

# Drug abuse is not only in the streets

From Page A1

Dr. Mack. He recommends that patients tell the doctor:

- the names of all prescription and over-the-counter medicines they are taking, including those provided by other physicians and dentists;

- any problems they have had or are having with medicines;

- about smoking habits, which could interfere with the effectiveness of some prescription medicines.

Educating patients is good, however, the average American doctor is writing too many prescriptions, said one physician and

professor at Harvard Medical School.

One of the most common drugs prescribed by physicians is propoxyphene, an analgesic most commonly known by one of its brand names, Darvon. Ms. Shell explained. The drug is widely prescribed to alleviate mild to moderate pain, "yet controlled studies show it to be, at best, no more effective a pain reliever than aspirin or acetaminophen (Tylenol)," she said.

Propoxyphene has a number of unpleasant side effects, including dizziness, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting. It can be dangerous

when combined with alcohol and is addictive.

"In a study completed in 1983, Ms. Shell continued, "overdoses of the drug were blamed for roughly a thousand deaths a year, only about half of which were suicides."

Some medical experts contend that the propoxyphene and other drugs are prescribed so often because they can only be obtained by prescription.

"There is a strong belief among physicians that patients have faith in prescription drugs and will perceive themselves to be better served if they obtain a pre-

scription during an office visit," Ms. Shell said. "This compulsion to please patients at almost any cost is made more dangerous by the fact that many doctors don't know all that much about drugs in the first place."

Medical school students receive little formal training about prescription drugs, Ms. Shell continued, and they are expected to learn what they do know during their internships, residencies and, later in their practice, through medical journals and occasional courses.

"In reality, however, doctors get the vast majority of their

information about new drugs from pharmaceutical sales representatives, known in the industry as detail men or 'detailers,'" she said.

"I don't think that's true," Dr. Mack said. "I'm in the business of training physicians and I know I make a point of telling them all I can about prescription drugs. One could admit that it (training on medications) could probably be better but everything could stand some improvement."

Dr. Mack attended medical school in the 1950s and said his training on prescription drugs was reasonably good. Of course, he said, today there are many more

drugs than there was in the 1950s.

It is the physician's job to get enough information from their patients and give them adequate information so they will not abuse the prescription, Dr. Mack said.

"I personally can't rely on my patients to tell me everything, and I tell my students that you're the doctor and you're supposed to get the information from them," he said. "I think there has to be an awareness on both sides. The patients should show up at the doctors with all the medicine they are taking in a paper bag. Then the doctor should make a better effort to find out what's what."

## Principal charged in assault case

ther action would be taken based on the outcome of the police department's investigation. Wednesday the superintendent said he must now await the outcome of the trial before making another recommendation.

"What we're going to have to do is wait and see how this thing

comes out in court," Dr. Coble said. "It's generally recognized, regarding Mr. Honeycutt, that he will not be returning to Mineral Springs Elementary School as principal."

Before the summons, the superintendent said his next recommendation would be to the

Board of Education, and he said that Mr. Honeycutt would probably be transferred somewhere within the school system.

Parents of the children who filed the charges were distraught when they learned Mr. Honeycutt had been suspended with pay, insisting that if the principal had

been an Afro-American, he would have been fired on the spot.

"Transferring him to another school ain't gonna get it," Ms. Potter said. "If he can't handle kids he needs to go into another line of work."

Mr. Honeycutt is scheduled to appear in Forsyth County Domestic Court on Oct. 10.

From Page A1

## WSSU selected to participate in NYSP

Winston-Salem State University has been selected to participate in the year-round program of the National Youth Sports Program.

The university served as a host for the program during the summer and now will run the winter program through May.

Coach C.E. "Big House" Gaines said that WSSU was selected for the year-round program because of the success it has experienced with its summer programs. Coach Gaines said that he expects 250 youngsters to par-

ticipate in the program through May. The summer NYSP will begin in June. The NYSP makes available to American young people experiences in sports and enrichment activities. The partners in the program are selected institutions of higher education, the NCAA and the Office of Community Services. The combination of federal funds and college resources offers leaders in education and athletics an opportunity and a challenge to perform a needed service.

An orientation program will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, at WSSU. Dates are being scheduled for those participants needing physical examinations. Students who participated in the summer program do not need to have new physicals.

Coach Gaines said that his staff is seeking more volunteers to assist with the NYSP and is asking any churches or organizations willing to volunteer the use of their vans to contact him at WSSU's athletic department.

