

'8 of 10 crimes stem from drugs' — FBI

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

"We're losing a generation of young people to crack and cocaine." "Eighty percent of crimes committed are narcotics related."

That's the assessment of Kenneth Walton, agent in charge of the FBI bureau in Detroit. Walton was among panel members who spoke Jan. 29 on the Southfield Chamber of Commerce cable television show, "Mostly Business," hosted by chamber president Philip Meagher.

The program is the latest in the chamber's efforts to address crime. And narcotics are the biggest social and criminal problem in the nation, Walton said.

Law enforcement agencies can't stop handgun murders without eliminating drug trafficking, he added.

"Drugs aren't a white crime, a black crime, a street crime or a single bar crime," Walton said. "Nobody knows how many corporate types shot up last year or sniffed coke."

"BUT IF YOU could take a magic wand and get rid of all the drugs in Detroit, you'd see a dramatic drop in murders, holdups and burglaries. Handguns are the tools of the narcotics trade."

Robert Guerlain, vice president of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, said crime is the major business climate issue in Southeast Michigan. The Detroit chamber, he said, is charged with trying to gather resources to address the problem.

"There's a sense of outrage in the business community and no hesita-

cy in prosecuting criminals," Guerlain said. "The private sector is willing to throw in any resources necessary to help solve the problem."

"The cost of security is high and it's tough getting and keeping employees and attracting customers in a high crime area. How do you convince a Japanese robotics company to locate in Detroit when you have a real image problem? The Japanese send film crews to Detroit on devil night to photograph the fires."

THE PERCEPTION of crime is more important than the reality and people operate on perception, Walton said. That's why the media should be sensitive to crime reporting, he said.

Law enforcement officers also have a responsibility to properly inform the media, he added. If officers

are unavailable, the press keeps digging and the results can hamper investigations, he said.

On the college front, said Joe Macari, director of public safety for Oakland County Community College campuses, the perception of safety is essential to students and faculty of the schools, which represent a multi-million-dollar investment.

"The perception motivates us and keeps us in business," he said. "We're not naive enough to believe there are no drugs in the college. But we don't have a fallout of the drug problem."

ACCORDING TO Walton, the rise in crime in Detroit and its suburbs can be traced to the availability of crack in the inner city. There are 15,000 crack houses and distribution points in Detroit where a hit of the

processed cocaine can be bought for \$12-\$17, Walton said.

Crack is more insidious and immediately addictive than coke, he said.

Narcotics aren't the products of organized crime but a lucrative business for hundreds of thousands of individual entrepreneurs, Walton said. And Detroit has some of the "oldest junkies in the country," he said.

About the impact of drug testing in the workplace, Guerlain said the chamber advocates an aggressive, well thought out process, not random drug testing.

Substance abuse in the workplace should be addressed for cause only with a program of rehabilitation and therapy, Guerlain said.

Walton takes a tougher stance.

"IF 18-YEAR-OLDS don't want to

be unemployed gas pumpers and ditch diggers, they'd better be subjected to drug tests," Walton said. "Maybe that would help them stay straight."

Walton predicts across-the-board drug testing in businesses.

Local authorities lack the state-of-the-art capabilities of the FBI to flush out drug dealers, Walton said. The federal agency provides its resources to local police in return for future cooperation, he said.

"If a man points a gun at you, he may be a narcotics addict who's errant and high and he may shoot," Walton said. "On the flip side, if he's coming down off narcotics and he's stealing to get done, he may shoot. Narcotics make crime more dangerous and violent."

He helps spread word about fire safety

Continued from Page 1

Farmington Hills Fire Department as a part-time firefighter nine years ago, has big ideas for continuing fire education.

A FULL-TIME firefighter for the last four years, Garr spends much of his day developing fire safety programs and conducting them, primarily in the schools.

With the help of part-time firefighters, Garr conducts 200 programs and 20-25 school assemblies a year. Firefighter Mike's assembly

programs are geared for youngsters in kindergarten through fifth grade in the Farmington Public Schools and parochial schools in the area. The smaller programs also are generally in schools, such as Pathways to Learning in the Christ Community Church on 10 Mile.

Simple explanations — the difference between good and bad fires, demonstrations of clothing and equipment — all go a long way in ensuring that fire safety becomes instinctive, Garr said.

