

Drugs

From Page 1-A

Mrs. Wingfield said any churches, organizations or parent groups interested in having her group conduct workshops may call her at 864-2499. Sessions are held one night a week for four weeks.

Mrs. Hardy, who lives in Kings Mountain and works in Charlotte, said many people in small towns think drugs are not a problem.

"Kings Mountain is a small town but drugs is a big problem here," she said.

Mrs. Hardy said many people deny there is a problem and most parents who know their children are taking drugs are too ashamed to get the problem out in the open.

"I once opened a drug counseling office here and got a lot of calls," she recalled. "But all the people wanted me to come to their home, or them to come to mine. They didn't want to be seen coming to my office."

Chief Goforth criticized the Bush Administration for not looking upon alcohol as a drug.

The administration has allocated \$8 billion to fight drugs but doesn't regard alcohol as a drug," he said. "Alcohol is killing more people every year than were killed in the entire Vietnam War."

Goforth quoted from a state survey which came out Tuesday which states that there are over 8,000 alcoholics in Cleveland County and over 15,000 in Gaston County. There are 1,934 Gaston County residents addicted to narcotics and 967 in Cleveland County.

In Cleveland County, 42,818 people are affected by alcohol addiction and there have been six traffic deaths in the county because of alcohol this year, he said.

"These are shocking statistics," he said.

Goforth also criticized the court system for its record of convictions. He said last year there were 1,158 DWI arrests in Cleveland County but only 600 were convicted.

"In North Carolina there were over 77,000 DWI arrests and over 43,000 of them were turned loose because of technicalities," he said.

Goforth said the Kings Mountain Police Department began looking into the city's drug problem three years ago and found some alarming facts.

"There are more drug pushers in the homes than there are on the streets," he said. "Kids see beer in the refrigerator and marijuana in the house and this is the same thing as parents telling them that this is the accepted thing."

Education must begin early, in the schools and in the homes, he said.

"Our teachers here in Kings Mountain are some of the best in North Carolina," he said. "But they can't do what we should be doing at home. We need to reach

the seven, eight, nine and ten year olds. The D.A.R.E. program is probably one of the most important programs to come along in a long time. Until we can reach these small kids we can't win this battle."

D.A.R.E., which began in Kings Mountain schools this fall, began several years ago in California. The program sends a trained police officer into the school system to teach students effective ways to say no to drugs.

Alan Hardin, KM's D.A.R.E. officer, said he bucked the idea when Chief Goforth first suggested that he be trained to teach the program here.

"First of all, I didn't think of myself as a teacher," he said. "I've always been interested in young people and have taught small groups at church. But I have to admit this program has changed my life. I feel like I can reach a lot of young people through this."

Hardin teaches the program to fourth graders but hopes to see the school system expand into the younger grades in the future. He said statistics in California indicate that there has been a 60 percent decline in the drug problem there since D.A.R.E. was introduced in the school systems.

"When you see how the kids open up to you it's easy to understand that this can be the beginning of the end of drugs," Hardin said.

Hardin said there are 140 D.A.R.E. programs in North Carolina schools and the ultimate goal is to have a program in every school system.

"We're making kids feel good about the ways they can say no to drugs," hardin said. "We teach them, that when another student or adult approaches them about taking drugs, that they say 'no thanks' and walk off. They can't say anything else to you if you walk away."

Hardin said the program has also helped change young people's concept of a police officer's duty. "We're no longer seen as a gun-slinging cowboy but a friend," he said. "Our duty is to be of service to the public and let them know that an officer has a weapon only as a last resort tool for self defense of himself and the public."

Hardin said he eats lunch, goes to physical education, music and other classes with them, and he's had "absolutely no problems" with discipline. "You can often find me sitting in the floor with them in gym or music," he laughed.

Hardin said he was surprised to learn through a survey of fourth graders that they believe over one-half of their classmates are taking drugs. He said a survey of a six-county area, including Cleveland, indicated that over 300 students in the fourth and eighth grades and over 1,000 in high school grades reported using alcohol at least twice a month.

"Alcohol is still the number one drug," he said. "Over 78 percent of seventh and eighth graders in this six-county area said they have ridden with drunk teenage drivers."