## Communication seminars mark 'Let's Talk Month'

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council, along with several other community agencies, is sponsoring a series of parent communication seminars during October as part of "Let's Talk Month."

A seminar will be held Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Central YMCA

on West End Boulevard. The topic will be "Teens and Drug Prevention." The discussion will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Other topics throughout the month will include the "Psychology of Blackness" Friday, Oct. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Winston-Salem Urban League.

and "The Totality of Parenting From a Black Perspective," with the date and location to be announced.

For more information on the series, call the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council or the Junior League.

## Legislature reforms individual income tax law

RALEIGH -- If you are one of those many people who wait until the evening of April 15 to do your income taxes, the General Assembly has made the night a little shorter.

No longer will you have to do a completely separate set of calculations to compute your state income tax: From now on, your state tax will be figured as 6 or 7 percent of your federal taxable income--that number found on line 37 of the federal tax return.

The Legislature has changed the way North Carolinians will figure their state tax to make life simpler and calculations easier. The modernization adjusts the entire income tax system for inflation by substantially increasing personal exemptions and standard deduction limits.

The changes are expected to provide tax reductions for 98 percent of the state's single persons with dependents, as well as for 65 percent of the

state's married couples, who will for the first time be able to file a joint state return.

In addition, the tax system reform removes 700,000 of our state's poorest citizens from the tax rolls.

The new system allows a small handful of adjustments to federal taxable income: Some preserve provisions unique and deemed important to North Carolina; others were needed for technical reasons.

Some items exempt under the old system will continue to be exempt under the new system: interest earned on federal securities and on bonds issued by North Carolina and its local units, Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, and up to \$1,500 in National Guard pay.

The new system maintains all the tax credits allowed under the old system except two unused energy conservation credits and the low- and moderate-income credit, which were

replaced by higher personal exemptions and standard deductions.

North Carolina's original income tax system went into effect in 1921 and has remained essentially unchanged since 1937. Changing the law conforms North Carolina to 34 of the 40 states levying income taxes whose structure parallels in some fashion that of the federal government.

In addition to reducing the amount of time taxpayers will have to invest in preparing their state taxes, modernizing and simplifying the state's income tax system should help reduce their error rate, too. When South Carolina changed to a similar system, the error rate on tax returns dropped from 20 to 4 percent.

Our state's changes go into effect with the Jan. 1, 1989 tax year but will not affect pending litigation.

## KKK chapter wants to adopt highway

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH -- Saying they want to help clean up North Carolina, members of a Ku Klux Klan chapter have applied to join the state's Adopt-A-Highway roadside trash pickup program.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is considering the request by the Rockingham County Chapter of The Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. If it is approved, the DOT would give the Klan group a stretch of state road to keep clean and would erect a green-and-white DOT sign with the Klan name.

Rocky Chapman, the exalted cyclops of the Invisible Empire Knights' Reidsville chapter, said he had had no response from highway officials in the two weeks since he filed the application.

"I feel it's our constitutional right to adopt a highway," Chapman said. "It isn't like I was going out here doing something disruptive. We're trying to do something good for the state. We're trying to clean up North Carolina."

He told The News and Observer of Raleigh in an interview published this week that he might take the state to court if the Invisible Empire Knights' application was rejected.

James C. Shields, executive director of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, said he thought the Klan group should be allowed to join the anti-litter program.

"My initial reaction is that government should consider very carefully whether it may legitimately deny participation in this program based upon government approval or disapproval of the political agenda of any group," he said. "My guess is that they probably should not."

James Sughrue, assistant secretary of transportation for external affairs, said DOT officials were studying the Klan application. "It is not a usual request and therefore it is not being handled in the usual manner," he said. "The request has been received and we're reviewing it, and I don't have much to add to that."

Sughrue said he did not know if any application for the program had ever been rejected.

Chapman said a local DOT official had persuaded the group to change their original request for one stretch of Rockingham County highway because, Chapman said, "It was heavily populated by the black race."

The official told him he was worried that angry motorists would intentionally dump trash there to make more work for the Klan, Chapman said, and suggested they apply instead for "a white community stretch of highway." The road has not been determined.

Rockingham County is located between Greensboro and the Virginia line. The Adopt-A-Highway program is the largest in the country, officials said. On weekends, volunteers from 4,669 civic groups, businesses and neighborhoods clean up more than 10,000 miles of state roads. The program was started in 1988.

"There are lots of religious groups that have adopted a highway," Mr. Chapman said. "Just because I don't agree with that religion doesn't mean that that religion doesn't have a right to adopt a highway."

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