

Wife-beater jailed for crack, too

by Dave Racher

Daily News Staff Writer

The cops found a "crack" in the domestic violence case — crack cocaine in a plate on the front seat of a man's sports-utility vehicle after police arrived to probe his wife's abuse complaint.

Nathan Kirkland, 34, was then not only charged with beating his wife, Monique Byrd, 30, a correctional officer, but also arrested for possessing about \$5,000 worth of crack.

This week, Common Pleas Judge Benjamin Lerner convicted Kirkland of both counts and committed him to prison to await sentencing.

Kirkland faces at least a mandatory one- to two-year prison term for the drug rap.

After the case, Byrd asked Assistant District Attorney Theresa Brunson if she could persuade the judge to give her a divorce.

But Byrd was told that she will have to file for divorce like everyone else.

Brunson said Byrd had a protection-from-abuse order against Kirkland at the time of the April 29, 1999 incident.

A few hours before the arrest, Kirkland beat Byrd at her sister's 68th Avenue home.

"She had bruises on her face and arms," said Brunson.

When Byrd arrived at their home on Marston Street near Clearfield, she found her husband carrying out some personal items, including a VCR.

He then pushed and shoved her, claiming he was "fed up" with their relationship.

When relatives separated the two, Kirkland ran into the house and got a gun, Brunson said.

"I'll show you I'm not playing," he said, as he came out with the weapon.

He did not use it. The gun was never found.

When Byrd told cops she thought the gun might be in the vehicle, officers looked inside and saw the crack. The gun was never recovered.

Brunson said drug cutting and packaging materials were also seized from the front seat. ■

Death Notices

BIRNBACH

MARVIN E., of Boca Raton, passed away Sept. 20, 2000, beloved husband of Beffie, loving father of Sheila Birnbach, Lois Wolf and Jane (Stuart) Konetsky, cherished grandfather of Brantwyn Smith, Rachel and David Edlow, Lindsey and Chelsea Wolf, and Freddy Bess Konetsky, dear brother of Morton Birnbach. Contributions may be made to Meshe Sharoff Institute of Oncology, Madassah, 50 W. 58th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10019. Services

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