

Suburbanites arraigned in prostitution probe

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Four Southfield residents were among 12 people arraigned last week on charges of encouraging or allowing prostitution to prosper in Detroit's Cass Corridor.

Owners of Anderson's Garden bar, the focal point of an 11-month citizens grand jury, were arrested and charged with pandering and conspiracy to pander, a maximum 20-year felony.

Harry Levenburg, 64, of 20951 Andover, Southfield, and his son, Eugene Levenburg, 27, were named as owners of the bar in the indictment and arrested Friday in Palm Beach, Fla. An extradition hearing is scheduled this week.

Other Southfield residents arraigned are Walter Jonas, 52, of 29340 LeeMoor, son of Louis Jonas, owner of the Wilcrest Hotel, 676 W. Willis, adjacent to Anderson's Garden; and Aram Jurjuran, 75, of 22355 LeRhone, owner of the Fourth-Willis Hotel, located one block west of the bar.

The bar and both hotels are located south of Wayne State University on or near Third Avenue, a street notorious for prostitution.

Jonas, who helps his father manage the hotel, and Jurjuran were charged with maintaining or operating a place for the purposes of prostitution and conspiracy to maintain or operate such a business. Both charges are felonies carrying maximum penalties of five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

A BARTENDER and four waitresses employed by the Levenburgs at Anderson's

Garden were also arrested and charged with pandering and conspiracy to pander. The employees are Harold Jones, 54, of Oak Park and waitresses Betty Lukavsky, 67, Julia Gadish, 64, Dolores Foss, 46, and Virginia Janowski, 46, all of Detroit.

Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan said bar employees introduced prostitutes to customers.

The 11-page indictment said bar owners and employees gave prostitutes "a place in which to solicit males for the purpose of prostitution" and set rules of dress and behavior for them.

Cahalan estimated that prostitution business nets nearly \$4 million yearly in the Cass Corridor for bar owners, hotel owners, pimps and prostitutes.

"THESE indictments are one more step in a lengthy and continuing enforcement program against concentrated centers of prostitution such as massage parlors, certain bars and certain hotels," Detroit Police Chief William Hart said last week in a statement to the press.

If police were really serious about stopping prostitution, said Jurjuran, 75-year-old owner of the Fourth-Willis Hotel, they would've arrested prostitutes, not him.

"If they (prostitutes) are coming there (his hotel), why don't you stop them on the street and not give me a black eye?" Jurjuran said Friday.

The hotel owner said he had never been arrested before "so I'm not going to start at 75."

Jurjuran said lately he only spends an average of one hour a day at the

hotel he has owned for 32 years and is usually gone by noon.

"I didn't rent one room there in five years," he said. "I got two men there who rent the rooms. I have no bellhop, no illegal liquor, no gambling or number games. I don't do anything illegal over there."

It wasn't too long ago that police told him he had to rent to any consenting adults who showed identification and signed the register, Jurjuran said. Before that, Jurjuran claimed, he would check IDs to see if the couple was married "to stay on the safe side."

"I DIDN'T accommodate anybody," he said. "They legally rent the room. You can't ask these people too many questions, if they're a prostitute or a pimp."

The crackdown was prompted by the construction of a city-financed housing project north on Third Avenue, Jurjuran theorized.

"And, I suppose there's an election's coming."

Jurjuran said he retired from "the real estate business" in 1968. The hotel owner acknowledged that

prostitution was prevalent in the Cass Corridor but said that it flourishes all over the city.

The grand jury indictment also resulted in the arrest of three people connected with the Last Chance Bar on Woodward at Eight Mile.

Arrested on felony charges of pandering and conspiracy to pander were Ronald Sharo, 45, owner of the Last Chance Bar; and bar employees William Adams, 26, of Detroit and Richard Kauchek, 32, of Beverly Hills. Kauchek is the son of Beverly Hills

Village Council President Thomas J. Kauchek and lives with his parents.

The Wayne County citizens grand jury indictments followed a year-long investigation by members of the Detroit Police vice squad and the Wayne County Organized Crime Task Force.

Police said members of North Woodward and Cass Corridor neighborhood associations assisted investigators.

All suspects arrested locally were released on personal bond. Preliminary examination is set for Tuesday in Detroit Records Court.

