

Views mixed on mandatory drug tests

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer opposes mandatory drug testing by urinalysis, of people arrested for alleged felonies.

But Oakland County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Richard Thompson said such testing could be beneficial if test results are used throughout the criminal justice system, from arraignment to sentencing.

Defense attorney Mitchell Riblter, of Birmingham, who often handles cases in 47th District Court in Farmington, sees no benefit to such testing.

"Drug addition or alcohol addition is no defense for a serious crime. So I see no correlation between mandatory drug testing and felony arrests," said Dwyer, who once headed the Detroit Police Department's narcotics section.

Dwyer acknowledged that many felons are committed by drug addicts in search of money for their next fix.

But, he said, drug testing should be

"Drug addition or alcohol addition is no defense for a serious crime. So I see no correlation between mandatory drug testing and felony arrests."

— William Dwyer,
Hills police chief

ordered by the court as part of a presentencing report, not by the police agency making the initial arrest.

"It shouldn't be our responsibility," Dwyer said.

If a urinalysis is used just to

determine drug usage, it's a waste of time, Thompson said.

"But if it's used in determining bond and in other decisions that go into the process of a person being tried, yes, it's worthwhile," he said.

"I see nothing illegal about it. But if the courts don't use the information, it's a lot of extra work for nothing."

The subject of mandatory drug testing came up at a national conference on career criminals held in Washington, D.C. Studies found that drug users were twice as likely to be arrested again before trial and were 50 percent more likely to jump bond.

In opposing mandatory drug testing by police, Dwyer said people arrested for felonies are interrogated and asked if they use drugs or are addicted to drugs.

"There is an interrogation form filled out and made part of the case file, which is sent to the court," he said.

SUSPECTS ARE typically willing to tell all. "In most cases, it has been my experience that if a person commits a felony and has been using drugs, he'll normally be willing to state to the investigating officer that he's a user of drugs," Dwyer said.

"That information obviously is available at arraignment. And that's also a question the judge could ask at

If it (mandatory drug testing) is used in determining bond and in other decisions that go into the process of a person being tried, yes, it's worthwhile."

— Richard Thompson,
chief assistant prosecutor

arraignment. I do agree that many felony crimes are committed by addicts out on bond for a previous arrest. That should be an issue for a magistrate to review."

Very few addicts deny their addiction. "Normally, they'll use it as a defense for the crime committed," Dwyer said.

Dwyer, however, said he believes

in mandatory drug testing as a condition of employment in law enforcement, the federal government and corporations handling sensitive information.

EXPERIENCE AND studies show that a vast majority of crime is committed because of drugs. "People dependent on drugs often have to commit breakings and enterings or armed robberies, or sell stolen property, to support their habit," Thompson said.

As a result, there's a good chance a suspect known to use drugs would resume criminal activity if released. "This certainly should be a factor and should be put into the formula when judges are deciding what bond to set," Thompson said.

Thompson also foresees law enforcement officials using a suspect's drug-use history in "making decisions about charging and about how tough to be on the defendant."

Riblter, the defense attorney, called mandatory drug testing by police "bad."

"I don't like it. Even though you may be arrested, there's the presumption of innocence. What such testing does is find you guilty before there's a chance for a due process hearing. There's also a question of constitutional rights. The testing smacks of a police state."

Besides, he said, almost every presentencing report addresses drug or alcohol abuse anyway.

MARGARET SCHIAFFELI, chief judge of the 47th District Court in Farmington, said she preferred not to comment.

"I have some reservations about commenting on something like this because a case might come up where I'd have to consider such testing."

"And if I did, and had earlier commented on it in the newspaper, I'd have to disqualify myself," she said.

Calling changes in works

Michigan Bell customers in the Farmington area during the week will see some changes in the way local and long distance operator-assisted calls are handled.

Michigan Bell Aug. 25 began providing local and some long distance operator services using its own employees, said Mary Jo Fikarek, Michigan Bell's local corporate affairs manager. These operator services were provided under contract by AT&T for Michigan Bell since the breakup of the Bell System in 1984.

