

Aftermath from page 1A

Hartman said he and his family still have frightening dreams about the incident. And although his daughters, 2 and 4, do not understand much of what's going on, he worries about them.

"It was hard going back in (after the fire) to look for dolls," he said. "They were too damaged. How do you explain this to your children?"

Hills police Detective David Lee, the lead investigator, said the gas cans used at both fires can be bought at area hardware stores and large retail chains, leaving little in the way of physical leads.

Hartman, a Wayne State University graduate, said his patients have been very supportive, giving presents to his children and sticking with his practice. Hartman has other offices in southeastern Michigan.

At 35, he has been very successful, in part he said, because he enjoys his work and works a lot of hours.

"I've never been in debt in my life," he said, adding that a gambling debt reported in newspapers and TV after the fire were inaccurate. Hartman said he gambled

once in Las Vegas, but the loss was covered and didn't involve any long-term debt.

The podiatrist has passed a lie detector test and said that except for his wife and himself, he considers everyone a suspect. He has heard a lot of theories, including that it was a case of mistaken identity.

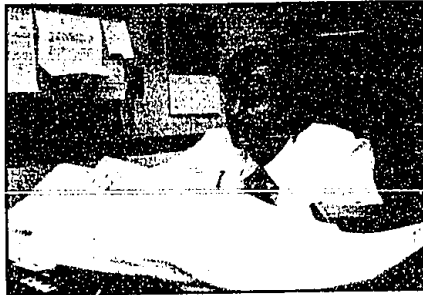
"I hope that is what it is," he said. "But I told Detective Lee to leave no stone unturned."

Hartman said he and his wife each received a "weird" phone call shortly before the two incidents.

"Those are the kinds of things you think about now that it's happened," he said.

Along with a \$5,000 reward offered by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Hartman is offering a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the responsible party or parties. Anyone with information can call 1-800-44-ARSON, or the Farmington Hills police at 474-6181.

Hartman said his family has considered moving elsewhere, but



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arson aftermath: Dr. Michael Hartman: "It was hard going back in (after the fire) to look for dolls."

will likely rebuild in Farmington Hills.

"I thought we could move to a new area, but then we wouldn't know anyone," he said. "I don't know that that is any safer than moving back to where people know who you are. I'm sorry for

my neighbors, but at least they know us, and hopefully it will be safer."

Hartman added he will invest in a sophisticated alarm system. But mostly, he hopes police can find the arsonist.

"We're the victims," he said.

Larceny from page 1A

"We're suing him," said Tracy Sonnborn of the state Attorney General's Office.

The suit, filed in Ingham County 50th Circuit Court, involves two debt collection agencies Gen-dron was reportedly involved with last year.

Gendron, also known as Derek DePaul and Derek Beasinger, is named as the defendant.

The Attorney General's Office contends the collection agency was unlicensed and used deceptive methods, including threats and sending "shame cards" to delinquent accounts.

Checks & Balances and Data: Communication Corp. are the two agencies named in the suit by the Attorney General's Office.

The two had separate Northville and Plymouth mailing addresses. Data: Communication Corp. also operated PageLink, Inc. and National Check Restitution.

Gendron is named as agent, office holder and shareholder of both, according to the suit.

The suit also documents incidents involving DePaul and

Checks & Balances in February 1994, nearly a year after the closing of Homefront Delivery Corp.

A sales representative said he took in \$3,000 from businesses to advertise in a March 17, 1993 issue. Money was then turned over to Gendron, he said.

The sales representative and others who worked there arrived one morning to find the office vacant. A note on the door said the business went bankrupt.

A forwarding address on the note turned out to be bogus. Kevin Murdock worked on graphics for Homefront Delivery Corp. He's still owed \$1,100, he said.

When Homefront Delivery Corp. closed, everything was gone except Murdock's computer.

Murdock was surprised a year ago when Gendron walked into the Livonia print shop where he now works.

"I kept screaming at him," Murdock said. "He kept apologizing. He said he was living out of state."

"Any way you can tap into a computer where you can get something free... he knew how to do it."

Added Farmington police deputy director Wiggins: "He was very good at what he did..."

"But not good enough."

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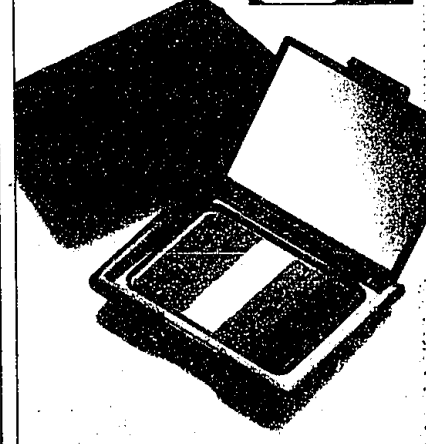
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