WDIV-TV hires Farmington Hills producer

In an attempt to improve its image as a locally oriented station, Post-Newsweek has promoted Farmington Hills resident William Pace to executive producer of programming at WDIV Channel 4.

Pace is a native Detroit. Since taking over the station, Post-Newsweek has been criticized for its lack of concern over local programming. Channel 4 has fallen to last place in the local news ratings. The controversy reached its height when local weathercaster Sonny Elliot left the station for Channel 2.

Pace has been producer of "PM Magazine."

In making the announcement, WDIV Program Manager Alan Frank lauded Pace's experience.

"He is a well-established manager with a great production sense and an extensive background with the latest technology, including mini-cams and computer editing."

"He is also a native Detroit, which means he is familiar with the tempo of the city and its people."

Pace also commented on the stations commitment to local programming. "Post-Newsweek's strong commitment to local programming is some-

thing I want to help realize. There is no doubt Detroit is experiencing a rebirth, and there is definitely a way local programming can be a part of these positive changes," said Pace.

Pace received his bachelor's degree in radio and TV communications from the University of Detroit in 1975.

Under his guidance, "PM Magazine" has received four Emmys including best locally produced entertainment program.

Before joining the station, he was at WXYZ where he was associate producer for "AM Detroit" with Dennis Wholey. He also was associate pro-

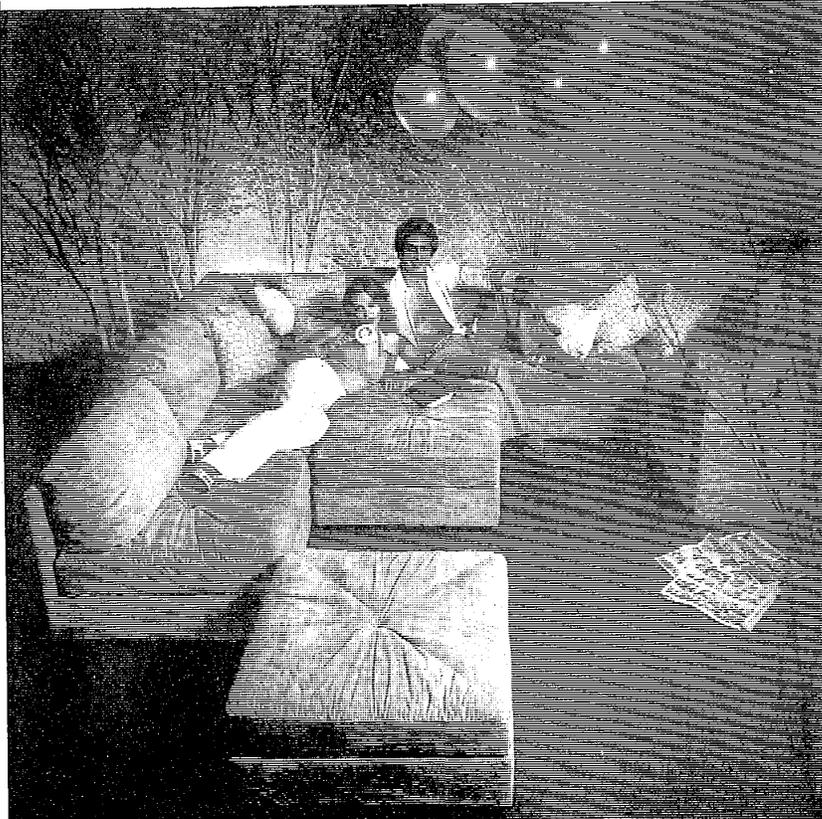
ducer for "Kelly and Company" as well as a producer/writer for documentaries and prime time specials.

From November 1974 to January 1977, he produced, wrote and directed educational television programs and documentaries for Bandanna Media, Inc.

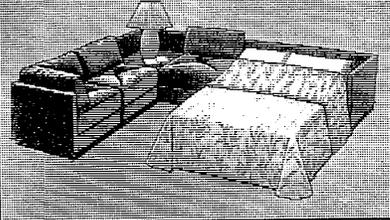
His last production, "Walkin' Too Slow," was selected for screening at the American Film Festival. It received awards from the International Film and TV Festival of New York and the Festival of the Americas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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