During the next several months, about 700 long distance operators who transferred from Michigan Bell to AT&T will return to operator offices throughout the state.

Fikarek said the Michigan Bell operators will handle calls such as collect, bill-to-third-number, person-to-person and requests for assistance within the LATA (local calling areas similar to area codes).

"Customers won't notice any difference when placing direct-dialed calls," Fikarek said. "But callers di-

aling '9' will reach a Michigan Bell operator who will only be able to provide assistance on calls within the customer's local calling area."

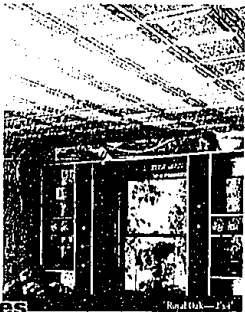
Customers who need operator assistance from a long distance company must dial "00" or contact the long distance company for instructions on how to place operator-assisted calls, she said.

Fikarek said the 553 and 661 Farmington exchanges will be affected.

Armstrong Ceilings

Q. How much will a new ceiling cost?

A. That depends on the features and benefits of the ceiling you choose. A washable ceiling is low-cost; a washable, acoustical is more; washable, acoustical, fire-retardant is more than that. Ceiling prices, when compared with other major interior remodeling products, are inexpensive. Depending on the features you want, your new ceiling should cost somewhere between \$50 and \$200 for an entire 10' x 12' room.



M.A. SMITH Lumber & Supplies

28575 GRAND RIVER (near 8 Mile)

HOURS: Monday-Friday 7:30-5:30, Saturday 8:00-4:30

474-6610 or 535-8440

Local news you can use Local news you can use

THE COAT FOR ALL SEASONS



Jacobson's presents Aquascutum of London. Prestigious rainwear, impeccably tailored and exclusively processed for maximum rain

resistance. A collection of styles encompassing

British classicism and current fashion.

Single or double breasted. Tan, taupe, grey, brown. \$360-\$510.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

Last chance to fertilize—and save!



Save up to \$3.00 on Winter Green®.

Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn. So hurry in today for big rebate savings on Greenview's famous Winter Green fertilizer.

Don't let your lawn go to bed hungry!

Winter Green 10,000 sq. ft.	
\$18.95	Reg. Price
- 3.00	Less Mfr. Rebate
\$15.95	Your Price



Greenview Guaranteed to keep your piece of America beautiful!

COUNTRY GARDEN SHOPPE

30720 Orchard Lake • Just S. of 14 Mile
Next to K-Mart • Farmington Hills
855-0464

86 Reasons For Studying At The Institute Of Music & Dance...

1. OUR CONVENIENT LOCATION—13 Mile at Evergreen
2. OUR DIVERSE STUDENT BODY—Over 1800 students from ages 3 to 80
3. OUR COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM—Private and group instruction in dance and music
4. OUR ACCREDITATION—The National Association of Schools of Music
- 5-86. OUR FACULTY—81 prominent artists-teachers. They are among the area's most sought after musicians and dancers. With degrees from places like Juilliard, Eastman, Indiana and Michigan, their credentials are impeccable.

Institute Of Music & Dance

Thirteen Mile at Evergreen
831-2870

Registration premiums available through October 15.

YOU CAN HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

8 Pack 1/2 Liters \$2.29

2 Liter Bottle 11" Good 9/25-10/7

KINGSBORO PHARMACY
ORTHOPEDIC SUPPLIES
25839 Five Mile
Just West of Beech Daly
Redford 855-8460

Prescribe a little good cheer.

Send the **FTD® PERFECT PRESCRIPTION BOUQUET** from \$20.00

SPECIAL OFFER
The colorful 13" Famous San Diego Chicken Doll only \$7.95 with a Perfect Prescription Bouquet. Purchased separately \$10.00.

Harry Miller FLOWERS

IN ARBOR 3100 W. 14 Mile 891-1332 FARMINGTON HILLS 2700 Orchard Lake Rd. 855-4444