

Night Night...



James Wilson, left, and Calvin Huffman of Kings Mountain are pictured putting Huffman's pet rattlesnake to bed for the winter.

Huffman, a local contractor, caught the snake, along with a copperhead, several years ago in the woods near his home in the Dixon School community. Huffman and some friends were walking through the woods to go frog gigging in Kings Creek when they almost stepped on the snake. They used a forked stick to pin its head down and scooped the snake into a five-gallon bucket.

Each winter, Huffman and Wilson take a backhoe and dig a huge hole near Huffman's office, and bury the snakes. (They have to hibernate in the winter). Each spring, they dig them back up and place them in aquariums.

The snakes are fed small white rats, which Huffman purchases at a nearby pet store. When the rat is dropped into the aquarium, the snake bites it to kill it, and then eats it.

"We once caught a big field rat and dropped it in to the rattlesnake," Wilson recalled. "He had to bite him four times and then drop it over in his water pot and drown him."

Huffman won't grant his employees' request to bury the snakes permanently, but neither will he bow to their hints to handle them. He always keeps them at hoe or rake-handle length.

Photos By Gary Stewart



Central School Buses Vandalized

Central School students might have experienced some confusion when meeting buses with different numbers on Thursday morning but no major tardiness was reported due to vandalism of half the eight-bus Central School bus fleet Wednesday night.

Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Dot Howell was patrolling the school Wednesday night when she noticed the back door of one of the buses open. Further investigation revealed that all four buses parked at the school had been vandalized. Seats were cut, mirrors broken, tires slashed and turn signal lights broken.

Four KM Students Honored

Four Kings Mountain area students have been selected as Outstanding Young Men of America for 1988.

They are Michael Ira Bumgarner, Arnolito J. Lugo, R. Wesley Champion and James R. Whetstone.

The Outstanding Young Men of America program seeks to recognize the achievements and abilities of men between the ages of 21 and 36. These men are being honored for their outstanding civic and professional contributions to their communities, their states as well as to their nation.

on buses 242, 358, 187 and 32.

Principal Glenda O'Shields said the buses couldn't be used on Thursday morning so school officials arranged to use four buses from the county school bus garage.

Mrs. O'Shields said the incident resulted in a short delay in rounding up the students for school Thursday morning.

Police estimated damages to the buses to be about \$1,000.

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Course Slated At CCC

The Continuing Education Department of Cleveland Community College announces a National Electric Code course beginning Monday, January 9 at 6 p.m. in Room 2008 on the college campus. Classes for the 32 hour

course will meet on Monday nights from 6 to 10 p.m. through March 6. Gene Cox, a licensed electrician, will instruct the course which is designed to assist individuals who are preparing to take the North Carolina Electric Licensing

Examination. The course, however, is open to any adult interested in the National Electric Code.

Cost for the course will be a \$15 registration fee plus books. For additional information, call CCC at 484-4015.

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