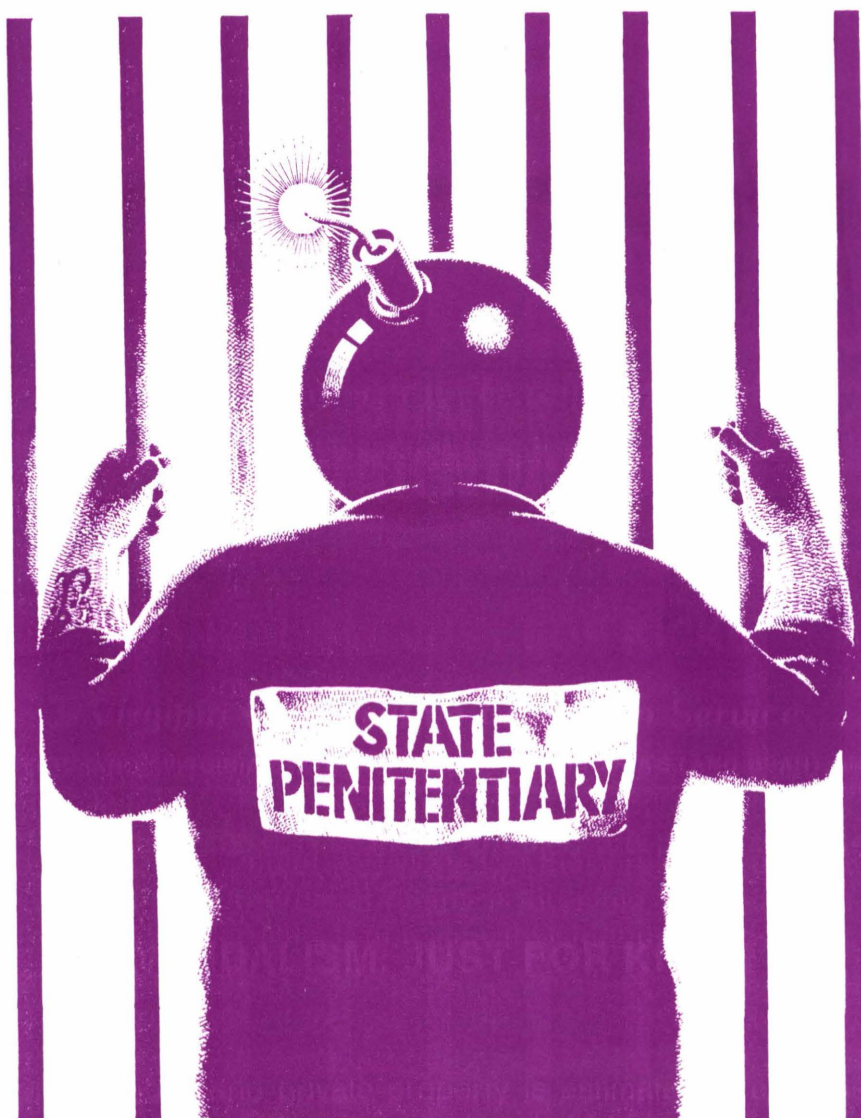


## VANDALISM: JUST FOR KICKS

The willful destruction of public and private property is estimated to cost the United States more than a billion dollars a year. The FBI reports that over 224,000 arrests are made for vandalism each year. Of these, more than 100,000 of those arrested are under the age of eighteen, 50,000 under the age of fifteen, and almost 8,000 under age ten.



The Community Resource Development (CRD) staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service is concerned that these numbers represent nearly a threefold increase over arrests reported just two decades ago. Even more alarming is the fact that authorities estimate that there are three or four incidents of vandalism for every arrest.

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**VANDALISM: JUST FOR KICKS** notes that most teenagers are tempted by the thrill of vandalism. The program notes that they are bored and looking for kicks, or they are angry with someone and want to get even. Psychologically, vandalism is considered an anti-social act. A young vandal is generally acting out feelings he does not know how to deal with appropriately.

#### **Suggested Uses:**

To provide select audiences with an accurate, current knowledge of vandalism. To suggest deterrents to vandalism. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

#### **Recommended For:**

Community and corporate crime prevention and rehabilitation programs, colleges and universities, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chambers of Commerce and merchant associations.

#### **Producers:**

Syndistar, Inc.  
648 Hickory Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

## **CONCLUSION**

Acts of vandalism are 95% committed by young people under the age of sixteen. Schools, homes, businesses, and public property, such as parks and bridges, are all possible targets. The teenage vandal cannot be stereotyped. ANY teenager could become a vandal, since vandalism is usually an unplanned, spur-of-the-moment action.

The VCR program, **VANDALISM: JUST FOR KICKS**, is for use by law enforcement officials in educating teenagers, parents, and community members about vandalism. Vandalism is a crime which can become a permanent part of a young person's record and a nuisance which affects all members of a community.

Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.



Community Resource  
Development

James Douglas McAlister  
Assistant Director, VCES and  
Program Leader  
Community Resource Development

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