

# What To Do If Your Child Is Missing

When a child is discovered missing, immediate, rational action is imperative. It is likely the abductor will move and act quickly in the first few hours after taking a child. Minutes may mean miles; saved seconds could save your child's life.

The following is adapted from an action plan recommended in the Favor furniture polish "Operation: Missing Fingerprints" Children's Safety Kit compiled by Johnson Wax in cooperation with Child Find, Inc., a national, non-profit search organization.

- If your child has disappeared:  
1. Call where the child should be.  
2. Think where the child might be. Check all logical places such as play areas and neighborhood stores and schools. Call relatives and friends the child may try to visit.  
3. Call police and request that a report be filed immediately.

Provide complete information, including detailed physical description of the child and last-known whereabouts.

Insist that this information be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer. Verify its entry by asking to see a teletype printout.

Tell police all of the facts surrounding your child's disappearance, including family conflicts and upsetting incidents.

Inform them of neighborhood transportation stations the child may use.

Ask police to patrol the area in which your child was last seen exactly 24 hours and one week after the disappearance to interview regular passers-by who may have been witnesses.

Contact a local search and rescue team to assist their expertise. Organize willing and capable community members to help search through wooded or normally inaccessible areas such as basements, roofs and garages.

Register and receive additional help from either of two non-profit, national organizations that use toll-free telephone numbers: Child Find, Inc., 1-800-I-AM-LOST, or National Center On Missing and Exploited Children, 1-800-933-5572.

Look for clues at home, such as notes, missing food and clothing and unfamiliar numbers on telephone bills.

Talk to the child's friends, teachers, counselors and others who may know of places or people your child may visit, or plans your child may have.

Ask people in the area such as mail carriers, store keepers, neighbors and building employees if they have seen your child.

Inform local hospitals, drug treatment centers, shelters and churches that your child is missing.

Make the public aware of your child's disappearance.

Provide local newspapers, television and radio stations with the facts and a photograph.

Have flyers printed with your child's picture, description and telephone number. Post them throughout the community in store windows, shopping malls, hospitals, churches, etc.

Advertise in out-of-town newspapers if you suspect your ex-spouse may have abducted the child.

Keep phones that your child may try to call attended around the clock.

Investigate private investigators carefully before hiring them. Get references and check with the state licensing bureau, Better Business Bureau, and Consumer Protection Office. Be sure the investigator has a proven record of success in similar cases.



OMEGA MARDI GRAS QUEEN, Mary Love-Joyner, seated, with court: left to right, Ross Blue, Ernestine Durante, June Rousseau, and 1984 Queen Novell Gaddy. (Photo by Peeler's Portrait Studio)

## UNCC Receives \$131,965 Grant

A proposal to "Open the Humanities to All Humanity" at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has received a \$131,965 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant will allow selected UNCC faculty members to redesign their courses so that the content will promote an awareness of the role of women and people of many cultures.

Coordinators of the project are Julia K. Blackwelder, associate professor of history and coordinator of the Women's Studies Program, and Dr. Stan Patten, assistant professor of English and director of the Writing Resources Center.

Blackwelder said that the project isn't being approached from the standpoint of trying to make students feel that because written materials in English, history, philosophy, and religious studies have been prepared in the Anglo-Saxon male tradition that they are necessarily erroneous.

"But we want to make them aware that the materials came from that context," she said. "It doesn't make sense to study the breakdown of the American farm without understanding that women have long been key workers on farms and that women have recently moved rapidly into urban settings to take jobs there," she said. "Most people don't realize that the basis of the feminist movement was the industrial transformation of America."

She said, "Unless you understand that Babbitt is an aggressive, strong male stereotype, you don't understand that character," referring to the need to apply the new approach to literature.

Closer home in Charlotte, Blackwelder said, "It makes a great deal of difference to you and me in our everyday lives that this city has a large Greek community and that many are in the restaurant business."

"Locally, the Greeks are a prime example of the cultural pluralism of America," she added.

Patten says that another motivating factor in applying for the grant was the strongly felt need to help students understand that although the facts of their disciplines may be accurately stated, there are secondary sources who shape how the material is understood. "Who are the critics, the interpreters, the translators?" he asked. "We are familiar with the great books, but are we aware of the people who gave us the great book lists?"

The two added that their goal is to make learning actually more com-

plex for students. "If you have an ardent feminist, you might want to give that person the man's perspective," Patten said.

Blackwelder said, "We want to make students aware that they have a perspective. What they think now is that they just deal with facts. They don't understand that everything is seen through a filter from their background and experiences."

