

Crime Study Shows

Small Percentage Commits Large Number Of Offenses

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

First in a series

A recent report released by the National Institute of Justice contained the conclusions of a study to identify the number of criminal offenders who commit exceedingly large amounts of violent offenses.

The report prepared by Rand Corp., stated the following: "The research validated other studies which found that a relatively small percentage of felons commit a disproportionately large number of offenses and that street crime might be substantially reduced by incapacitating this group of repeat violent offenders if they can be identified."

Mecklenburg County Police Sgt. Ted McIntosh, director of Planning and Research at the Mecklenburg County Police Department, had good and bad news about the percentage of felons in the county.

Statistics indicate only 25 armed robberies occurred from January, 1982 until September. That's a 12 percent drop compared with the same time period last year. However, robbery has risen 13 percent, rape 20 percent, and 53 arrests have been made within the past eight months.

The county police department categorizes offenders

into two groups. "Part I Offenses" include murder, rape, robbery and serious assault. "Misdemeanors" are minor acts of larceny and assault.

Sgt. McIntosh explained, "in North Carolina anyone age 16 and over is considered an adult and tried accordingly in the court system." The police department's September monthly report revealed 78 juvenile arrests have been made, while 1,483 adults have been apprehended.

Even though some of these people will not be convicted for the charges brought against them, a large percentage of them will be found guilty.

Then, depending on the seriousness of the crime, individuals will spend time behind prison bars as punishment for their wrongdoings. Jan and Marcia Chaiken, two of the Rand researchers who provided the study for the National Institute of Justice, expressed, "the only effective way to deal with 'violent predators' is imprisonment."

Sgt. McIntosh agreed that imprisonment is the most forceful means of getting crime and its com-

mitters off the street. But when asked if sending someone to jail or even a juvenile center would rehabilitate a criminal, McIntosh didn't think so.

"Being in jail or juvenile centers exposes prisoners more to the criminal element," McIntosh replied. According to McIntosh, imprisonment just teaches criminals more tricks of the trade.

The main cause attributed to the rise of crime is the economy. High unemployment leads some people to illegal means of obtaining money. But, being in research and planning.

With crime continuously rising citizens will probably be paying higher taxes to provide the necessary institutions to house criminals. People will also be looking into means and ways of protecting themselves against criminals.

The next issue of The Charlotte Post will focus on the Cost of Crime, and the following issue will highlight various techniques of crime prevention.



The Echoes of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority could not imagine young children being deprived of dressing up like ghosts and goblins to go trick-or-treating. So last Friday, the sorority gave a Halloween party "to give the children the meaning and pleasure of Halloween and to weed out fear of getting the wrong treat," stated one member of Gamma Phi Delta. The party was at the home of Jeanette S. Robinson of 700 Canterwood Drive. Three prizes were given for the

funniest costumes. First place winner was Amanda Moore; second place, Monica Ross and third place, Tori Reid. A fourth prize went to Armando Crawford when she exhibited her talent in the dance contest. The judges were Kathleen Jamison and Cheryl Grant. Before leaving, the children received cookies and punch. Halloween bags filled with goodies was a take-home treat for the nearly 20 children in attendance.

Carolina Night Scheduled For Local Students

CHAPEL HILL - Mecklenburg County high school students and their parents can get a better idea of the admissions process at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through a program to be held on Wednesday, November 17, at the Wachovia Center, 400 S.

Tryon Street, Charlotte. The program, called "Carolina Night," will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Tar Heel room. It is sponsored by the University's undergraduate admissions office.

The program will include a short, informal present-

ation by representatives of the undergraduate admissions office, followed by a question-and-answer period. Admissions requirements, deadlines, notification dates and other topics of interest to prospective students will be discussed.

Five Points Festival Completes Commitment

With the celebration of the Biddleville-Five Points Community Festival on October 16, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's College of Human Development and Learning has now completed a five-year commitment to the revival of an old and distinguished black neighborhood.

Dr. Jonnie McLeod, UNCC professor of Human Development and Learning, who headed the project, said, "The successful festival that residents and students jointly staged was symbolic of our successful learning and service."

Her evaluation of the program is that "UNCC University Year for Action (the official name of the program) students leave behind a strong community organization, a successful plan for housing, a tutoring program, a community newspaper, a strong Alcoholics Anonymous chapter, a new park, a vigorous neighborhood and much more."

During the five years, the UNCC role was low key but provided the support needed to revitalize the neighborhood.

In 1976 the N.C. ACTION office asked the College of Human Development and

Learning to submit a grant proposal. An extensive needs assessment was done. Dr. McLeod indicated, and the Five Points Community was chosen, because the needs were there and because the residents wanted the students to become involved.

Dr. McLeod said that the community which developed around Johnson C. Smith University in the late 1800s was once an elite area. She said it is the oldest intact black community remaining in Charlotte, but one which five years ago was in danger of being destroyed because it was in a community development area with no plan to retain any of the charm or allowing residents to remain.

There was some opposition, and there were factions involved that made it difficult to devise a plan that Johnson C. Smith, renters, homeowners, the Community Development organization, and Charlotte City Council could all agree upon.

University Year for Action (UYA) was a federally funded program administered through the College of Human Development and Learning at UNCC.

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