



Redford police search for arsonist

Stacy Vaccaro arson victim

Redford Township police are seeking help in finding the person or persons responsible for setting a June 12 fire that resulted in the death of a 20-year-old woman.

And the parents of the dead woman, Stacy Vaccaro, a Livonia native, are offering a \$5,000 reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist.

"We've run out of leads and suspects and we're hoping someone out there knows something that can help us break this investigation," said detective Sgt. James Laho, one of two township detectives who have been handling the probe.

Laho asks anyone with information to submit it to the Detroit News Secret Witness Program or to call him or Det. Sgt. John Crete at 537-3710. The reward money is being offered through the newspaper's secret witness program.

ANYONE SENDING information to that program should include a six-digit number on the last

page of the tip, tear one corner off and enter the same number on the torn corner to be kept by the informant for subsequent identification of the informant. The tip should be mailed to the Detroit News, P.O. Box 1333, Detroit 48231.

"We knew from our initial investigation of the fire that a flammable substance had been used as a fire accelerant and that arson was involved, but we weren't immediately sure Ms. Vaccaro was intended to be the victim," Laho said.

"However, upon further investigation, we were able to determine that the woman was intended to be the victim by the way accelerant, identified through laboratory testing as gasoline, was distributed through the home. By the way the gas was distributed through the house, the arsonist had to know Ms. Vaccaro inside."

Laho said four suspects have been eliminated during the course of the investigation, including Ms. Vaccaro's male friend who was the last to see her alive at about 2 a.m., about two hours before the

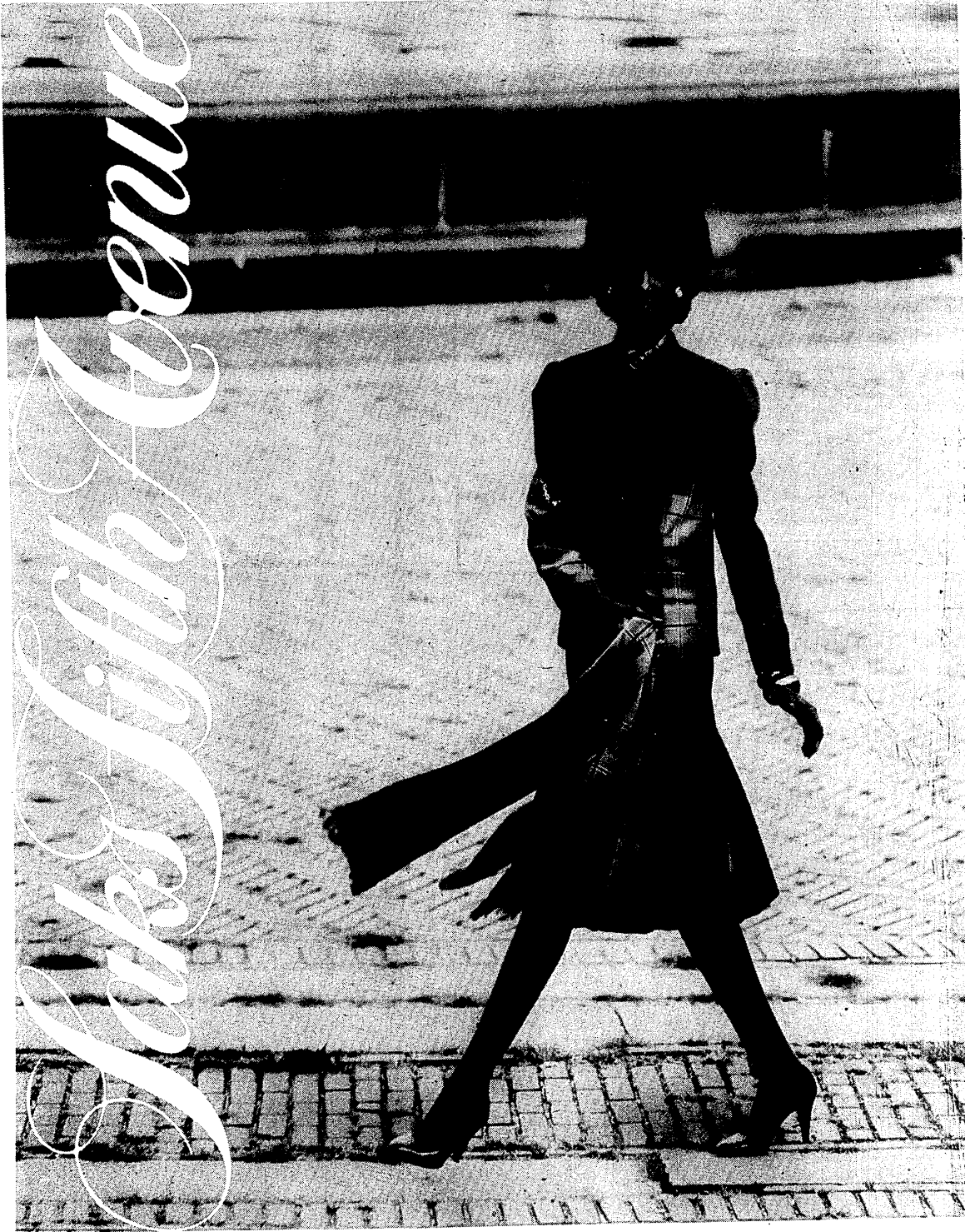
blaze erupted in the modest two-story wood frame home at 18672 Garfield, which she was renting.

"We know that she left work at 5 p.m. June 11 after making some arrangements to take her male friend out for his birthday," said Laho. "The two went to the Center Stage concert auditorium, arriving there sometime after 10 p.m. They left at about 12:30 a.m. and arrived at Ms. Vaccaro's home at about one.

"HER FRIEND left at 2 and we don't know what happened between then and 4:04 a.m. when a neighbor reported the fire," Laho said.

Ms. Vaccaro's neighbors were not able to provide police with any information about the fire and her relatives don't have any idea who may have started the fire, or why, Laho said.

Ms. Vaccaro, single and a graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, was found lying on her back under a pile of debris in the gutted living room.



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