

On the Job

Deputies Nab Bike Bandit in Area Dragnet

(Feb. 5, 2002) Thirteen-year-old Fabian probably never expected to see his brand-new BMX bicycle again – especially since the man who snatched it away from him one recent evening at a Metro Green Line station said he had a gun.

Such crimes are rare on the east-west rail line, according to the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, but deputies frequently conduct sting operations to weed out the bike thieves. This case, however, was no sting.

As his bicycle disappeared into the darkness, Fabian called his mom to give her the bad news. He had just hung up when Deputy Bob Gillis arrived at the station.

Gillis immediately broadcast a description of the suspect and the missing bike to surrounding Sheriff's stations. Then, he coordinated an area-wide dragnet.

Minutes later, Deputy Kiley Hayden spotted the alleged bicycle thief pedaling down a street more than 20 blocks away. Although he was reported to be armed, the suspect was nabbed without injury to anyone.

Asked to prove the recovered bike was his, Fabian didn't hesitate. He took a key from his pocket and a deputy unlocked the chain that was still wrapped around the bicycle seat.

The grateful youngster – and his bicycle – then got a ride home in a Sheriff's patrol car.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker provided the information for this story. Mike Parker is stationed in the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau of the MTA's Rail Operations Center. "On The Job" is an occasional Bulletin Board feature about the little things that make a law enforcement officer's job interesting and rewarding.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)