

Man arrested for April hold-up

A 35-year-old Detroit man has been charged with armed robbery and felonious assault in connection with the April 7 armed robbery of a Farmington gas station and a subsequent chase by a Farmington Hills police officer.

Detroit police arrested Derrick K. Walker at a Jartan truck rental firm in Dearborn Wednesday as he returned a truck he had rented.

Detroit police had received a tip that Walker would be returning the truck. "They (Detroit police) went there and sure enough, here he comes," explained Farmington Det. Charles Lee.

Detroit police turned Walker over to Farmington police so that he could be charged with the \$250 robbery of a Clark station.

Walker was arraigned Wednesday before 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand on charges of armed robbery, felonious assault and two counts of using a firearm in commission of a felony. Walker pleaded innocent and bond was set at \$25,000. He was unable to meet the bond.

The bandit in the April 7 robbery led police on a chase after the crime.

MINUTES AFTER the robbery was reported, Farmington Hills officer Bert

Cook spotted a red wrecker belonging to a gas station heading east on Grand River toward Eight Mile.

He attempted to force the driver to stop, but the truck went into a ditch, Cook said.

The driver got out, pointed a snub-nosed revolver at him from a distance of 15 feet and fled on foot, the officer said.

State police tracking dogs brought in to trace the scent lost the trail behind the Farmer Jack supermarket south of Eight Mile, west of Grand River, police said.

The wrecker truck was impounded by Farmington Police. A snub-nosed revolver was found in the snow by Farmington Hills investigators who believe it was the weapon used in the gas station robbery and pointed at officer Cook.

Walker was identified as a suspect but police were unable to arrest him because he had left the state, police said. Informants said he was in Tennessee.

Lee said that when Walker was arrested in Dearborn, he produced identification which indicated his name was Todd R. Hoffman. Police said the name is an alias and the identification phony.

She delivers TLC to students



Mary Ellen Alexander packs fresh fruit for a Campus Loving Care package that she will deliver to some lucky out-of-state Michigan State University student — courtesy of the folks back home.

By Marie McGee
staff writer

Mary Ellen Alexander admits she likes a challenge.

For her it's meant the "best of two worlds" on two fronts.

One involves a campus food delivery business she operates from her home and the other is being held up as an example of a successful businesswoman in a book with the title "The Best of Both Worlds."

Somewhere in between, Alexander, a Farmington resident, holds down a full-time job with the Livonia Public Schools. Most of the time she is a counselor, but this year she got an additional assignment that calls for teaching a cooking class to eighth-graders at Frost Middle School.

"That's challenging," smiled Alexander, who is a 17-veteran of the school system.

BUT NOT NEARLY as challenging as the campus food delivery business she initiated five years ago at Michigan State University that brought her a lengthy mention in a book by Joan Wester Anderson that suggests home-based careers as an option for women who do not want to work outside the home.

Ironically, Anderson is customer of Alexander's. They met when Anderson's son was attending MSU and she ordered one of Alexander's "care" packages for him.

Alexander started the business out of a need her eldest son experienced when he left home to attend college in Colorado.

Alexander said she received a flyer from the Mom's Club on his campus which provided food packages for

"lonely, starving" students. "We ordered one for him. Not only was it less expensive than mailing the items ourselves, but when our son told us how much he'd enjoyed the package and how many other students were receiving them, I decided to try the same thing at Michigan State University, my alma mater," where her sister and daughter were students.

HER SISTER, Joha, a Durand, plays an important role in the operation. She's in charge of the "special deliveries" — birthday cakes that are personally delivered on the "big day."

Alexander once had run a neighborhood food co-op in the Farmington apartment complex in which her husband and two sons, Kevin, 19, and Craig, 17, live so she knew what suppliers to use and how to figure prices accurately to earn a profit.

She got the list of prospective customers by poring over the student directory "with a magnifying glass for all the out-of-state students." She then spent days addressing envelopes and mailing flyers to the parents.

The service, which Alexander called Campus Tender Loving Care, offers chocolate or white birthday cakes to be delivered on the birthday, fruit packages (fresh and in season), exam and snack packs and also include cider and doughnuts in the fall.

With the exception of the birthday cakes, all deliveries are made once a month — usually the last weekend of the month.

Financially, she said there hasn't been a lot of profit "but it's been fun, challenging and a great tax deduction."

Tenant above beauty store held for B&E

A tenant above Howard's Beauty Supply store in downtown Farmington has been charged with breaking into the business after it closed for the evening on July 15.

Richard Beamish, 29, of Farmington was arraigned Wednesday on one count of breaking and entering of a business with intent to commit larceny before Judge Michael Hand. The felony charge carries a maximum penalty on 10 years in jail upon conviction.

Beamish attempted to plead guilty at the arraignment but Hand advised him he couldn't accept such a plea at a district court arraignment. Hand said he would take the plea under advisement until the defendant has a chance to con-

sult with an attorney.

Beamish was released on \$2,500 personal bond.

A total of \$272.99 in goods and cash was reported stolen, including 40 gold chains valued at an estimated \$120; a Clairol hairsette; \$95 in bills and change and a cash box worth \$10.

Farmington Det. Charles Lee says entry to the store was made through a 35-by-14-inch section of glass removed and replaced from the store's front window.

Fingerprints were taken from the plate glass and inside the store. Police say Beamish had performed odd jobs for store owner Howard Silverman in the past.

Oakway celebrates 10th anniversary

Celebrating its 10th anniversary as a community orchestra, Oakway Symphony presents as the second concert of the 82-83 season, cellist, Samuel Mayes and the Symphony, at 3 p.m. Oct. 17, Sunday in Harrison High School (12 Mile West of Middlebelt).

Formerly principal cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Boston Symphony, Mayes has appeared with district conductors as Tchaikovsky, Stokowski, Walter, Ormandy and Mehta. He last appeared with the Oakway Orchestra in 1979 performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto.

Conductor and Musical Director

Francesco Di Biasi will lead the Orchestra in a varied program including: Mayes playing The Schumann Concerto for Cello and the Symphony performing selections from Mozart, A Little Night Music, Barber's Intermezzo from Vanessa; Wagner's Prelude to the III Act of Lohengrin and selections from Lowe's Camelot.

Single tickets are \$6 and \$3 for senior citizens and students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at Madonna College, Hammill Music, Botaford Inn, Southfield Cultural Arts Division or by calling Oakway's office at 478-6544.

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
For the year ending 1981

1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION: PARCHMENT OBSERVER

2. ISSUE DATES: 1981-1982

3. NUMBER OF ISSUES: 104

4. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$18.00

5. SINGLE COPIES: \$0.15

6. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE PUBLISHER: 38351 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150

7. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE EDITOR: 38351 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150

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