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## MOVIE NEWS & REVIEWS

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Plus other goodies See page 12



## HOPPING MAD AT KEN'S CLUB

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# 1 CRIME'S YOUNG TEARAWAYS MOVE UP TO A WORLD MARKET

**Kids who stole for kicks turn into super thieves**



- Between £250-300 million worth of cars are stolen every year in England and Wales.
- Last year, 16,436 vehicles were stolen in Notts and between 50 to 60% were not traced.
- Two years ago, the percentage of cars never traced in the county was 26%.
- Four years ago, the percentage of stolen Notts cars never traced was 12%.
- Last year, 502,925 cars were stolen in England and Wales. Only 90,608 — 44% — were recovered.



INSIDE OPERATION: Young crooks who steal cars for fun are now supplying international crime

# CAR WARS

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EDITORIAL

EVENING POST

## Opinion

### Don't fall prey to the car tax disc thieves

TODAY we've got good news for Notts motorists — and some bad news.

The bad news is that if your car is stolen, it is less likely to be found.

Five years ago, the chances were that your vehicle would have been recovered — usually, after a so-called joy-ride.

It would probably have been damaged, but at least it was there.

Now, most thieves have no intention of damaging your car.

On the contrary, they hope to make a fat profit out of it. The proportion of vehicles which disappear for good — either stolen to order, or to be broken up for parts — has increased four to five times since 1992.

In 50% to 60% of cases, you'll never see your car again.

Short of encouraging all car owners to make life as difficult as possible for thieves, there's not a lot newspapers like the *Evening Post* can do to help.

But we can help crack another type of car crime. And that's today's good news.

For just £1, our readers can buy a clever device to protect one of the most valuable pieces of property in your car — the tax disc.

The Secur-i-disc will help safeguard the circular certificates which are worth £140 a year.

Hundreds are stolen in Notts every year. Worse, innocent motorists are often implicated when they buy cars in good faith and police discover the discs are stolen.

This racket is worth up to £160m a year. That means more than a million drivers will have their discs stolen during 1996.

Don't be one of them.

# 2 BEAT TAX DISC BANDITS FOR 99p



THE theft of tax discs from cars has become lucrative business in Notts. Now the *Evening Post* is offering readers a chance to keep their discs safe — for just 99p. Notts police have backed the *Post's* Secur-i-Discs, which stop thieves from removing your tax without ripping it. Sgt Paul Tupper displays the device. ● Smash the bandits: P32 ● Opinion: P6

EXCLUSIVE by DAMIEN BROOK  
Crime Correspondent

YOUTHS who used to steal cars for fun have grown into a new breed of 'super' thieves — selling them on to international networks.

It means vehicles taken in Notts are more likely than ever before to vanish without trace.

One car is stolen in the county every 30 minutes. That's more than 16,000 a year — 40-60% of which are never seen again.

Notts police's anti-car-crime unit says the vehicles are being sold on to worldwide networks operating a multi-million pound trade or are being broken up for parts.

The vehicles are being snatched by thieves who used to steal specifically in drive at dangerously high speeds before dumping the car.

### 'Hardcore element'

Sergeant Roy Edwards of the unit said: "They have served their apprenticeship and become a new breed of super car thieves."

His view was endorsed by PC Pete Barrett. "A few years ago we were looking at about 18,000 vehicles stolen every year. The number has now settled at around 16,000 — but we are recovering fewer of them. That's because these cars are being stolen to order.

"People who used to steal merely to drive the car around realise a lot of money can be made by selling rather than destroying them," he said.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service believes "hardcore" gangs are operating in England and Wales. Its investigations have recovered cars and vehicle parts both in this country and abroad.

Detective Inspector Wayne Smith, of the Specialist Crimes Unit, said: "There are several hundred criminals involved in the UK."