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Daniel Togaski, 29917 Mullane, Farmington Hills, has been selected to attend a Presidential Classroom for Young Americans. A student at North Farmington High School, Togaski was selected for the seven-day, on-site briefing in Washington, D.C.

## Constant cautioning can scare children

By CHERYL CHODUN

Can parents properly caution their children against kidnappers? Can they overprotect children to the point of paranoia?

In recent weeks, there has been an outbreak of missing children in several Oakland County communities. Whether these children were kidnapped remains to be seen, but at least one is dead.

The importance of not going out alone was stressed by Dr. R. M. Gonzales, a child psychiatrist.

"I am afraid that in our culture too many parents let their children intimidate them," Gonzales said. "Parents are afraid to set limits and stick to them. Consequently, to avoid a hassle, the child goes out alone anyway."

Gonzales suggested that cautioning children should not begin until a child is 4 or 5 years old and might have occasion to be away from the parent for a length of time.

"Be general with the child," he said, "and do not go into details. You might want to say that some people are not that nice and might want to harm you."

But don't necessarily specify what that harm might be. Remind children about strangers occasionally, but constantly discussing it can make the child paranoid, Gonzales added.

DR. BRUCE DANTO, a Detroit psychiatrist who often works with criminal cases, described some of the characteristics of the potential kidnapper and child sex offender.

He said the kidnapper is a man 99 per cent of the time. He is usually in

his 20s or 30s, a loner and rarely married. He would be a non-emotional, mechanical person who generally feels inadequate in dealing with adults. He would probably drive a van or a vehicle without many windows and would use some gimmick to interest his victim enough to come near him.

According to Danto, these gimmicks vary with the age of the child, but might be a toy, candy, a puppy or kitten or even a flower.

If an object is not used, added Danto, then most often the stranger would ask the child for directions to a nearby location.

"Unfortunately," he said, "once a child is in the kidnapper's car there is really nothing he or she can do."

Danto also strongly urged parents to be firm about not letting children go places alone. "Being in a group and staying in a group is one of the child's greatest defenses," he said.

Both Danto and Gonzales agree that parents can cause trauma, paranoia and distress in their children by over-cautioning and instilling too much fear.

THESE FIVE basic rules are:

- Do not talk to strangers beyond saying hello;
- Do not go near any unfamiliar house or car;
- Do not take anything from strangers;
- Do not open the door to your home for anyone unfamiliar;
- Always go out in a group or at least with one other child.

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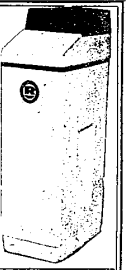
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## Fuel study completed

Gatchell & Associates, Inc., management engineering consultants and designers of environmental systems, has completed an "energy management systems" study for the Grand Rapids Press.

The study estimates that the newspaper can save \$79,500 per year in current fuel costs by investing \$411,000 in retrofitting present mechanical systems and adding a solar energy system.

The two-phase study analyzed existing energy systems, including natural gas distribution, steam distribution, hot and chilled water distribution and air systems.

New system recommendations include an electrical load manager, use of outside air and water storage facilities.

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