

Imprisoned drug informer fears for his life

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

Arthur Sterling Abrams, a drug informer from Farmington Hills, now in the state prison in Jackson, feels betrayed and fears for his life.

"I was thrown to the wolves (by the Oakland County prosecutor). I'm a political prisoner and if anyone here knew who I was, I'd be dead," Abrams said in a brief collect phone call Tuesday from the prison reception center in Jackson, where he will spend

between two and four weeks before being transferred to a permanent cell.

Abrams' court-appointed attorney, Michael Friedman of Birmingham, agrees, "If they (the other prisoners) find out my client is an informant, of course he'll be in jeopardy," Friedman said.

Former defense attorney Lawrence Kaluzy of Farmington Hills had asked Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Steven Andrews to place Abrams in protective custody. But the duty officer in the prison's recep-

tion center said Abrams is not in protective custody and is not scheduled to receive it.

ABRAMS, 43, who was sentenced in March 1988 to five years' probation for conspiracy to distribute 50-650 grams of cocaine, was sentenced Feb. 21 by Judge Andrews to three to 20 years in prison for violating probation. Abrams, an admitted drug addict, said he used marijuana, cocaine and heroin while on probation.

One week later, Abrams was charged during a preliminary hearing in 47th District

Court in Farmington with conspiracy to deliver 225-650 grams of cocaine, Friedman said. The charge is punishable by a mandatory 20-year sentence. No arraignment date has been set.

All charges stem from the December 1987 arrest of Abrams on cocaine charges, at which time he agreed to cooperate with police.

As a result of Abrams' testimony, more than 20 people have been convicted in U.S. District Court on cocaine distribution

charges. Another 21 have been charged in Oakland County Circuit Court with cocaine possession or conspiracy to possess. Charges are pending in additional cases.

The Oakland County Prosecutor maintains that, by breaking terms of his probation, Abrams violated terms of an original agreement in which he was charged with a lesser offense in exchange for cooperating with the police, according to Friedman.

Friedman is seeking a hearing in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Authorities searching for fugitive in drug case

By Brian Lysaght
staff writer

Where is Marvin Mulligan? He wasn't in the courtroom last week when a federal court jury convicted him of drug trafficking and federal income tax violations. Mulligan, 55, who was living in Bloomfield Township last year, is now a federal fugitive.

He is to be sentenced next month — if he appears.

"As far as when he left, we have no idea. As far as where he went, we

have no idea," said Bill Ward, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's Detroit bureau. "He could be in the country, he could be out of the country, we don't know."

"I don't know if he's dead or alive," said Steven Fishman, an attorney who represented Mulligan at his trial. Mulligan was convicted in absentia.

Mulligan, whom authorities say was a major Detroit area drug dealer, failed to show for a court hearing in January and hasn't been heard from since.

of all eight federal government charges against him:

- Four counts of filing false income taxes.
- One count of income tax evasion.
- Two counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.
- One count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

Mulligan and his wife, Joy Mulligan, were arrested Aug. 17 by federal agents at their Wabek Manor Condominium in Bloomfield Township. The only charge against Joy Mulligan, 54, conspiracy to defraud the government, was dropped last November, said her attorney, James

Thomas.

U.S. District Judge George LaPlata also granted a government request to seize Marvin Mulligan's interest in the couple's condominium at 1771 Alexander, along with several luxury cars and other items found in the condominium last year.

According to the government indictment, Mulligan purchased the condominium in 1986, assigned her interest in the property to another couple in 1987, and leased the property back from the couple.

dealer in the Detroit area. Davidson was convicted last week of conspiracy to possess and distribute heroin and cocaine.

The pair distributed up to 30-50 kilos of cocaine and up to \$1 million worth of heroin each month, authorities said.

Ward said that in 1984, heroin and cocaine were seized in an apartment of a Detroit man, William Gault. Investigators later searched Mulligan's home and found identical records, Ward said.

The government showed in their case that Mulligan falsified his 1982-85 income tax returns to hide income from drug sales, and that he failed to pay \$430,000 in income taxes from

HE WAS FOUND guilty March 1

Trustees extend senior-high open enrollment policy

Continued from Page 1

back Backers, said his group was concerned about the effect of open enrollment. "I think there's a potential there for an impact on the program," he said. "I feel it could potentially hurt any of the schools. And it could harm any program, not only football."

"I know we have lost some kids who would have played football at Farmington," he added.

OPEN ENROLLMENT was enacted a year ago, because of overcrowding, or potential overcrowding, at Farmington and North Farmington, while enrollments at Harrison were dropping. Warner Middle School also continues to also be an open school because of enrollment numbers.

Not including students who may transfer for the 1990-91 school year, the district shows 102 students currently attending North Farmington who are not within official boundary areas, 87 at Harrison and 37 at Farmington High. The North Farmington numbers include some students in the northeast section of the district who were put into the Harrison boundary area three years ago, but given an option, then, to attend North.

"I think it's going to have to be evaluated very closely," Cowan said.

IN HIS report Tuesday, Cowan said he was especially concerned with the athletic situation and a projected increase in students that will hit the high schools in 1992-93. He also said the district must watch closely to ensure there is parity in high school academic programs.

"If, in fact, choice begins to limit what is offered at the schools, then you have to take some action," he added.

He expects another open enrollment update for the board no later than November.

School trustees were generally in favor of continuing the policy, but most said they wanted to ensure a close administrative eye is kept on

the program.

"I guess I'm in favor of open enrollment as long as the figures don't get to a point where it would be detrimental," said Janice Rolnick. "The more choices parents have, the better off they are."

Superintendent Michael Flanagan cautioned against using the word "choice." He said, in many cases, it is tied to politically motivated programs such as the one in the state of Minnesota, which allows students to attend a school anywhere in the state, even across school district boundaries.

"I think we need to carefully select our language," he said. "I don't think we can say we're in favor of

choice — we want selective options."

AT LEAST two trustees, Rolnick and Helen Prutow, said Tuesday they would like to see the administration research the open enrollment concept further, perhaps into the elementary schools. "I would like to see that at some time when you're ready to do it," Prutow told the administration. "Not some informal thing where parents can go and beg, but a formal policy."

Flanagan explained that in many cases, parents of elementary students can already work out a transfer to another school between the two principals.

clarification

The March 1 article entitled "Farmington High School announces honor roll" inadvertently excluded the name of Farmington Hills resident Brian W. Davis, a 10th grader.

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— Bob Sklar, editor

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