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# Local

section C



Staff illustration by DENNIS HENNANT

Police departments say many cases would go unsolved without tips, thus they place a high value on help from informants.

## Informants provide valued tips

By ROBIN SJOGREN  
Staff Writer

A senior citizen disturbed about drug dealing in her neighborhood calls police to tell where drugs are hidden.

A jailed suspect relays a cellmate's confession to police in hopes of staying out of prison.

A man aware of who committed a burglary contacts Crime Line because he could use the reward money.

Historically, such tipsters have been called every name in the book: snitches, stool pigeons, finks and squealers.

But local police agencies call them "informants" and place a high value on their help.

Lt. Eddie Watts, head of the Hampton Police Department's detective bureau, says, "Without informants, very little would get done in solving cases."

Although dealing with informants is by nature a shadowy business, the trend in police departments nationwide is to take data from informants out of the officers' heads and into central files. More formalized training and guidelines also are being explored.

Jack Morris, from the California Department of Justice, said in a book he wrote on police use of informants that despite the importance of sources, too many departments take a "hit or miss" approach to dealing with them.

The Newport News Police Department recently has developed strict guidelines for dealing with informants and the fund used to pay them.

Ma. Joe Gaskins said the department budgeted \$40,000 last year for the fund.

The city is asking the General Assembly this session to study the idea of returning assets seized in drug arrests to police departments.

Those assets currently are used for school construction. If the change were made, the money would help pay for more drug investigations.

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## 5th man charged in burglaries

By ROBERT GRAVES  
Staff Writer

HAMPTON — A fifth person who police believe is a member of a citywide burglary ring responsible for as many as 270 break-ins and thefts in the past two years was arrested Saturday morning.

The ring was apparently broken Friday with the arrest of four persons by detectives who were investigating a burglary at a house on Roundtree Circle.

Willie Lee Jackson, 40, of the 1100 block of LaSalle Ave., Hampton, was charged Saturday with five counts of breaking and entering and four counts of grand larceny. He was placed in the city lockup, then transferred to city jail under \$100,000 bond.

Arrested Friday were:

• Mario F. Rainey, 20, of the 1100 block of LaSalle Avenue, who had previously been charged with two counts of breaking and entering. He was charged with five additional counts of breaking and entering and five of grand larceny.

• Bobby Cook, 18, of the 1100 block of LaSalle, who was previously charged with three counts of breaking and entering and grand larceny, was charged with additional counts Friday.

• LeRoy Holly, 18, of the 1100 block of LaSalle, charged in December with murder in the Nov. 18 shooting death of 22-year-old William S. Bennett in a Lincoln Park apartment, has been charged with four counts of breaking and entering and three counts each of grand larceny and petty larceny.

• Paul E. Sherrod, 27, of the 1700 block of North Mallory Street, was charged with five counts each of breaking and entering and grand larceny.

Detectives say the burglaries occurred throughout the city including homes on Boone Drive, Bainbridge Avenue, Gibson, Riprap and Woodland roads, Quash Street, Cherry Acres, Shell Road and the Westhampton area. Police have no reason to believe the men might be suspects in burglaries in other cities.

## Coal dust still bothers its neighbors

By PHIL MURRAY  
Staff Writer

NEWPORT NEWS — Despite assurances from state officials that coal dust pollution standards are being met by downtown coal piers, nearby residents continue to have problems with the tiny black particles.

The dust, which is blown from huge piles of coal waiting

to be loaded on ships and barges, covers inside window-sills, soils curtains and blinds, clings to clothes and is blamed by some residents for aggravating breathing ailments.

"It's gotten better since summer," said Gloria Tabb who lives in Harbor Homes apartments on Terminal Avenue. "But the problem will always be here because of the coal sitting on the

ground. The least little wind will blow across the piles and send it over here."

Shortly after the opening in March of the terminal operated by Dominion Terminal Associates, the residents complained bitterly about dark dust clouds moving through the neighborhood on windy days.

Dominion and its neighbor on the Newport News waterfront,

the A. T. Massey Coal Co. terminal that opened in December 1982, both store coal on the ground. The other local coal terminal, operated by the Chesapeake System railroad, stores the coal in train hopper cars until it is loaded for shipment.

The state Air Pollution Control Board later passed new regulations that require the coal

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## Crews patching potholes

HAMPTON — A maintenance crew from the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation was at work late Saturday to patch up a pothole that plagued eastbound motorists on Interstate 64 earlier in the day.

