

Crime victims suffer again in justice system

First of three parts.
By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Sarah Ann was a victim of casual burglary.

"Sarah Ann Bailey, an 87-year-old woman, was robbed 10 times in a year. During the last burglary, the assailants set fire to her home.

"Police found her sitting in the middle of her burned-out home, her body folded in a prenatal position. She was rocking herself on the floor.

"I asked her, 'Is there something I can do to help?' She said nothing. I crawled across the floor on my hands and knees. I said, 'Please help me to help you.'

"Sarah Ann Bailey looked at me and said, 'Yes you can help me. You can kill me because I can't live in this world full of pain and suffering any more.'

THE RIGHTS OF crime victims have been largely ignored by legislators, the criminal justice system and people, said Marlene A. Young, executive director of the National Association for Victim Assistance in Washington, D.C.

Even though 35 out of every 1,000 Americans are victims of violent crime, many states fail to provide adequate protection and compensation for victims either through legislation or service, she said.

Young spoke at a recent conference on "Victims and Inmates Rights" at Mercy College, Detroit. The program — which drew 40 attorneys, parents of crime victims and students — was

sponsored by the American Jewish Committee in Detroit.

"I believe that victims in this country have no rights yet," said Young, a crime victim who helped found the national organization 10 years ago.

"CRIME VICTIMS SUFFER physical, financial and emotional injuries," she said. Not only are they victimized by their assailants, they're also victimized by the criminal justice system.

"They face injustices such as post-arrestments and court delays. They may not receive information about case status and may never know when a case comes to trial."

Although the crime problem is pervasive, legislators are only just beginning to address the rights of victims, Young said.

Some states have drafted a "Bill of Rights" for crime victims. Others provide some money for victims services.

In addition, Congress last year passed the Omnibus Victim Witness Protection Act, which guarantees fair standards for victims throughout the federal justice system.

But these are small steps on the road to addressing a big problem, Young said.

Crime victims are still denied these basic rights in most states:

- Protection against harassment and intimidation. Fewer than 10 states (Michigan is not one of them) provide this protection through legislation. Even in states such as Wisconsin, which has a "Bill of Rights" for victims, the laws are not always enforced.

- Courts may issue restraining orders, which are intended to prevent the accused from harassing a victim. But in many cases, they are not enforced.

- Compensation and restitution. Compensation is available only in 37 states. In Michigan, the State Victims Crime Compensation Board could be eliminated as a result of Gov. James Blanchard's proposed budget cuts.

That decision is being reconsidered by Phillip Jourdan, director of management and budget, according to Mike Pullwood, the board's claims administrator. Prosecutors and residents across the state sent letters to Blanchard protesting the cuts, he said.

The board, with a 1982-83 budget of \$2.2 million, gave money to nearly 900 victims last year. It pays medical expenses not covered by health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare and wages lost on the job for up to two weeks.

Restitution applies to only 3 percent of all crime victims in the country, Young said. Most criminals are not arrested or convicted on the charges. In California, a new compensation method has brought in \$107 million for the state, Young said.

The method requires criminals to pay \$50 upon conviction. In Michigan, however, restitution won't produce much money because most criminals can't afford to pay, Fullwood said.

- Information about a case. Less than 20 percent of all legal jurisdictions in the country notify victims about the progress of a case.

In a few Michigan counties, such as Kalamazoo, victim's advocates are hired by the prosecuting attorney's office to give a step-by-step account of major cases. Victim/witness notification services, however, are provided in Wayne, Washtenaw, Ingham and Kent

counties as well as Kalamazoo.

- Right to counsel. Less than 5 percent of all jurisdictions urge the victim to participate actively in the criminal justice process from the time charges are pressed to sentencing. Attorneys fail to ask victims if they agree with the charges, the plea bargain or the final determination.

Victims are not vindictive, Young said. They simply want to know about their case. But when they are continually denied that right, they may take extreme measures.

For example, a group called Parents of Murdered Children, comprised of 26 New York couples, became angry when the prosecutor refused to try 25 of the cases because he said there wasn't sufficient evidence.

In the 26th case, the parents took their story to the newspapers. The media "managed to force the prosecutor to prosecute," and the accused was convicted of second-degree murder, Young said.

- Property and employment. In many jurisdictions, property isn't returned until after the trial or appeal.

New Faces Wanted

BE A MODEL
DO T.V.
COMMERCIALS
TRAVEL!
BE A NEW YOU!

