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Big wheel caught in sting

Two charged after cops watch man use bolt-cutters in bike theft

By BRETT CLARKSON, SUN MEDIA

A well-known Queen St. W. bike dealer is facing charges after he was arrested at his store last night by plainclothes cops who alleged they watched him direct a man with bolt-cutters to cut the locks off two nearby bikes and steal them.

Igor Kenk, 49, owner of the Bicycle Clinic at Queen St. W. and Strachan Ave., was put in handcuffs just after 7 p.m. by Consts. James Rowe and Craig Meredith, who were watching the corner as part of a "bait-bike" sting.

A man showed up with bolt-cutters to steal a bicycle, police allege.

Both Kenk and Jean Laveau are charged with one count of theft under \$5,000, one count of attempted theft under \$5,000, and one count of possession of property obtained by crime.

HIGH-THEFT LOCATIONS

Laveau was also charged with possession of burglary tools.

Meredith said he watched from across the street as Kenk allegedly pointed out the two bikes. Kenk then allegedly paid the man money for one of the bikes, Meredith said. The man was allegedly in the process of cutting the lock on a second bike when cops arrested him.

Both were taken to 14 Division station and were slated to appear in bail court this morning at 10 a.m. at Old City Hall.

Coincidentally, officers Rowe and Meredith were part of a three-man team who yesterday planted a so-called bait bike at various high-theft locations downtown.

They had planted an unlocked bike at Queen St. W. and Strachan Ave. around 7 p.m. and were watching the corner when their attention was diverted away from the unlocked bait bike to the locked bike which was allegedly stolen.

BIKE OWNER 'ECSTATIC'

Afterwards, the owner of the second bike emerged to find his bike in the care of police and the alleged thief in handcuffs.

"He was ecstatic by what we had done," Rowe said.

Kenk, who has owned the Bicycle Clinic for 16 years, has owned the building at his current 927 Queen St. W. location since 1995, when he purchased it for \$85,000.