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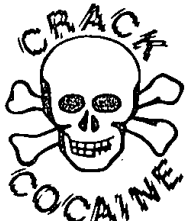
Farmington, Michigan

106 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Crack: a new look to an old nemesis

Cocaine up close



Make no mistake about it. "Cocaine is in a class by itself. The demographic barriers we once thought were there are not."

So says Dr. Morris Fineman, who heads the chemical dependency unit at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

"All of us," he says, "have a responsibility to teach — the schools, medical community, parents. The whole thing is educating the public — it's just not going to go away."

Crack, or freebase, is a nearly pure derivative of cocaine. It's cheap, smokable, very potent and highly addictive. Ninety percent of cocaine sold in Detroit is believed to be crack.

Sold in small rock-like pieces, crack is readily available on the street for \$10 to \$30.

ABOUT 24 MILLION Americans have tried cocaine — from Wall Street professionals to ghetto dwellers. Up to 10 million use it daily. One of every six teenagers will try it. Nationwide, there are four million regular users.

A parent often doesn't discover addiction in children until they crash from a euphoric high — or until they're arrested for stealing.

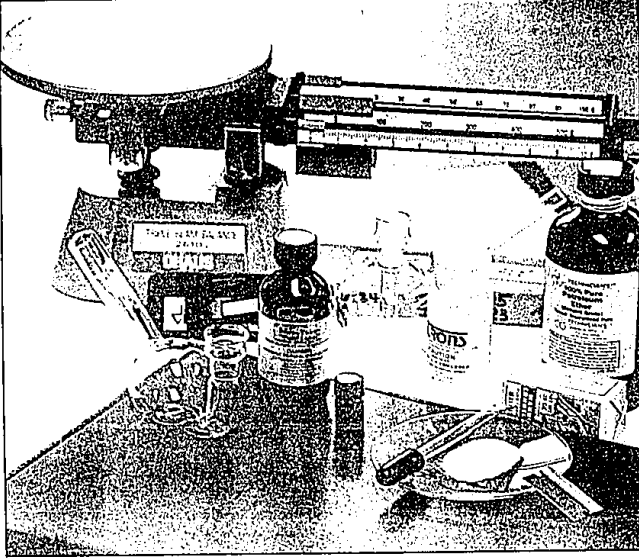
or even murder, in search of the cash needed to land that next fix. Such uncertainty has helped make drug abuse a major national concern.

Without treatment, pain caused by crack addiction can be intense. Last year, 9,900 cocaine users were treated in emergency rooms across the nation. The death rate from cocaine in metro Detroit jumped from five to 41 between 1982 and 1985.

The Observer has spent part of the last month trying to determine to what extent cocaine, particularly crack, has invaded lives in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The accompanying story on Page 1A details how police and health counselors perceive the problem. For a look at the medical effects of addiction, see Page 3A. A recovering addict is interviewed on Page 1B.

— Bob Sklar, editor



Shown are a sampling of the tools of the trade for a cocaine addict.

RICK SMITH/staff photographer

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Crack. Until little more than a year ago, crack — used to describe a crystallized, purer and more lethal form of cocaine — was unheard of. The word may be new. The drug isn't.

"It's simply a new way of packaging a product that has been on the market a very long time. Prior to crack, people liked to freebase it. People just do their own distilling," said Lt. George Gibbard, in charge of the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET).

The latest popular version of cocaine abuse is wreaking havoc in the country's major cities. Police raids and arrests are on the increase in urban centers. Unfortunately, so are the number of deaths that can be linked directly to the use of crack.

With the debut of crack, a new dimension has been added to the difficulties of curbing the use and sale of a drug not only considered highly pleasurable and profitable, but also easy to conceal.

Though the spotlight has focused heavily on the country's urban centers, including Detroit, law enforcement officials are preparing for the spread of the cocaine and

W. Dwyer
police chief

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 32202 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

A TEAM effort. Farmington Hills Police Department's Special Patrol Operational Team has received a departmental unit citation for its undercover work in last year's Oriental health spa investigation.

The investigation led to the arrest of 16 Oriental women and one man on soliciting-related charges.

Honored were Chief William Dwyer, Deputy Chief Mrl Spencer, Lt. Martin Bledsoe, Sgt. Albert Jawner and officers Robert Burkart, Charles Hubbard, William Michalek and Alan Soderlund.