You could earn
\$35-\$150 per hour
as a professional

Train where top American
Canadian • European Models train

Auston's
Professional Modeling & Finishing Schools, Inc.
2079 15 Mile • Sterling Heights, MI 48077

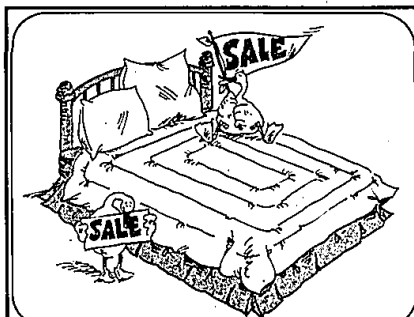
NAME _____ Age _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Men • Women • Children
Auston's wants you!

State Licensed 968-6340 On-the-Job Training 581-2515
Bonded 978-0585
Southfield • Troy-Sterling Heights Grand Opening! Dearborn

Train to Qualify for Agency Representation and Modeling
Assignment Consideration in: DET. • NY • PARIS • TORONTO

New York Cover Girl
Angie Glibb
An Auston Grad.



The Economical Solution

What do you do if your
pocketbook doesn't share
your same enthusiasm for the
comforter concept?

Spring for our
Featherdown Comforter.
Our beautiful compromise
is filled with a popular
European blend of 60% duck

down/40% duck feather, and
covered in domestic cotton
tickling. You get the feeling of
a luxurious comforter—
without paying top dollar.

SAVE 30%

Now through March 26
Conveniently located at
Hunter's Square Mall
Orchard Lake & 14 Mile Rds.
Farmington Hills
855-5720

**Scandia
Down Shops**

INDOOR
LARGE SELECTION OF SUNROOM FURNITURE
Aluminum
Rattan
Iron

ALL SALE PRICED AT THIS TIME

OUTDOOR
15% TO 40% OFF MOST PATIO SETS

- WOODWARD
- BROWN JORDAN
- HOMECREST
- MEADOWCRAFT

PICTURED:
♦ Samsonite
LIST \$740.00
SALE \$499.00

PATIO & FURNITURE CASUALS

35834 Van Dyke • Sterling Hgts.
Brentwood Plaza bet. 15-16 Mile Rds.
978-6500
Mon, Thurs. 10-6 Tues. Wed. Sat. 10-5 Sun. 12-5

CAMP IS A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN
ABOUT COMPUTERS!!



Walden's Computer Camp, the ideal one week
experience in overnight camping, combines intensive com-
puter instruction with an exciting recreational program.
In a beautiful natural setting, offering professional direc-
tion, individualized instruction, Logo and Basic computer
languages, graphics, animation and word processing. For
boys and girls 8-17, August 21-26, \$250.00.

Walden's 4 and 6 week sessions provide a complete
computer program along with accents on riding, sailing,
kayaking, water skiing, windsurfing, theater, tennis, horse-
back, gymnastics, line arts & crafts, wilderness camping,
and canoeing.

walden
Camp for boys and girls
Ontonagon, Michigan
6422 Powderhorn Dr. • West Bloomfield, MI 48033
Phone: (313) 831-3576

SWING INTO SPRING AT OUR GRAND OPENING SALE

10% OFF ENTIRE LINE
Now through March 31

Free Color Catalog
25 year guarantee
on all pressure
treated wood parts

Delivery and Installation Available
thewoodenswingco
4336 No. Woodward Ave., Dept. E, Royal Oak, MI 48072
(313) 549-2828
America's largest seller of Swing Design products

Fine Furniture Since 1917

Visit Our Pennsylvania House Gallery

SOLID PENNSYLVANIA CHERRY

by *Craftsman*
OF JAMESTOWN

Beauty, craftsmanship
and value to be enjoyed
for generations.



SALE

4-Pc. bedroom in 18th Century
American Traditional grace
\$999 regular \$1599 value

SPECIAL
Lingerie
Chest
\$199
Exquisitely
crafted of solid
Pennsylvania
cherry, 5-drawer
chest is 50" H.
Reg. \$249. While
quantities last!

For a limited time only, save substantially on the
incomparable richness of solid Pennsylvania
cherry: our 50" 8-drawer triple dresser,
pediment mirror with beveled glass, 5-drawer
chest-on-chest and full/queen high pediment
bed. Reg. \$265 matching night stand, now
\$189. Sale ends Saturday, April 2nd.

Now at

Stewart-Glenn

STEWART-GLENN CO.
"YOUR FULL SERVICE STORE"
has no extra charge for
• Careful Inspection & Set-Up
• Courteous Delivery Service
• Generous Storewide Parking

Stewart-Glenn
2600 N. WOODWARD, BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Just South of Square Lake Rd. 332-8348
Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9 p.m.

Ask our Interior Designers
to help you with your
decorating problems.
Use our 4 Pay Plan
(no interest)
or use your VISA
or MasterCard

claire pearone

2771 Somerset Mall • Troy • Mi. 48064 • 313 643-0770