

Library 1990

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# Librarians help nab vandalism suspects

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SANTA CRUZ — Quick-thinking librarians saved the day at the main library downtown Friday.

One librarian caught two patrons slicing a science fiction book with a knife that morning. Another librarian trailed one of the suspects out the door until police arrived.

Cindy Jones, 21, and James Robert Vanhorn, 24, were later arrested and booked at Santa Cruz County Jail on suspicion of vandalizing city property, police said. Police said they were transients.

A librarian said she heard paper tearing on the other side of a shelf where she was working. When she peered between the books, she saw a man and a woman damaging a book with a knife. She said she asked them to come with her to the circulation desk, but instead they bolted out the door.

A worker at the circulation desk called police.

Reference librarian Fred Ulrich, 44, followed the suspects out the library. Ulrich said he saw the man go one way, and the woman another. Ulrich followed her around the block.

Jones was stopped a block away by police. Jones had a knife in her

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purse, an officer said. Meanwhile, police stopped Vanhorn two blocks from the library.

Librarians didn't identify the book that Vanhorn and Jones are suspected of damaging.

The main library has had a rash of theft and vandalism in the past month, Ulrich said. The works of

Piers Anthony, a science fiction and fantasy writer, have been particularly hard-hit, he said.

Central branch manager Mary Hinchcliff said staff members have been finding bits of damaged books in the bathroom trash.

"It's rare to catch somebody," she said. "We barely have enough

staff to get books checked out and put away. If we had more staff we could be more vigilant."