She added, "One major goal is to make students aware that just because something is different it isn't inferior."

The fact that women students today take for granted that there is an open society and that "women of my generation solved their problems and opened all doors for them" disturbs Blackwelder.

So few women students on the way to the altar ever stop to think, she said, "I am going to end up as a single parent. But that's the reality today."

## CPR Receives Awards

The Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department is the recipient of two awards presented in recognition of its innovative programs.

The department's special populations programs won the Charles T. Mitchell Award October 12, for providing opportunities to Charlotte's mentally retarded citizens. The Mecklenburg-Union County Association for Retarded Citizens nominated the Parks and Recreation Department for programs which included special olympics training, day and overnight camping, softball, basketball, swimming, adaptive sports and games, dances, trips, clubs, and leisure education activities.

The department's Cultural Arts Division won the Class I North Carolina "Arts and Humanities" Award for its summer series, "Plays in the Park." The award was presented at a recent North Carolina Recreation and Parks Society Conference. "Plays in the Parks" was a four-week summer series performed by the Charlotte Shakespeare Company. The company, formed in 1964, was co-sponsored by the Charlotte Parks and Recreation Department for the 1985 season. Two

Areas in which courses will be redesigned under the NEH grant include introductory courses in English, history, philosophy, and religious studies. Four leading consultants in the humanities specializing in multicultural and women's studies will help with redesigning the courses. Selected faculty will then begin to teach them.

Dr. Elizabeth Minnich, a pioneering theorist and educational consultant throughout the country will serve as a working consultant for the entire project.

Blackwelder and Patten hope to hold some Friday evening and Saturday sessions so that members of the Charlotte community who are working on teaching, research, or writing in the area of women's studies or multicultural subjects can attend.

Dr. Ann Carver, on leave from UNCC and teaching in Taiwan, was a co-author of the successful grant proposal.

Shakespeare plays, "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Much Ado About Nothing," were presented in a variety of city parks, entertaining more than 2,100.

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## K Mart Reaches New Market Through Gift Certificates

Troy, Michigan - To meet the corporate and consumer requests, beginning this fall, K mart will offer gift certificates to their customers—both individuals and corporations. The certificates will be available in increments of \$5, \$10, and \$25 at all 2,100 K mart stores.

"We had considered starting a program for a number of years since we have used gift certificates in the past on a very small scale for specific purposes," K mart Chairman Bernard M. Fauber explained. "Several businesses offering to buy gift certificates—added to continuing consumer requests—was the catalyst for K mart to move ahead with the program."

K mart hopes to reach a new segment of the market—the non-K mart shopper. People who do not shop in K mart or only shop K mart occasionally could be recipients of gift certificates, causing them to visit the store.

"If someone has not been in a K mart recently, he or she will be surprised at the change in the stores. They are brighter and well-organized into departments—Kitchen Korner, Home Care center, electronic centers, Apparel Departments—to make K mart a more pleasant shopping experience."

The merchandise mix has been expanded and now includes a majority of name-brand items—but still at K mart's low discount prices," Fauber said.

K mart's gift certificate program also opens up opportunities with corporations and non-profit organizations. K mart's headquarters staff initiated a direct mail campaign to 10,000 large corporations to capture

a share of the employee incentive and corporate gift giving markets. In addition, each manager of their store will contact at least 10 neighborhood firms. The direct contact campaigns are expected to reach 30,000 prospects.

"The fact that the gift certificates can be redeemed in almost any town in America is a key reason that national corporations are selecting K mart gift certificates," Fauber explained. "Employers know that they can trust K mart's reputation for customer satisfaction when they give our gifts to their employees."

"K mart predicts that many employees of non-profit organizations will be among the recipients of their gift certificates. K mart's competitive prices have always made it attractive to non-profit and charitable organizations. These organizations frequently shop at K mart for supplies to get more value for their dollar," Fauber said.

K mart's gift certificates can be purchased at the service desk of any K mart store. Multiple orders from profit and non-profit organizations can be ordered from Gift Certificate Sales at K mart International Headquarters in Troy.

K mart Corporation is the second-largest retailer in the world, with 1984 annual sales of \$2.1 billion. The company operates more than 2,100 K mart discount department stores in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada as well as Pay Less Drugs Northwest, Designer Depot, Waldenbooks, Kresge and Jupiter stores, Furr's Cafeterias, Bishop Buffets and Build-rs Square K mart stock is traded on the New York and Pacific Stock Exchanges (trading symbol (KMT).

Mark Twain Said,  
The "The spider looks for a merchant who doesn't advertise so he can spin a web across his door and lead a life of undisturbed peace."  
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