

Weapons

Crime Will Eventually Get You If You Don't Stop It First

By Milton Jordan
On the West End in Durham, a secretary returned home from a night out and found her apartment burglarized. She was burning mad, but helpless.

In an upper middle-class neighborhood on the city's northern end, a traveling salesman returned from out of town to find his home had been ripped off. He was angry, but resigned and helpless.

And, in a new subdivision in southwestern Durham County, a housewife returned from a brief shopping trip to find that thieves had found her home empty of people and had emptied it of virtually everything else.

Almost no one and nothing is safe today from crime. Homes, apartments, stores, cars and practically anyplace or anyone else not protected is fair game for crime.

According to Harry Scarr, former director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Within four or five years every household in the country will be hit by crime."

That means YOU.

As the crime clocks tick away, your number is bound to come up.

- * A crime is committed every two seconds.
- * A property crime is committed every three seconds.
- * A larceny is committed every four seconds.
- * A burglary is committed every eight seconds.
- * A violent crime is committed every 24 seconds.
- * A motor vehicle is stolen every 28 seconds.
- * An aggravated assault is committed every 48 seconds.
- * A forcible rape is committed every six minutes.
- * A murder is committed every 24 minutes.

Those are national crime clock figures, but Durham is comparatively representative of the national trend. According to 1981 figures, stealing ranked as the city's most frequent crime. This includes robberies, residential burglaries, petty larceny and motor vehicle theft. There were more than 10,000 offenses, and stolen property was valued at more than \$4 million.

So if crime hasn't hit you directly yet, just wait. It's coming. And while you wait to be robbed, burglarized, raped, vandalized or killed, you are paying through the nose for the opportunity to be victimized.

According to the National Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville, almost 17 cents of every consumer dollar is directly attributable to crime.

The insurance industry says that a "significant percentage of premium increased can be traced to crime's surge in the country."

But the money that crime costs, including the escalating cost of a growing and overburdened criminal

insanity and just general upheaval in its victims' lives.

But more than anything else, crime produces fear, mind-numbing fear that stalks almost every waking hour and turns sleep into troubled turmoil.

"It doesn't matter where I am or who I'm with," said one burglary victim, who asked not to be identified. "When I'm outside, I see shadows inside. When I have to leave home, I'm almost too afraid to come back."

Mrs. Linda Ellis, a victimization counselor, explains: "Our homes are often seen as an extension of ourselves, and when our homes have been violated, so have we."

Therefore, in light of the growing probability that all of us risk criminal victimization, what, if anything are we doing about it, and how many of us are doing nothing?

According to Ms. Keny, many of the victims she counsels had taken no previous precautions against crime, not even the simplest steps of self-protection.

"It seems to me that many, many people harbor a feeling that crime is something that always happens to someone else," said Ms. Keny, "until it happens to them."

Ms. Portia Wilson, a local receptionist, falls into that category. "I don't own a gun, and I don't have all these elaborate locks.

I'm just not going to let crime scare me like that."

But these "fearless" souls are exceptions to rule. According to a privately financed national crime study: "The fear of crime is slowly paralyzing American society."

In a recent magazine article on violent crime, Houston Police Chief B.K. Johnson said: "We have allowed ourselves to degenerate to the point where we're living like animals. We live behind burglar bars and throw a collection of door locks at night and set an alarm and lay down with a loaded justice system, is but a minor impact of crime when one considers the full range of trauma that often accompanies victimization."

"Some crime victims are extremely angry," says Jan Keny, a crime victimization counselor. "Other victims are very fearful, and often people who can cope with almost anything else, might find themselves

extremely distressed and upset, in an emotional nosedive as a result of crime."

There have been cases when the victim's reaction to crime has been more devastating than the crime itself. For example, last year, a young rape victim committed suicide rather than live with the crime's memory. Crime had brought about divorces, shotgun... and try to rest."

But though the fear of crime is real, and the probability of being victimized is definite and growing daily, there are still many people in Durham who have taken almost no precaution against crime.

For example, about sixty per cent of Durham's population, just a little over 60,000 people are not involved in the Public Safety Department's neighborhood watch and property identification programs. And the crime prevention bureau of the County Sheriff's Department has only about 200 of the neighborhoods outside the city limits involved in similar programs.

"There's a lot of apathy out there," says Capt. Allen of the city's crime prevention bureau. "We really wish more people would get involved with helping to fight crime. We can't do it without full citizen participation."

N.C. Mutual Announces Recent Gains

Significant gains in some key areas of operations at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company were announced Wednesday by W.J. Kennedy III, NCM chairman, president and chief executive officer.

Kennedy made the announcement in his report at the company's 83rd annual policyholders meeting at the NCM Home Office auditorium.

Among the gains Kennedy reported were a \$1.04 billion increase in insurance in force, a \$7.8 million increase in assets and a \$4.1 million increase in premium income.

The company's assets now stand at \$198.7 million and insurance in force reached \$6.58 billion, up from the \$5.58 billion reported at the end of 1980. This increase was the largest single year increase in this category in the company's history.

Premium income for

the year was \$66.1 million, net investment income rose to \$12 million, and total income was \$78 million, a \$5.7 million increase over 1980. In addition, the company paid \$1.9

million in dividends to policyholders during the year.