Reynolds pointed out that many of the drugs people are addicted to are prescribed drugs but most of the hard drugs are also sold and taken each day in this area.

Santa Letters

Dear Santa:
I want a bike and want another toy scooter.

Brian

Bike, scooter and a little middle size motorcycle. Any toy. Bring me any toy, Santa Claus. Remote control turbo hopper. Power wheel. Power wheel too.

David Scott Noblett

Dear Santa:

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Police

From Page 8-A

reported two incidents of larceny: a pair of shoes valued at \$17.99 and a pair of shoes valued at \$29.99.

John Bullock, 405 Margrace, reported vandalism to his 1977 Ford truck.

Kings Mountain Hospital, 706 W. King St., reported larceny of a printer which had been removed from a shipping box and taken from Radio Graphics and Fluoroscope Room 2 and valued at \$1500. The printer was stolen between Nov. 29 and Dec. 1.

Handy Pantry, Cleveland Avenue, reported two incidents of larceny of beer valued at \$4.09 and \$7.89.

Della Louise Stroupe, 120 N. Cansler, reported larceny of Randor chrome plated bicycle valued at \$69.

Michelle Kilgore Dumas, Route 1 Shady Grove Road, said a purse snatcher took her purse as she prepared to put groceries in her car at a local grocery store parking lot. She told police the suspect was a black male wearing a black jacket. The purse was later recovered by police on Oriental Avenue. Dumas lost credit cards, driver's license and \$56 in cash.

J. Hank Plonk, 204 S. Cansler St., reported theft of a Mopad from his residence. The Mopad is valued at \$100.

George Hatch, 311 W. Mountain St., reported larceny of \$300 worth of camera equipment from his car.

ARRESTS

Linda Roxanne Franks, 19, of 105 West Maryland Avenue, Bessemer

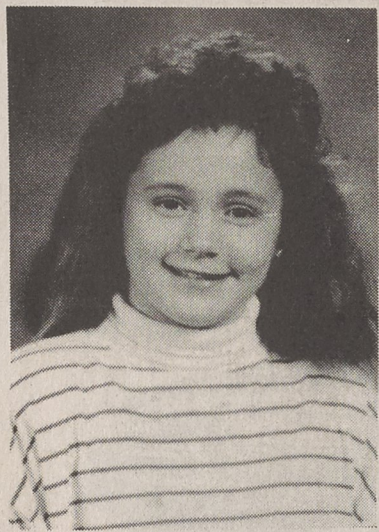
City, was charged with embezzlement from Eckard Drugs and Kelly Lynn Lingerfelt, 21, of Route 3 Box 615 Bessemer City, was charged with aiding and abetting embezzlement from Eckard's Drug, police said. Court hearing for the two women was held in Shelby Monday. Bond for both women was \$500, secured.

Lloyd G. Furr, 46, of Third Avenue, Gastonia, DWI, driving while license revoked, secured \$600 bond.

Gregory Joseph Eversoll, 34, of 827 N. Piedmont Ave., assault on female, secured \$500 bond.

Anoulack Vouthivong, 26, of 26 Kings Park Drive Limited, Yarboro Road, simple assault on female, criminal summons.

Douglas Wayne Merck, 28, of 820 Church St., unauthorized use of conveyance, \$300 unsecured bond.



STEPHANIE LAIL

Stephanie Celebrates Birthday

Stephanie Lynn Lail celebrated her 11th birthday November 29. She enjoyed a party at Kate's Skating Rink with friends and family and also had a party at her home with family and friends.

Stephanie is a fifth grader student at Bethware School. She has a younger sister, Andrea Michelle.

Stephanie is the daughter of Randy and Sarah Lail of Kings Mountain. She is the granddaughter of A.V. and Betty DeBruler and Ralph and Diane Lail of Shelby. She is the great-granddaughter of Eva Lail of Shelby.

Scovel Completes Army Supply Course

Pvt. Raymond G. Scovel has completed a supply course at the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C.

He is the son of Sue Ellen R. and Marvin E. Jackson of 3101 Kings Mountain Highway, Gastonia.

The private is a 1989 graduate of Bessemer City High School.

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