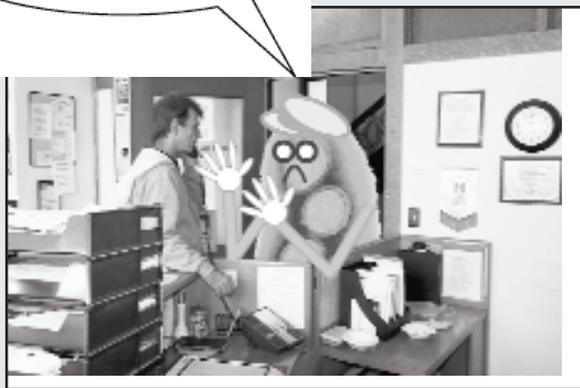


"Keys? What keys? I don't got to show you no stinking keys!"

At that, Roy reaches for the phone and dials 911. And waits... And waits...

There's never a cop when you need one, even when you call their office. The thief makes a break. Roy takes after him with Kevin Leach in hot pursuit.

Finally, it's Leach who corners the thief. The cops eventually arrive, confiscate the keys and the thief's crack pipes and cart him off to jail.



artwork by Carl Angel text by Geoff Link



"Stop right there or I'll ride you down like a sled!!!"



NEXT: Wheels of justice just won't turn.

## Cops go easy on thief, from page 5

the sound.

The thief had a gray bag in one hand and a set of keys in the other. In the bag, according to the police report, were nine pieces of candy, three soft drinks, miscellaneous keys, credit cards, two glass pipes and a silver metal pipe. Out of his right hand, police took a set of keys they said were a master

set to the front door and second floor offices.

"One of the cops took the keys and unlocked an office door with one," Crew said. "You could have bowled me over. He was trying to hide in there and he almost did."

The police arrested Ronald Salkin, a 39-year-old Hispanic. He gave his address as 521

Birch. It's a large apartment building on a small street two blocks behind the Opera House. Its occupants were later evicted for dealing crack out of it, according to realtors handling the building next door.

Salkin was released on \$387 bail. Through a district attorney's office agreement, he received "pre-trial diversion." That translated into a plan

for him to pay \$1,000 in restitution and attend 12 Glide counseling sessions. Salkin never began them. He vanished.

"He failed to make the program," a spokesman at the Pre-Trial Diversion office says. "We haven't heard from him since March 14."

On June 7, in Department 16, the case's progress report will be heard.

"I can't say I disagree (with the theory) of having another chance at the straight and narrow," Crew says, "until it comes down to me. If he had given me the keys, well ... I don't believe the jail system rehabilitates anyone. But I do wonder where my rights are in this. All that work to catch this guy and to stop him. Where is the justice these days?" ■

## Poetry SPOTLIGHT

Ed Bowers

### The Homeless

the homeless serve function  
in capitalist society  
which is reason  
they will always live and die  
on streets.  
just as stop signs on roads  
and warnings in nuclear power plants  
are needed,  
so are the homeless.  
they alert those who work  
not to stop.  
they inform the members of the crew  
that no one loves them unless  
they do something to earn it.  
they show office workers  
by the very expression on their faces  
that need  
has its dark side.  
and to these miserable laborers,  
adrift in debt and downsizing and divorce,  
trapped eight to sixteen hours in  
meaningless work,  
the homeless offer them the pleasure  
of knowing that  
someone is more miserable  
even  
than them.  
they are the worst possible threat  
in a worst case scenario.  
the homeless should  
get paid  
for what  
they do.



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