"I want them to give me the answers," he said, adding that with

constant reinforcement, young children automatically know what to do in case of fire. And they often go home and do exactly what Garr hopes — educate the parents.

Though his career didn't begin in education, Garr spends his days educating children, adults and even other firefighters.

AS A student at Wayne State University majoring in philosophy, Garr's early career choices didn't include firefighting. Originally, he wanted to become a lawyer.

When he graduated, he was made

the manager of the college bookstore he had worked in as a part-time clerk. "I had planned to get married that summer so I put law on the back burner."

After several years of marriage, Garr and his wife, Susan, moved to Farmington Hills and both continued to commute to Detroit for work.

Once settled in a new community, Garr decided he wanted to get involved. Since he didn't have children yet, school activities and parent-teacher organizations were out of the question. He stopped by the city council, but decided that wasn't for

him either. Then one day he noticed that the fire department was beginning its annual firefighter recruitment program.

"I knew nothing about fire service at all," Garr said. But a year later, his application was accepted and he began training.

While a part-time firefighter he was asked to begin thinking about specializing in a certain area of interest. Public education was one of the suggestions offered to him. And he grabbed it.

IN THE early days, though, the fire education side of the budding fire department "was an uncharted area. We didn't go out in the community to do these things. We waited until we were contacted."

Garr found it difficult to find enough time to plan and conduct fire safety programs. But he did what he could. Now, as a full-time firefighter, he develops programs and conducts them as part of his regular job.

"Two days a week, I have a specific assignment at Station 2. I answer calls during the day, do inspections and cleaning. It (job) is really more of a fire inspector. Of my 10-hour day, at least half of it is with inspections. But that's another public education activity. The inspectors educate people — with firefighters on site — while inspections are being done."

What Garr loves about his job — especially the fire education/prevention aspect — is that he is limited only by his imagination.

"I have free rein to create what

we can do out in the community," he said.

And he has pretty much taught himself how to do what he's doing. He admits he's learned through repetition. "The nature of the programs is beg, borrow and steal from others," he said.

HE KEEPS his eyes and ears open for ideas — new ways of getting across the important message. And he relies on the National Fire Academy, which provides an exchange of resources between firefighters from around the country, for even more ideas.

Garr's teaching skills, however, are not limited to the non-firefighter population. Once a week, he teaches other firefighters from seven to eight departments about fire prevention and acquainting them with what full-time firefighters do, what inspections are all about.

But he's even busier than that. In addition to being available for emergency calls, Garr also serves as president of the firefighters' union and is working on a fire science degree from the University of Cincinnati. He's also a new member of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission, which, as a history buff — specifically, U.S. Civil War — is right down his alley.

Admittedly, Garr says his time with his wife and two children is limited. So he makes the best of what time there is.

"Firefighting shouldn't be but a kind of selfish. But I couldn't do my job without my family being supportive."

Hills assault trial is continuing

Continued from Page 1

commission of a felony. Petitions were filed against his brother, a juvenile at the time of the shooting, in Oakland County Probate Court.

Conviction of firearms possession is punishable by a mandatory two-year prison term. Conviction of the assault charge carries a maximum term of life in prison.

The Dober trial began in January and has continued sporadically over the past few weeks. It is scheduled to resume this week at the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac.

FARMINGTON HILLS Police Officer Craig Summers testified that while at the high school questioning the youths, he received a phone call from the State Police Crime Lab in Northville, identifying the .32-caliber rifle taken from the Dober family home as the weapon used in the shooting.

According to earlier testimony,

the gun was given to the younger brother as a gift shortly before the shooting occurred.

The bullet studied at the lab, and matched to the gun, was removed from security guard Terrence Metzler, 25, of Detroit. Employed by a Southfield company, Metzler was assigned to the Put 'N Games miniature golf course on Grand River when he was shot and wounded at 9:10 p.m. Sept. 3, 1985. The bullet traveled through his hand and forearm before lodging in his abdomen.

Both young men were arrested because police investigations, including interviews with their father, showed they were together from 6:30 p.m. until the end of the evening on the day of the shooting. They had also visited the Put 'N Games that evening, according to testimony from both Summers and Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

"Both of their (the brothers') state-

ments were that they were together that evening," Summers testified.

The two detectives visited the high school after going to the Dober house that morning, interviewing Peter Dober — the boys' father — and leaving with three rifles. The father offered the guns willingly and said he had no problem with the detectives visiting the school, Nebus testified.

