

Social factors affect child delinquency

By DR. M.L. CLARK
Wake Forest University

Juvenile delinquency is a term used to describe those minors who have committed some type of criminal offense.

The primary crimes of juvenile delinquents are burglary, robbery, arson and motor vehicle theft. Less serious crimes include vandalism, curfew and loitering violations; buying, receiving and possessing stolen property and running away.

Girls account for only seven percent and boys for 32 percent of all serious crimes committed in the United States. Boys are arrested four times more often than girls. However, girls are arrested more often for running away, which is partly because society has stricter standards for unsupervised girls than unsupervised boys.

Black youths are more likely to be arrested for murder and manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault than white youths. At first glance, it may appear that black youths are more aggressive and anti-social than white youths, but this interpretation is premature.

Factors such as harsher treatment of black youths by the police and the greater number of police in black areas may help explain high black arrest records. In addition, poverty increases the prevalence of delinquency. Thus, black arrests may be a function of poverty, prejudice and frequent contact with police.

Parental attachment, school ability, achievement motivation and association with delinquent peers are all factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency. When children are disciplined with love and concern, and they like and respect their parents, they are less likely to become delinquent.

Difficulty in school is the best predictor of delinquency. Children who get poor grades in school, disrespect teachers and other authority figures, and do not endorse the conventional methods of achieving success (e.g., studying hard, getting an educa-

tion, finding a job) are also likely to become delinquent.

It is natural for friends to become increasingly important during adolescence. However, when youths show a strong identification with friends in situations where there is a serious conflict with authority, delinquent behavior will occur. These youths may follow the demands of the friends, even if their behavior places them in conflict with parents, teachers or the law.

Dr. Jewell Gibbs, a California social worker, noted that the black community is the greatest victim of black juvenile crime. In 1980, close to 2,000 black youths, age 10 to 19, were murdered, mostly by other black teens, based on the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reports*.

Violent juvenile acts are being directed toward other black juveniles, and black females and elderly males are targets for less serious crimes committed by black delinquents.

Gibbs suggested that black delinquency could be curbed by providing more recreational and cultural programs and by coordinating efforts to reduce the school dropout and unemployment rates.

She also suggested a need to upgrade services for black delinquents to include the following: Home-based social and rehabilitative services for the delinquent and his family; day treatment programs which include remedial education, counseling and recreation; foster care for abused or neglected children; group homes with treatment services; and residential facilities for the more seriously delinquent and disturbed youths.

Gibbs cautioned that these programs could only be effective if black mental health, social welfare and community leaders work together. There is a knowledge of the cultural values within the black community and the staffs at these centers are sensitive to these values.

There is no doubt that black juvenile delinquency Please see page A11

Someone You Should Meet...



(photo by James Parker)

Name: Anthony Willis Yarborough
Job Title: Public school teacher
Hometown: Winston-Salem
Describe yourself in one word: "Effervescent"
Hobbies: Reading, birdwatching and attending concerts
Favorite Book: "Serpentine," by Thomas Thompson
Favorite Movie: "Gandhi"
Persons admires most: His father, Andrew Lee Yarborough III, and his brother, Andrew Lee Yarborough IV
Career Goal: "To become a school principal in a metropolitan city."

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102).

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by Greg Brown

First person sentenced in Klan-Nazi case

GREENSBORO -- Mark J. Sherer, the man accused of firing the first shot in the Nov. 3, 1979, Klan-Nazi shootout in Greensboro, last Wednesday became the only person sentenced on charges arising from the confrontation which left five Communists, including a black woman, dead.

U.S. District Court Judge Hiram Ward sentenced the former Ku Klux Klansman to six months in a community treatment center, suspended the remainder of a five-year term and placed him on five years probation.

The 24-year-old Cramerton man pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge on March 24, 1983. He later tried to withdraw the plea and changed his mind about cooperating with prosecutors in the trial of nine Klansmen and Nazis charged with civil rights violations stemming from the shootout.