Work was expected to be completed by 12:30 this morning on the rough spot, located between the LaSalle Avenue and Rip Rap Road exits, said a highway department spokesman.

While the work was under way, motorists were routed around the pothole and into the left-hand lane.

## Jobs specialist tells it like it is in new program

By JEFF MILLER  
Staff Writer

JAMES CITY — Part of Kay Bush's job is bursting bubbles, the kind high school seniors inflate just thinking about Life After June.

As a specialist with Jobs for Virginia Graduates Inc., a non-profit corporation funded by state and private contributions, Ms. Bush believes it essential that her 25 Lafayette High School students see life as it really is.

"They think that because they're graduating and they're seniors, life gets easier," Ms. Bush said. "That's a myth. It gets harder."

Jobs for Virginia Graduates was established with two interwoven goals: to lessen unemployment and to give high school graduates without vocational skills, or plans to attend college, an edge in the job market.

JVG pays the salary of the specialist, the local school division supplies classroom space and students.

This is the first year for the program in Williamsburg-James City County, but the concept is seven years old. Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont began Jobs for Delaware Graduates in 1978. A national organization, Jobs for American Graduates, now oversees state programs.

Gov. Charles S. Robb, who mentioned JVG favorably in his 1983 State of the Commonwealth address, is chairman of the Vir-

ginia board.

The program boasts an 85 percent success rate in finding students work the first nine months after graduation. After 14 months, the \$1,500 cost per student is recouped in taxes from the student's earnings, JVG officials said.

First, students must graduate. Ms. Bush monitors student grades and even helps tutor them. If necessary, she watches their attendance, too.

"I'm crazy about them and they're crazy about me. When they're absent, I call them at home. They know I'm going to call them to find out why they aren't in school."

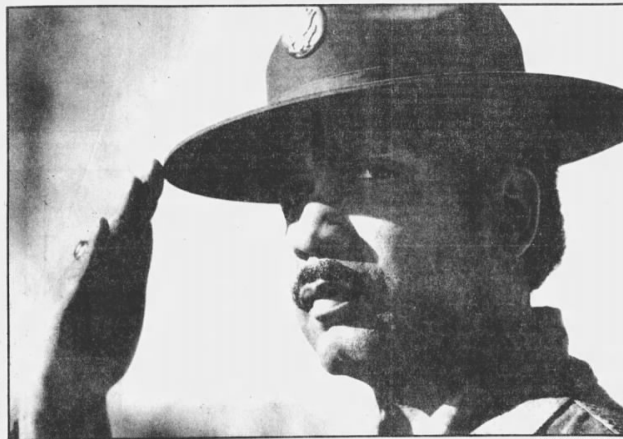
"She's hard, but the things she says are for the best," said James Marsh, 18, Marsh, who plans to join the Army to study electronics, said he's held jobs before. But he realizes he has made mistakes, like wearing blue jeans to an interview.

Of course, the nuts and bolts of job hunting — such as how to dress properly — are part of the program. More importantly, the class covers traditional work-ethic values some students don't learn at home.

"They have to learn to depend on themselves and no one else," Ms. Bush said. "That's one of my hardest lessons. They think their parents are going to be there forever."

Sometimes it helps to teach by example. "If anyone would have told me I was going to be a

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Staff photo by RANDY MORE

Sgt. 1st Class Kermit Norris believes the program is benefiting the Army by providing more discipline.

## Top sergeants keep Fort Eustis on its toes

By VIRGINIA BIGGINS  
Staff Writer

FORT EUSTIS — Soldiers who thought they said farewell to their ever-dreaded drill sergeants after basic training may be in for a shock when they report to Fort Eustis for advanced training.

In the past several months 29 drill sergeants have been assigned to the post's Transportation School to oversee some 255 soldiers.

The Army wants to know whether drill sergeants can improve the quality of new soldiers by keeping them profi-

cient in basic skills while learning military specialties.

Fort Eustis and the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland are drill-sergeant test sites for students in advanced training.

Fort Eustis officials say the test already has shown that objectives are being met.

"There has been a definite improvement in the soldiers since the drill sergeants came to Eustis," said Sgt. 1st Class Don Sterling, one of the first drill sergeants to report to the post.

Some Army officials have suggested that drill sergeants be

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