THE TWO detectives left the Dober house, dropped the rifles off at the State Police Lab and went to the high school to interview the Dober brothers, Nebus and Summers said during separate testimony.

"Mr. Dober indicated he had no objection to us taking the rifles ... he wanted to cooperate with us and

do whatever he could," Nebus said.

A physical and verbal fight involving Paul Dober, who is white, and a different black Put 'N Games security guard occurred two days before the shooting. The fight started when Dober made racial slurs toward the guard and returned later that night to fight, according to testimony.

Dober told police he went back to the arcade with his brother two days later — the night of the shooting — to report the guard involved in the fight the previous night. He told police he realized Metzler was not the same guard he fought with previously. Both brothers told police they did not shoot the guard and were at a friend's house at the time of the shooting, according to testimony.

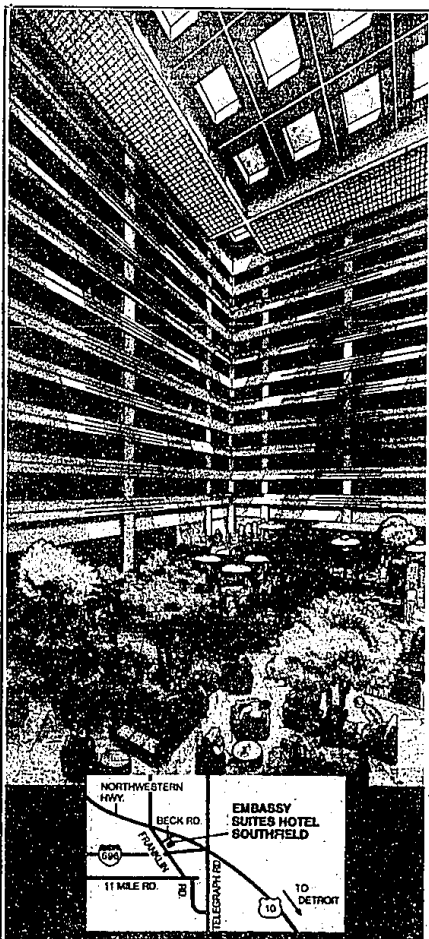
Two new ordinances are enacted in Hills

Farmington Hills City Council enacted two new ordinances last week.

One ordinance makes it unlawful to loiter at any commercial establishment. Misdemeanor tickets carry a civil fine of up to \$500. People who are ticketed but who fail to leave within a reasonable time face arrest and a criminal penalty of up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

The other ordinance places the

150-year-old Harger House, headed to a new location in a residential area along 12 Mile, in the city's historic district. The house, being moved stone by stone from its original location on Halsted, will be used for offices by new owners Lynn and Donald McCuskey. It will stand next to the historic Pettibone House, 35400 12 Mile, also now used for offices.



Once upon a time parties were held in the same old places. Now you're having them in the wide-open spaces.

That is, if you're having your party at the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Southfield. If not, you don't know what you're missing...like our magnificent atrium that brings all the beauty of the great outdoors right to your party's doorstep. Or our three deluxe banquet rooms and a grand ballroom designed to accommodate parties of up to 500, whether it's a small anniversary party, a grand wedding or a bar mitzvah. And our creative menu planning, which upon request includes our certified Angus beef, will carry your theme right through the after-dinner mint. But what you'll find most accommodating are our prices. So instead of having your party at the same old place, have it at the new Embassy Suites-Southfield. For reservations and information, call (313) 350-2000.

EMBASSY SUITES
HOTEL
SOUTHFIELD
28100 Franklin Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034
(313) 350-2000 or 1-800-EMBASSY

OPENING
LATE
FEBRUARY

LIVONIA True Value HARDWARE

CLEAN UP WITH THESE SAVINGS!

17-Piece H.P. Motor

\$69.99

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER

5.0 Amp Motor

\$149

BUY ANY HOOVER VACUUM RECEIVE A CARAT CLUC ZINCOKA FARRINGS FREE!

EUREKA UPRIGHT

\$69.95

Model 1429

EUREKA DELUXE UPRIGHT WITH HEADLIGHT

\$79.95

\$40 OFF

Model 1529

3533 FIVE MILE AT FARMINGTON RD.
422-1155
937-1611

PREPAYS IN FEBRUARY 87