

# Poverty, Slums Most Visible The Causes Of Crime

The causes of crime fill volumes, we can all read them, find the ones that personally repulse us the most, and point accusingly. Poverty and slums take "top honors" with most people, because these are the most visible. Others, more difficult to trace reasoning, are mental illness, genetic makeup and evidently even the phases of the moon have a part in causing certain types of people to commit senseless crimes. There is a common denominator in all crime, and while popular opinion seems to center on lack of money and opportunity, in reality it boils down to lack of character. One fact is indisputable when juveniles are involved; when youngsters are allowed to think like criminals the probability that they will become involved in crime of some



By  
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form increases dramatically. Parents, faced with the emotional trauma of an unmanageable teen, or one already in trouble with the law, frequently say to the Juvenile Officer, in desperation, "you take over and see what you can do with him," thinking this might solve at least a portion of the problem. But obviously, if law enforcement were to take over the

discipline of every troublesome teen, there would be lines miles long waiting outside police stations for counsel. And, if it were possible, a badge and a gun can't do overnight what has not been accomplished as the teen was growing up. Regaining the teen's respect, once it is lost, is a long process, but not an impossible one. The time to start is when the parent becomes aware of disrespect for rules in the home, as this is the beginning of disrespect for the law. The following may prove helpful points for beginning.

1. Show by your own words and actions that there are certain things you respect very much. For example, traffic laws, city officials, good citizenship in the community, practical day-to-day application of church teachings.
2. Try to find things your teen is doing right, and give him good meaningful compliments. "I like the way you handled that situation," is a good phrase to start respect flowing in both directions.
3. When you criticize anyone in front of your teen, from the President on down, preface your remarks with something like this: "I respect his position and right to exercise his powers, but I do not agree on..."

Actually, there is nothing as influential as showing respect for others, to gain more respect from a youngster. It forms a thought pattern for positives rather than always seeking and voicing the negative.

A teen allowed to show

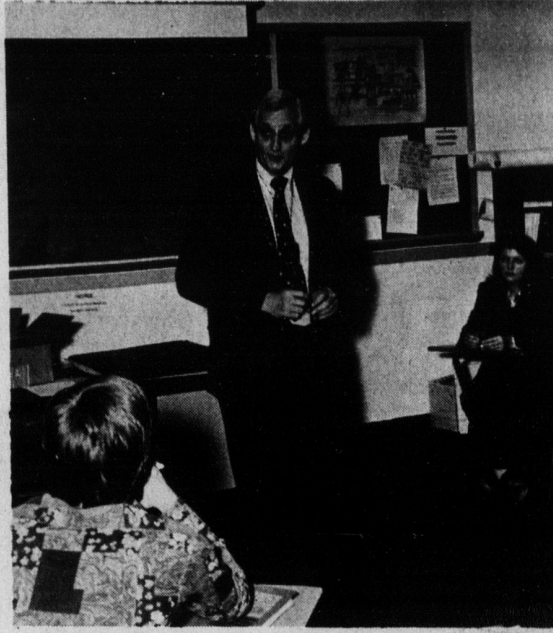
continual disrespect for those around him, is headed for a rude awakening. Somewhere along the line he is going to run into people who will not tolerate his disrespect and, chances are, he'll learn the hard way the value of respecting others. Parents who allow their youngster to act disrespectfully, to them and to others, are doing him no favor with their permissiveness. In fact, the affect is opposite.

Law enforcement cannot tolerate disrespect from teens because they, like anyone else, must know or learn to know other peoples' rights must be respected. That's what rules and laws are all about... that is what makes for "law-abiding citizenship."

"The older people are hypocritical," says the youngsters when offering their excuses for wrongs. The troubled parent must demonstrate that there will always be hypocrisy in any society; how far it goes, how deeply seated it may be, depends on each individual, but the existence of it does not indicate there is no good at all... no reason to disobey laws because some people have no respect for them.

If you have a disrespectful teen and want to improve him, start with the basics; a little thing, like a friendly wave to a passing police car, instead of an under-the-breath remark about "cops" will do wonders for your teen to observe in you. Rest assured, if your teen should ever get into difficulty with this department, we'll do our best to live up to your respect, by handling the situation fairly, honestly, with your youngster's ultimate good in mind. Your good attitude and cooperation with us is the first basic necessity in any teen rehabilitation.

Next Week: "Teen Music & Other Noises."



**GUEST LECTURER** - Parker Dunkin, president of Dunkin, Finch and Welch Advertising Agency, was a guest lecturer recently in Cleveland County Technical Institute's advertising class. Dunkin pointed out in his lecture that advertising is the art of communication between the business and the customer.

## Cars Collide At Intersection

Two cars hit at a traffic signal on W. King St. Thursday at 1:15 p. m. when brakes on a 1976 Ford operated by David M. Brackett, of Greenville, S. C. "failed to catch," KMPD Ptl. Mike Sanders reported.

The second car, stopped for traffic at the traffic light, a 1970 Ford, was operated by Vickie Hamrick Black, Rt. 1, Grover.

Damages were

estimated at \$400 to the front of the Brackett vehicle and \$800 to the Black Ford.

A second "rear end" collision Thursday two hours later resulted in \$700 damages to a 1971 Chevy operated by Dennis Paul Huffstickler, 319 Waco Rd., stopped for traffic on Parker St. and a 1974 Chevy operated by Arthur William Morgan, Rt. 4, Morgan was charged by Ptl. David Bridges with following too closely.

## Police Recover Stolen Goods

KMPD Thursday recovered a set of stainless steel silverware reported stolen from a clothes closet Wednesday night by Sarah Smith, 522 Harmon Court, and charged a 16-year-old North school student with larceny.

The student was reportedly "babysitting" at the Smith home at the time of the alleged larceny. The youth was also charged with taking \$5 and a package of cigarettes from a pocketbook belonging to a North School teacher on Thursday, according to investigating Ptl. David Bridges.

In other law enforcement activities, KMPD reported that the Shipping Office of Burlington Industries was "pried open" sometime Wednesday night and a Monroe adding machine valued at \$184 and a Royal typewriter valued at \$221 removed from the office, Ptl. Mike Sanders investigated the B&E & Larceny.

Diane Woods, employe of Goodyear Store, reported a "shoplifting" incident Thursday. Ms. Woods said after two customers left the store about noon, she noticed that two Cassette tape players, valued at \$95, were missing from the display case.

Michael Strickland, of 800 Princeton Dr., reported to KMPD Ptl. David Bridges Thursday that while he was grocery

shopping in KM Plaza that someone used a coat hanger to open his 1976 Toyota and remove a Craig 23 Channel CB radio valued at \$125.

## Classes Slated On Sprinklers

Tom Lander with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Fire and Rescue Services Division, will be in Kings Mountain next month to instruct a class in sprinklers.

The classes will be taught at the fire department December 6-9 from 7 to 10 p. m.

Fire Chief Gene Tignor said representatives from all the area industries are being invited to attend the class. Lander will instruct in the mechanical principals of sprinkler systems, the fire department operations and inspect buildings with

sprinklers. -000- The firefighters have answered calls recently to the home of J. R. Champion, 917 Henry St., to extinguish a fire in a clothes dryer motor. Minor damage was reported.

On November 9 fireman were called to Buckeye Fire Extinguisher Co. in the Industrial Park to extinguish a trash fire in a dumpster. Minor damage reported.

On Nov. 11 firemen were called to the home of Mike Williams, Second St. Ext., to a car fire. The wiring in the engine of Williams' car burned. Minor damage reported.

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