"These gains are impressive when viewed against the backdrop of the disarray of the nation's economy and the economic setbacks of the people we traditionally serve," Kennedy said.

"Perhaps no group of people has felt the sting

of the administration's economic policies more than the nation's black communities," where, he added, "the government cutbacks have had a severe and devastating impact."

Kennedy also told the policyholders of the gains in operations of NCM's two insurance subsidiaries during 1980

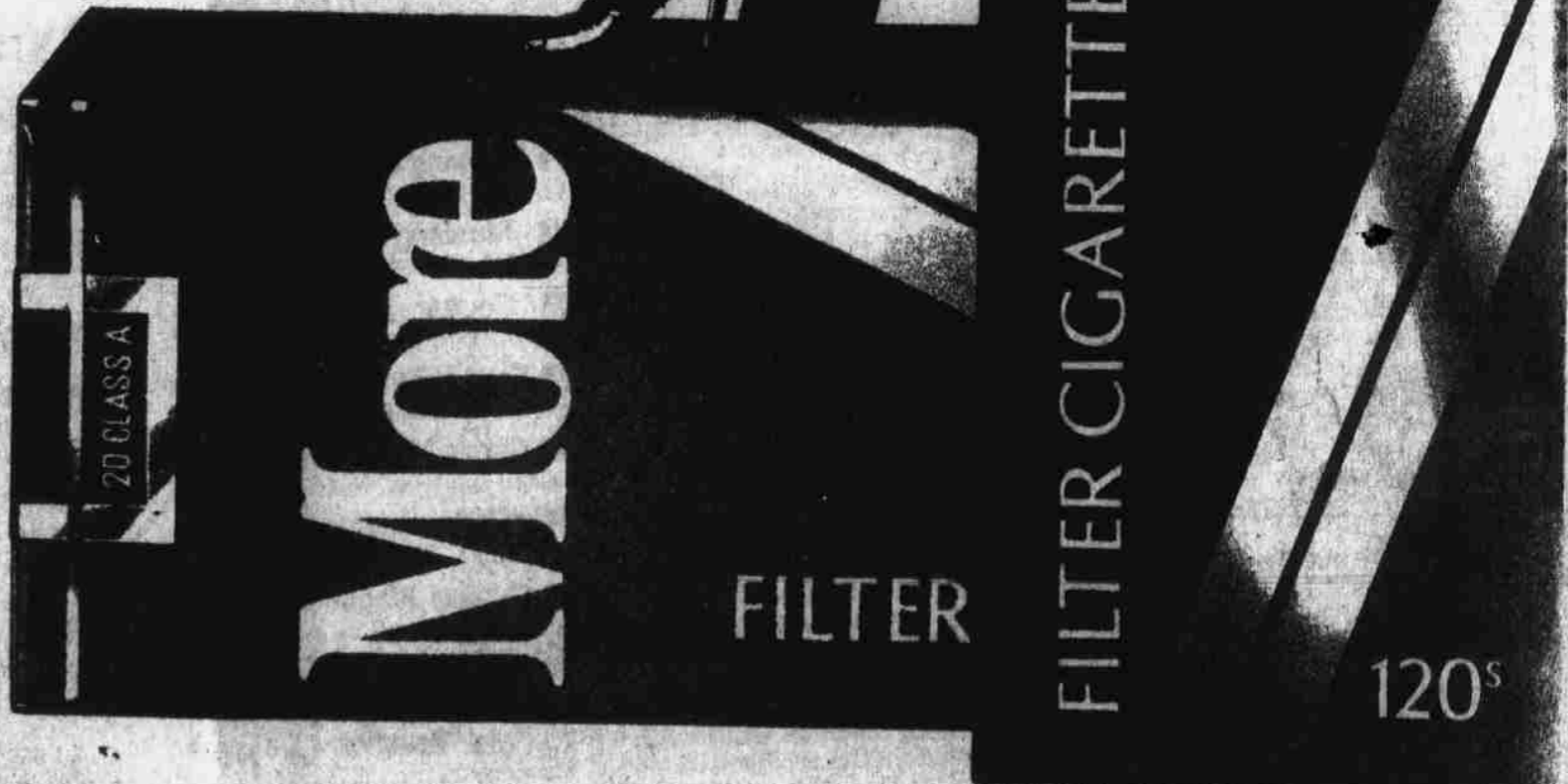
and of the success of the company's mass marketing program.

The company's two radio stations in Williamsburg, Va., were upgraded last year, Kennedy told the group. "As a result," he said, "both stations' market position and revenues increased, much earlier than our initial projections indicated."

Crime

(Continued from Page 6) because the first betteline in the fight against crime is to make it as difficult as possible for a criminal to activate his or her desire. In other words, you must take away or at least reduce the opportunity.

It's More you.



SUPER CONCENTRATED CD DEODORIZER
is so effective that
2 DROPS DEODORIZE A SKUNK!

Just think of the odor problems it could solve to you... bathroom, pets, cooking, microwave, garbage, diaper.

ONE SHAKER BOTTLE \$3.00 POSTPAID

To order send check or money order to SCHMID PRODUCTS CO., Div. of SCHMID LABORATORIES, INC., Box A, Route 48 West, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.