

**Prof. Pitts comments:**

**Counter culture aids crime**

By **JESSE PITTS**  
Oakland University

In trying to explain the causes of the great upsurge in street crime during the last 12-13 years, it is correct to mention the increase in the percentage of the population that falls between the ages of 15 and 25.

This, of course, lets us hope for better days in the future when the fall in the birth rate will translate itself in fewer adolescents... and fewer college students.

**THE IMPACT** of "the grinding effects of poverty" is a complex one. Poverty does not cause crime, if by poverty we mean lack of varied clothing, lack of rich foods and overcrowding in a tenement. After all, during the prosperous '60s, the number of persons below the poverty line was substantially reduced. Welfare programs blossomed.

In 1965 when the first blackout occurred in New York, there was little or no looting. In 1977, looting and vandalism were common. Yet a majority of the looters arrested in Brooklyn had jobs, and they did not hit the grocery stores as much as the clothing and jewelry stores.

Hence, enough of these stories about poverty breeding crime. Their function, and often their conscious purpose, are to place American society in accusation and to deny it the right to punish the looters.

**YET ONE** of the most crucial variables in explaining the great upsurge of crime in the '60s and early '70s is the loss of social control over a bigger and more hardened underclass in our major cities.

More boys are growing up without a stable father figure. Schools are staffed by a well-paid and tenured but demoralized teachers who are unwilling to tackle the learning problems of disadvantaged children (it would mean more work, and doing things differently from how they were taught in teachers college).

Hampered by "student rights" and fear of reprisals, principals find it very difficult to handle the bullies, the drug dealers, the hell raisers who transform the school into a marketplace, a battlefield or a stud farm. The schools are more and more unable to teach students the three R's and at least the rudiments of work discipline—the latter perhaps even more important than the former.

They turn out people who are incapable of holding down any job, but who consider any job at the minimum wage as "slave labor."

**AND VERY** important in explaining the upsurge in street crime was the diffusion of the counter-culture where drugs were hip, where "ripping off" was hip, where desertion was hip, where violence against members of the establishment was hip, where casual sex was hip, where millionaire

movie-makers were turning out superfly movies.

In essence, it was a benediction from above upon the underclass, romanticized as being the latest incarnation of the myth of the "Noble Savage."

Perhaps the advent of our new president heralds the final decline of this cultural stream, and it will result in better success in social control.

**FOR OUR MONDAY** night class, I would like to suggest the following problem:

There are anywhere between 4-8 million Mexican illegals in America. Around Pontiac, I have been told, a very substantial percentage of Mexican adults are illegal aliens.

They have no welfare, no Medicare. They speak poor English. They take jobs at \$2.50 an hour. They stay clear of the police. They have children.

If we compared the school and juvenile court records of these children with those of other "poor" children whose parents have all the benefits of our social programs, which ones do you think are more likely to become successful adults? Could we find out?

Is the lower third of our black population being seduced into a permanent lower class status by programs which make the white upper-middle class feel morally righteous while providing easy jobs to their wives and friends? How does one help a child break out of the subsidized ghetto?

Here again, there no simple answers.

**SEMCOG welcomes 2 members**

The City of New Baltimore in Macomb County and the Village of Pinckney in Livingston County recently joined the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), raising membership to 127 in the seven-county regional planning body.

Officials from both communities cited SEMCOG's water quality management planning as a major reason for joining the council.

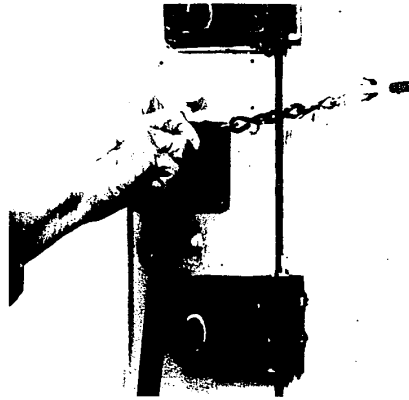
"We've just begun work on a sewage system, so we're interested in SEMCOG's activities in water quality management," said Pinckney Village President Paul E. Bell.

