They’re all heroes, but no one knows exactly how many of them there are, nor all their identities. They were shopping late yesterday evening at the Colonial Mall in your city. The mall closes at 10 p.m., and it was about 9:50 pm when the incident occurred. There was a serious incident: a robbery. Among the other stores in the mall is a jewelry store: Elaine’s Jewelry. An unidentified man walked into the store and, before anyone could respond, pulled out a hammer, smashed two display cases, and then proceeded to scoop up with his hands handfuls of jewelry, mostly watches and rings. Elaine Benchfield is the owner of the store, and also its manager, and she was present at the time and began screaming quite loudly. People heard her screams, saw the man flee, and, according to witnesses, 8 or 10 people began pursuing the man through the mall. As the chase proceeded, the posse grew in number. “Things like that just make me mad,” explained Keith Holland, one of the shoppers who witnessed the crime and joined the posse. The chase ended in one of the shopping malls parking lots. Once outside in the parking lot, even more people started joining the posse, yelling at and chasing the man. Asa Smythe, a jogger who says he jogs a distance of 20 miles a week, said he knew the man might out-sprint him for a short distance, but that he also knew he was going to follow the man to hell if he had to. “He couldn’t lose me, no way he could lose me,” Smythe said. Smythe is a former high school football player and Marine. He succeeded in catching up with and tackling the man. More shoppers, an estimated 15 or 20 by police, then surrounded the man, holding him there in the parking lot until police reached the scene. The people stood in a circle around the man, threatening him, but also applauding and shaking hands among themselves, proud of their accomplishment. The suspect has since then been identified by police officers as Todd Burns, age 23, of 1502 Matador Dr., Apt. 302. He has been charged with grand theft and is being held on $25,000 bond at the county jail. Police officer Barbara Keith-Fowler, the first officer to reach the scene, said she thinks Burns was happy to see her. Burns was not armed, and was apparently frightened, police said, by the crowd. At one point in the chase he threw them the bag of loot, apparently hoping they would stop following him. A bystander retrieved the bag and returned it to Blanchfield, who said it contained everything stolen from her store. A grateful Blanchfield then proceeded to tell you, when you called her on the phone, that the people who helped her were a super bunch of people and made her feel wonderful. Blanchfield added that she thinks people responded as they did because they are sick and tired of people getting ripped off.