

Plea made for capital punishment

By Judy Marinelli-Hayek
Special writer

Children as young as 14-years-old should be, in certain cases, prosecuted as adults, according to Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooke Patterson.

That's what Patterson told students at Farmington High School during a recent visit.

"I feel that they ought to reduce the age of the juvenile from its present level down to 14, in recognition of the fact that there is much more violent crime committed by juveniles," Patterson told the students.

At present, courts consider 17 as the demarcation line for adulthood. Juveniles who are 15 and 16 can be tried as an adult in circuit court with the permission of the courts, according to Patterson.

Patterson noted that other states have lowered the discretionary age to 14.

"JUVENILES SHOULD have some

form of punishment, like time in juvenile home, or community service, as retribution," he said.

Patterson was speaking at Farmington High while stopping for reinstatement of capital punishment in Michigan, a goal he has been seeking for a number of years.

He urged those who are 18 to become active in the movement by circulating petitions to get the question placed on the ballot. Anyone who is 18 in 1988 will be able to vote on the capital punishment question.

"Capital punishment does deter crime," he told the students. "If a few people are stopped because of the threat of capital punishment, then it has to be a gain."

To support his beliefs that capital punishment is deterrent, Patterson referred to studies by Isaac Ehrlich, a professor at the University of Chicago. He attempted to show mathematically that capital punishment acts as a deterrent.



Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooke Patterson shakes hands with Farmington High Student Council President Dwayne Krafft during a recent visit to the school.

Ehrlich claimed the study's results showed that for every execution in America, eight persons were saved from being murder victims.

Math competition sought at school

Detroit Country Day School has invited 58 public and private schools in the area to send teams of two seventh- and two eighth-grade students to its Junior High School Mathematics Competition Saturday, Feb. 2.

Designed to promote interest in competitive mathematics and to provide bright students with an opportunity to get together and have fun with mathematics, the event is being hosted by Country Day for the ninth consecutive year.

The day will include three contests: a 45-minute multiple-choice test of the individual student's mathematical ingenuity; the Rapid Rabbit Relay, a

team event in which answers are passed from one student to the next; and the Calculator Rally, which demands quick and accurate team work.

"The Calculator Rally is always a favorite. It is based on a road rally theme and actually requires more creativity and inventiveness than skill with a calculator," said Judy Leybourn, Country Day math chairwoman and director of

the annual mathematics competition.

Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place winners in each grade in the individual contest and to the top school team in the Calculator Rally and the Rapid Rabbit Relay. An engraved traveling trophy will be presented to the school with the highest combined team score from all three contests. The winner of last year's competition was Novi Middle School South.

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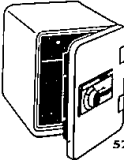
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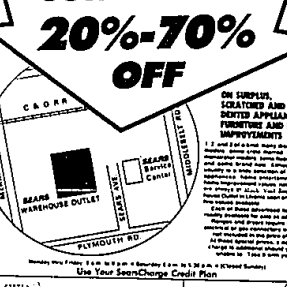
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