Sherer tried to retract the guilty plea again before

he was sentenced last Wednesday, but the judge accepted the plea bargain agreement worked out between Sherer's first attorney and U.S. Justice Department prosecutors. His current attorney said Sherer was considering whether to appeal.

At the time of the shootout in 1979, Sherer was 19. He was charged in state court that year with rioting, but the charge was dismissed after the jury acquitted the defendants charged with murder.

A federal grand jury began an 18-month investigation into possible civil rights violations arising from the shootings in 1982. A month before the grand jury issued indictments, Sherer pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge and in return for his testimony was granted immunity from further prosecution. He is one of 60 defendants in a pending civil suit filed by the Greensboro Civil Rights Fund.

Restaurant owner refuses service to blacks

MARSHALL, Va. -- A restaurant owner in this small, rural community less than an hour's drive from Washington is refusing to serve blacks, despite a permanent federal order directing him to comply with the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Roy E. McKoy has been jailed twice for his refusal to desegregate the Belvoir Restaurant, a small cafe he runs from his home.

Four black women tried to eat lunch at the restaurant last Thursday, but were not served. McKoy closed the cafe, saying he was not going to serve anyone, and ordered the women, state police officers and deputies from his property. They left.

"I am old enough to have marched with Martin Luther King and to think that I'd never have to do this again," said Laurie Jackson of Dale City, Va., a longtime civil rights activist and one of the women refused service.

Jackson expressed frustration that McKoy, who

went to jail in 1967 and 1974 for failing to comply with court orders to serve blacks, appeared to have avoided a legal confrontation during the last few weeks.

A Washington television station sent a three-member crew, including two blacks, to the restaurant on Oct. 30, but the three were refused service. One of the crew members back at the scene last Thursday said McKoy said he would sell the TV crew coffee, but that it would cost "\$500 a cup."

"This is ridiculous," said Jackson, who ran voter registration projects for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in northern Alabama for four years in the mid-1960s. "We came because we feel like it's our duty, because there is no excuse for something like this being permitted to continue."

She said she and her friends will try to be served at the restaurant again in a few weeks.

Jobs increase for minority highway firms

RALEIGH -- The amount of work going to North Carolina's minority highway contractors increased 663 percent, from \$3.8 billion in 1981-82 to \$29.1 million in the federal fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, the state Department of Transportation reports.

The reason appears to be the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act, which increased federal gasoline taxes by five cents per gallon and provided billions more dollars in federal highway funds to the states.

Currently, 146 minority or disadvantaged firms are certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation, compared with 92 in January 1983, when the law went into effect. About one-third of the companies are seeking highway work in North Carolina. The companies were awarded 10.78 percent of federally assisted highway work in the state during

the 1983-84 fiscal year, compared to 3.1 percent in 1981-82, the last year the federal government allowed states to set voluntary limits.

But some state and industry officials say the 10 percent "goal" exceeds the performance ability of legitimate minority companies and has created problems, such as higher construction costs and establishment of "fronts," in which minorities serve only as figureheads.

"It's such an ambitious program in such a short period of time that it's created a climate for abuse," said Berry G. Jenkins Jr., manager of the state Department of Transportation's construction division.

And, said state highway administrator Billy Rose, "I think the mandatory aspect of the program is bad. I think the objective of trying to develop minority business enterprises is good."

YMCA banquet

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service to the community," says Richard F. Glover, the Y's executive director. "It will also give the Y a chance to advise the public what has happened during the year, because this is when we will make our report to the membership."

The primary purpose of the

banquet, Glover says, is to elect Board of Management members to three-year terms and present two distinguished honors, the H.E. Staplefoote and the Thomas R. Neeley awards.

"We will also have the opportunity to publicly announce the move to our new location," says

Glover. "It is something a tremendous number of people have been working towards for years. We view this move as a necessary transition to enable us to better serve the community."

The new Winston Lake facility on Waterworks Road is 72 per-

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