According to New Baltimore Mayor Herman Staffhorst, SEMCOG's water quality management planning prompted city officials' decision to join, along with a desire for the city to have a voice in regional issues.

"We have a new sewage project underway and I think membership in SEMCOG will benefit this program," Staffhorst said.

SEMCOG was designated by the federal government in 1975 as the water quality management planning agency for the seven-county area of southeast Michigan.

Recently SEMCOG adopted a recommendation to create a 27-member area-wide water quality board to oversee water quality activities in the region. That recommendation is currently being considered by Gov. William Milliken's office and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Fear of street crime has made many persons—particularly the elderly—prisoners in their own homes.

**How to fight street crime**

(Continued from page 8A)

**ALL PROGRAMS** are subject to abuse, however.

The enthusiasm of discovering new crime control methods often is replaced by the rigidity of routine and of procedures that become unresponsive to ever-changing conditions.

The task, then, is to create community organizations that can remain flexible to meet changing needs, and the commitment and continuing involvement of citizens in the affairs

of their communities, especially as those affairs involve young people. For that is the crux of the crime problem.

**COPYRIGHT** 1977 by the Regents of the University of California. The views expressed in Courses by Newspaper are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the University of California, the funding agencies, Oakland University or Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Next week: The relationship between sex and crime.

**THE PENINSULA CLUB**  
in St. Clair, Michigan

Summer Boat Wells—Cable T.V., water, electricity and telephone at each slip.

Recreation and Family Activities Available

- Racquetball Courts
- Game Room
- Tennis Courts
- Jogging Track
- Horse Shoes
- Playground
- Bar-B-Que Areas
- Showers and Dressing Rooms
- Ship's Store
- Family Fun and Parties

Call for further information:

The Peninsula Club

700 Marine Drive  
St. Clair, Mich. 48079  
329-9018

45 minutes from  
Troy, Birmingham, Rochester



*Congratulations!*

Super Bonus Winners and Members of

the President's Million Dollar Round Table



**\$494,760 in Bonus Checks...**

alone are being paid to Real Estate One's better than average producers for the year 1977. This is only one of the many reasons that a large number of the finest sales representatives in the industry are attracted to and enjoy a successful career with Real Estate One.

**ALL CROSS COUNTRY SKI EQUIPMENT ON SALE NOW!**  
**Bavarian Village**  
CROSS COUNTRY SKI SPECIALISTS

- BLOOMFIELD HILLS: 2540 Woodward at Square Lake Rd. 338-0833
- BIRMINGHAM: 101 Townsend across from Hughes-Hatcher 644-5650
- MT. CLEMENS: 1216 S. Garland to Mile N of 16 Mile 463-3829
- LATHROP VILLAGE: 2845 Southfield south of 12 Mile 559-2240
- LIVONIA/REDFORD: 14211 Telegraph at Jefferson Hwy. 534-8200
- EAST DETROIT: 22201 Rally Rd. between 8 & 9 MI. 778-7029

OPEN DAILY TUE 9 - SAT. 10-5:30 - CLOSED SUNDAY

**GARAGE DOOR OPENERS**  
BY ALLIANCE  
MODEL GS 450

**\$17500**

INSTALLED  
SOLID STATE  
CONTROLS

**\$185.00**  
DIGITAL  
CONTROLS

1 YEAR WARRANTY

**ANTENNA SERVICE CO.**

WESTLAND 326-7575    PARTS & SERVICE    PONTIAC 335-9079

**DOBRIK**

HEARING AID SERVICE

PARTICIPATES in the

BLUE CROSS  
BLUE SHIELD  
HEARING AID PROGRAM

- All Major Brands
- 30 Day Trial
- Convenient Locations

23077 GREENFIELD 1383 N. WOODWARD  
Inverage Bldg., Room 324 Bloomfield Office Plaza  
Southfield, MI. 48075 Southfield, MI. 48013  
569-4330 335-9262