

Police seize \$20,000 in stolen property

Separate police units net same 2 suspects

By Sharon Curtis-Flair
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Metro burglary detectives had their eye on Kenneth Vaughan and Jennifer Kirchen as suspects in a stolen property investigation.

Unaware of the burglary probe, Vice detectives were investigating them as possible cocaine dealers.

When their investigations finally crossed paths, the fluke joint investigation paid off with the seizure of some \$20,000 worth of stolen property plus cocaine and marijuana.

Burglary detectives had learned that Vaughan was allegedly buying stolen property and exchanging it for drugs. Vice officers, meanwhile, were also concentrating on the same person whom they felt was selling cocaine.

Once the two units learned the other was working on information to arrest the man, they joined forces with the Central Crime Suppression Unit. Vice made sev-

eral controlled buys from the home at 2932 Twin Lawn Drive as Burglary detectives got more information following a recent crackdown in South Nashville on burglaries.

Late Thursday night, police closed in on the residence and armed with a search warrant seized the stolen property and drugs and arrested two people. Arrested were Vaughn, 22, and Kirchen, 18, who both lived at the Twin Lawn Drive address.

"We recovered some VCRs, TVs, stereos, a fur coat, jewelry, men's and women's rings," Burglary Detective Ray Hahn said. "There were a bunch of telephones and other stuff. There were 44 items altogether. He was swapping the stuff for drugs."

Vice did not recover the amount of drugs they expected to, police said, but they did seize a small amount of marijuana found in the house.

Hahn called Vaughn an "independent businessman," adding

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that he did not believe any others were involved in the alleged stolen property fencing and drug business.

Detectives now are trying to determine to whom all the items belong. "At this time, we have no idea whose stuff this is," Hahn said, and added there are no estimates of the number of victims.

Vice Capt. Judy Bawcum said she believed Vice officers made three controlled drugs buys of cocaine at the location, but had few details available.

Vaughn was jailed under \$21,500 while Kirchen was being held under \$10,500 bond. He was charged with theft of property, possessing and selling drugs. She was charged with selling drugs.



Photo by Fred Clarke

Caught with the goods

Kenneth Vaughn (left) and Jennifer Kirchen appear in Night Court on charges of dealing in drugs and stolen property after vice and burglary detectives converged on them in separate investigations. Story, page A-2