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STOLEN CARDS AND CHEQUES

End of spending spree

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MOHAMMAD Khalid bin Khamis (picture) lived it up with stolen credit cards and cheques but the long arm of the law soon caught up with him.

His crime spree began on Aug 2, 2007, when he treated himself to ice cream at the Gelare Café in Hougang Avenue and paid the bill of \$62.27 with a stolen credit card. The following month, he used the same card to buy six tickets for the performance of *Swan Lake On Ice* from ticketing website *Sistic.com*. It is not known how he obtained the stolen credit card.

Khalid also made off with a cheque worth \$1,471.20 from sandwich chain O'Briens on July 4 that year. He was then working



at the company's branch at China Square and part of his duties was to deposit the daily sales proceeds into the corporate bank account.

And from June last year, the 25-year-old would take a stick and insert it into letter boxes, picking out all the credit cards and cheque books he could find. In most cases, he would make the cheques out to his girlfriend Fizliana binte Basir. When these were cleared,

he withdrew the money to spend on himself.

Khalid also used the stolen cards and made unauthorised withdrawals at various ATM machines. He is believed to have stolen up to \$13,000 in the illegal transactions.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Khalid on Jan 20 at Greenrich Shopping Centre. He led the police to his house, where they recovered stolen cheque books, a Krisflyer card, an Air France card, a SIM card and a screwdriver.

Yesterday, Khalid was charged in the Subordinate Courts on 70 counts for theft and criminal breach of trust. He pleaded guilty to 14 of the charges and was sentenced to 66 months in prison. Six other charges were also taken into consideration during sentencing.