CONCERNED about aesthetics. Farmington school officials will increase maintenance of landscaping around district buildings.

School trustee and Farmington planning commissioner James Abernethy told school board members and administrators that planning commissioners are becoming increasingly concerned about the look of landscaped properties.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Hills officials are considering beefing up the city's landscaping requirements for new business development.

Bonds would accelerate road work

Ballot wording

Shall the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County Michigan, borrow a sum not to exceed seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) and issue in one or more series its general obligation bonds therefore, for the purpose of defraying the cost of major road improvements in the City of Farmington Hills?

Road improvement plans detailed: Page 15. Related editorial comment: Page 17.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's easy to see. At rush hour, motorists assume battle stations, dodging each other and trying to make their way through bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Increasingly, Farmington Hills is becoming known for its nearly gridlocked intersections and overly congested roadways.

To improve the roads, Farmington Hills officials have developed a

three-year, \$14 million program that's designed to relieve some of the traffic problems motorists have become all too familiar with.

How the proposed improvements will be financed is a decision that is up to Farmington Hills voters.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, voters will go to the polls to consider financing the city's share of the road program with general obligation bonds. Voters can apply in person for absentee ballots Thursday and Friday and during specially scheduled hours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Ballots are due by 8 p.m. election day. In cases of emergency, voters can cast absentee ballots in the city

clerk's office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22.

Of the \$14 million program, Farmington Hills' share is approximately \$9 million. But 1 mill that the Farmington Hills City Council levied for roads July 1 is being used in conjunction with \$750,000 from the city's major road fund to finance \$2 million of the \$9 million city share this year.

IF VOTERS approve the bond obligation request, the city's remaining \$7 million worth of improvements would be financed over 10 years.

"I think it is very important to the quality of life in this community that

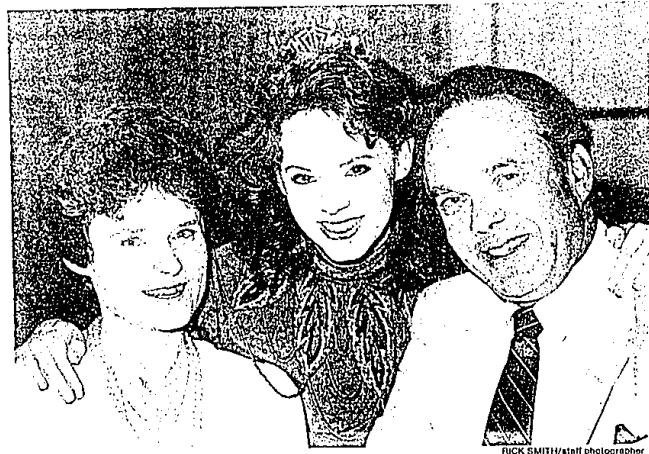
we move forward with this program," City Manager William Costick said.

"This is not a tax increase. We are asking voters for the right to incur debt. The intent is to pay for the principle and interest on the debt out of the mill we levy," Costick continued.

The Farmington Hills City Council this week expressed unanimous support for the proposed bond issue. The Farmington Board of Education has formally expressed the same support, citing the need for improved roads in the community.

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Looking back Pageant called 'incredible opportunity'



Miss Michigan Kelly Lynn Garver (center), with her mother, Arlene, and father, Gerald.

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Kelly Lynn Garver was given a one-day vacation following her appearance in the 1987 Miss America Scholarship Pageant.

Tuesday, the 23-year-old North Farmington High graduate, daughter of Arlene and Gerald Garver of Farmington Hills, picked up her schedule to continue her rounds as Miss Michigan, but said it was hard to come down from the high she experienced during her two weeks in Atlantic City, home of the pageant.

"I've got so much in my life now I couldn't sleep. I was up half the night writing letters, writing thank-you notes to all of the people who supported me, trying to write down how I felt," she said, speaking Monday from Muskegon, home away from home while wearing the Miss Michigan crown.

Summarizing her reaction to being chosen third runner-up to Miss America — Miss Tennessee, Kelly Cash, 21 — Garver said: "While I was up on that stage as one of the top 10, I was half afraid they would call my name and half afraid they wouldn't. I felt a bit of disappointment being named third, then an im-

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