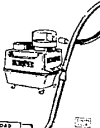


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## Alternatives are sought

(Continued from Page 1A)

fense, including recommendations on whether probation might be effective. Oakland County's probation department handles about 2,500 investigations a year.

"The judge knows quite a bit about the offender before he sentences him," Smith said.

THE TYPICAL offender in Oakland County, according to Smith, is under 25, male, poorly educated, without job skills, more than likely a drug or alcohol abuser, and an impulsive person that can be easily influenced by others.

The probation department attempts to discover the offender's strengths and concentrate on suggestions to alter the person's self-image and job situation.

The probation failure rate in Oakland County has remained at between 10-15 per cent for the past few years.

"The first offenders seem to succeed for the most part," Smith added. Parole violators state-wide, however, range between 50 and 75 per cent of those on probation.

Smith looks for continuous patterns of behavior to predict a probationer's chances for success, or staying out of jail.

"Some people spend their first night in jail, and that's all the rehabilitation they need. They're never going to be in there again."

"We need to identify the people who need to be separated from society and separate them, but that doesn't always mean hard and fast rules."

A prisoner's behavior in prison is an unreliable indicator of what he's going to do when he gets out, Smith added.

The public pressure for stricter laws isn't always uniform, Smith said.

"Unless it's their son or daughter, people don't want to look at the offender,"

## Cops disagree on death penalty

(Continued from Page 1A)

officers have to go through. We see the victims and the sorrow."

Polder said probation should be eliminated from sentences for violent crimes.

Polder has two answers to ease crowding in prisons—"Let the victim's family have the parolee in their own home. That would be a good punishment, and take the money Carter's going to give back and build more prisons."

Pt. Chuck Nebus disagrees with Polder on capital punishment but is in favor of maximizing sentences for violent crimes.

"It's a poor criminal justice system that has to enforce its laws by killing people," he said.

Lt. Arlo Newell, a Hills officer since 1962, and Pt. Gerald Lynch believe in the effectiveness of capital punishment.

"I don't know how you could find a better deterrent, but I think we need some flexibility," said Newell. He advocates discretionary power for judges, but thinks the system has been too lenient with criminals.

"Things should be handled individually," he added.

Lynch believes good citizens are up against the wall instead of criminals.

"We live in an allegedly free country, but the citizens aren't free to walk the streets in safety. I favor restricted capital punishment and I think it's a deterrent. The FBI cited cases where criminals killed in one state instead of another to avoid the death penalty."

"A victim's family has the right to retribution. It's not fair when a citizen trades his life and the prisoner serves 10 years in prison."

Footprints in the snow helped Farmington police arrest a 29-year-old man in connection with the theft Jan. 28 of a portable radio and television from Clair Cleaners, 34705 Grand River.

George Schornack, a Farmington policeman, followed footprints which lead from the cleaners to Drakeshire Apartments on Grand River.

The suspect, Keith Vern Clark, was arraigned before Judge Michael Hand and released on \$1,000 personal bond.

A display window of the cleaners broken by a cinder block allowed the thief to enter the store, according to Lt. John Santamuro.

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