

# Police Investigate 11 Holiday Accidents

Kings Mountain police reported 11 traffic accidents during the holiday period.

A car driven by Robert Lee Black of Route 4 went out of control on December 21 and struck a brick wall at the Kings Mountain Depot Center. Damage to Black's car was \$700.

Vehicles driven by Robert Lee White of 414 Wilson Street and Faye Lovelace of 111 Center Street collided December 21 on North Cansler Street. Damages were \$300 to Lovelace's 1970 Chevy and \$200 to White's 1976 Chevy.

Police reported that a car operated by Angela Hill of 205 Cook Circle struck a car driven by Charlie Taylor of 809 Ellison Drive December 21 on Linwood Road. Damage to Hill's 1984 Chevrolet was \$100. There was no damage to Taylor's 1964 Ford.

Cars driven by Edward Ford

of 805 Gantt Street and Julia Jarrett of 1713 Northwoods Drive collided December 21 on East Ridge Street. Damages were \$200 to Jarrett's 1977 Pontiac and \$20 to Ford's 1973 Chevrolet.

A car driven by Loretta Kiser of Route 4 struck a utility pole December 22 on Battleground Avenue. Damage to Kiser's 1974 Ford was \$1,000.

A car driven by Ronald Barrs of Route 2, Stanley, struck a telephone pole on York Road on Christmas Eve. Damage to the car was \$500.

An unknown vehicle struck a car driven by Clarence Grigg of 417 Cherokee Street December 27 on Gold Street. Damage to Grigg's car was \$2,000.

An unknown vehicle struck a parked car owned by John Wilson Jr. of 928 Alpine December 28 on Thornburg Drive. Damage to Wilson's car was \$350.

A car driven by Linda Lawson of 210 Parrish Drive struck a parked car owned by Melvin White of Charlotte December 29 on Barnette Drive. Damage to

White's car was \$1,000 and damage to Lawson's car was \$150.

Bicyclist Tyrone Garcia was treated for injuries December 29

after he was struck by a car driven by Marlene Bennett of Phifer Road. The wreck occurred on King Street. Damage to Mrs. Bennett's car was \$5.

A car driven by Jeffrey Phillip Ross of 205 Fulton Street hit an embankment December 30 on North Piedmont Avenue. Damage to the car was \$1,500.



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## NCAA Causes More Problems Than Good

There aren't too many NCAA rules I agree with. Regulatory bodies often seem to cause more problems than they solve; and I put the NCAA squarely in that category.

Are you aware of the annual outcry regarding the abysmally low graduation rates of student-athletes throughout the country? The ACC is no different. Last year about one-third of the ACC's scholarship athletes in school for four years actually graduated.

At NCAA meetings, people sit around between coffee breaks and presumeably try to come up with schemes to do something about the problem. If they did, it would be simple.

Here, digest this masterpiece of common sense that should be obvious to most pre-schoolers: attack the source of the problem.

To make sure players start graduating, it is simply necessary to punish the schools whose players do not graduate.

This is so simple you have to wonder how anyone can not be cynical about the NCAA.

What would be difficult about this?

Let each basketball team, for example, have the 14 scholarships it has now, and make the official signing date for high school players June 1—AFTER graduation. Make the rule EACH SCHOOL MAY GIVE AS MANY SCHOLARSHIPS AS IT HAS PLAYERS GRADUATING.

If no one graduates, then there are no scholarships to give. Under this plan, coaches who pay mere lip service to academics would soon be without any scholarship players—and they would lose.

I would add this rule as well. NO COACH MAY ACCEPT A JOB AT A SCHOOL WITH MORE SCHOLARSHIPS TO GIVE THAN HE HAD AT THE SCHOOL HE IS LEAVING.

This would keep coaches from hurting one program and then moving merrily on to another. If a coach truly wanted to move onward and upward in his career, he would have to become the educator/counselor they all claim to be.

Another aspect...What if a school offered a kid a scholarship prior to June 1, contingent of course on a certain player graduating on time, and then the player did not graduate? Would that leave the high school player out in no man's land?

Not necessarily. Why not make it a rule that if a kid is offered a scholarship which can not by rule be given, then the kid can choose the school of his choice but the scholarship must be paid by the offering school?

With this rule, schools not adequately concerned with academics would actually be paying for other schools' sports programs. This could happen easily enough. Teams are already accustomed to sharing bowl payouts, and TV revenues, so paying each other for scholarships would be simple.

Let's go one step further now. Any team which finishes a year with 14 scholarships—the full quota, meaning every scholarship athlete who has entered has graduated—would be given the right to offer a seven or eight year scholarship, allowing a kid to get a scholarship that would take him all the way through Law School or Medical School.

Do you realize it is against NCAA rules for a school to offer a kid a seven year scholarship? Why should it be? There is sufficient money at many schools to do this. But it is not allowed BY RULE, although the rules do permit schools to offer five new scholarships every year even though no one ever graduates with this money.

So what about it? Do you think it would be so difficult to implement these rules? Do you think the NCAA really cares about kids graduating?

I don't.

## Meeting Slated

A public meeting to allow area sportsmen the opportunity to offer suggestions on hunting, trap-

### Booster's Club Meets Monday

The Kings Mountain High School Booster's Club will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at Jed's Buffeteria.

Bruce Clark, KMHS girls softball coach, will be the guest speaker. He will discuss prospects for the coming season.

All members and prospective members are urged to attend. The group will discuss its projects for the spring.

ping and fishing regulations while the seasons are still fresh in their minds has been scheduled by Dr. John Hamrick, Wildlife Commissioner for Wildlife District Eight.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3rd at the Gaston County Courthouse in Gastonia. It begins at 7:00 p.m.

According to Dr. Hamrick, the Wildlife Resources Commission has received some excellent suggestions from sportsmen at similar meetings in the past—some of which have evolved into regulation changes. He encourages sportsmen and others interested in North Carolina's wildlife programs to attend.

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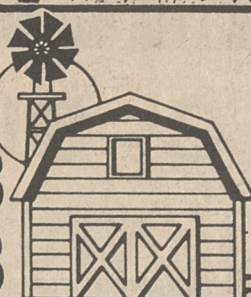
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