

# Hills assigns officer to conspiracy unit

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And it has, not only for use but also for distributing. We're sure there are crack houses in Oakland County, including Farmington Hills."

Crack, he added, "is the most deadly drug I've seen in 26 years of law enforcement."

Dwyer doesn't slight the dents that law enforcement agencies have made into drug trafficking.

But, he says, "as long as you have the demand, you'll have the suppliers. For each dealer you put behind bars, there's a new person com-

ing up through an organization to take over."

What's needed, he says, is a three-pronged attack on crack and other drugs: enforcement, rehabilitation and education.

"We're lacking throughout the country in drug rehabilitation cen-

ters and in drug education programs," he said. "We're lacking in telling about what's really happening out there with narcotics today."

"Not one week goes by where I haven't talked to a parent who described a major problem with a child hooked on narcotics."

Dwyer promised that this year will be "a big year for the Farmington Hills Police Department in providing drug education, in making the public more aware about the narcotics problem."

Plans, he said, are in the works for a major community drug awareness push.

Hedrick said he gained experience in all those areas during 19 years of service with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

His credentials include work in the Detective Division and as commander of the undercover officers who make up the Special Patrol Operational Team (S/POT). He also worked on the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force.

# Subject by subject Curriculum reviewed at all grade levels

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options open to individual students. Requirements and options must be balanced carefully, she said.

In proposing his dream curriculum, Bennett said he feels free to give opinions on how students in 21,000 U.S. public and private high schools are educated, although he cannot enforce such a curriculum.

"This curriculum is for all stu-

dents, not for an imaginary class of teenage wizards," Bennett said at a news conference. "It is also, I believe, the kind of basic programs most Americans want for their schools."

"Our children should know about continental shift and quadratic equations, about Gothic architecture and the Gettysburg Address, about what a symphony is about and about who

Shakespeare was and what he wrote."

BENNETT PROPOSED the following ideal curriculum requirements:

- Four yearlong literature courses with regular writing assignments. Required courses would include literature introduction, American literature, British literature and world literature.

- Three years of social studies, including courses in Western civilization, American history and American democracy.
- Three years of science including courses in astronomy, geology, biology, chemistry and physics or principles of technology.
- Three years of math including courses in algebra, trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus and calculus in the first and second years.
- Two years of foreign language in the first and second years.
- One semester each of art history and music history, to be taken in the student's first year.

The Michigan State Police will oversee SEMCO. Unit members will include officers from other narcotics enforcement teams and police agencies as well as the FBI and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

"It'll involve any government agency that's needed to suppress a narcotics conspiracy. Working together, that's the key," Dwyer said.

A conspiracy is an agreement between two or more people "to commit a crime in concert," Hedrick said.

What he likes about developing conspiracy cases "is that investigators have a lot more leeway because mere knowledge of a crime being committed is enough to bring a person into a conspiracy. In other types of cases, that may not hold true."

When the federal grant ends, it's hoped SEMCO will have acquired sufficient forfeiture assets to be self-supporting. By law, SEMCO will acquire any properties, from homes to cars, that it proves a dealer used to dispense drugs illegally.

A three-year federal grant will pay 75 percent of the wages for each SEMCO member. In Hedrick's case, the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team will pay the other 25 percent, Dwyer said.

The grant stipulates that Hedrick must be replaced by a new hire. In early spring, Dwyer said he plans to promote the next person eligible to sergeant and hire a new police officer.

# Eyesight restored to diabetic

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fects the retina. The retina is a thin transparent lining in the back of the eye (similar to film in a camera) that light images pass through in order for the optic nerve "to see" objects. If the retina is damaged, blindness can result. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in people 20-75 years of age.

"Jim's case of diabetic retinopathy was so advanced that our initial laser treatments were unsuccessful," Wilcox hemorrhaged in his right eye, which led to legal blindness in that eye. He later hemorrhaged in his left eye as well.

"This was the worst time of the whole ordeal," he said. "I had no idea what the future would hold — whether I would ever see again. I'm a car buff and I couldn't drive. I couldn't draw. I had to live low because I was scared to death I'd cause my eye to hemorrhage. I had no will to live. My family pulled me through."

training in the spring and, shortly thereafter, went to work for a water sprinkler company. This fall he joined Lapeer Design in Redford Township as a draftsman. He now designs and drafts modifications for automotive dye presses.

"You can't knock the smile off my face these days," Wilcox said. "I count my blessings every day and thank God I have my eyesight back. I bought a camera last year and this Christmas I plan to take tons of pictures. I want to put images to memory because I never know how long I'll be able to see."

WILCOX was enrolled in an evening government-sponsored drafting class in Ferndale at the time his eyes "started to act a little funny." Like many diabetics who have diabetic retinopathy, he had no apparent symptoms prior to his eyes becoming blurry.

"I kept putting off going to an ophthalmologist because I had no insurance, money was tight and I had no reason to believe my eyesight was in danger. I was extremely aware of the possibility of diabetes affecting my kidneys, but I didn't know it could also lead to blindness," he said.

Wilcox eventually went to see an ophthalmologist when the blurriness started to affect his drafting and he had to drop out of night school. His ophthalmologist referred him to Dr. Mark Haimann, an ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal disorders through the Retina Consultants of Michigan, Southfield.

Haimann began treating Wilcox with laser treatments in his office to prevent the possibility of hemorrhaging.

"Unfortunately," Haimann said,

HAIMANN PERFORMED two separate vitrectomies on Wilcox.

"A vitrectomy," Haimann said, "is a delicate surgery performed in the hospital to remove blood which has hemorrhaged into the inner eye. Scar tissue also is removed, which relaxes any pulling on the retina."

Wilcox's eyesight began to slowly improve during the spring and summer of 1986.

"My attitude became more positive as well," he said. "I was able to help around the house and actually think about the possibility of working again. I called the drafting school, explained my situation and they allowed me to enroll in the class again even though you're only supposed to take it once. My eyesight continued to get better and this time I was able to make it through the whole course."

Wilcox completed his drafting

BECAUSE of his unemployment status, Wilcox's medical bills ran into the thousands of dollars, yet he's quick to respond that "there's no price you can put on the gift of eyesight."

"I'd rather be up to my neck in bills and have the ability to earn a living to pay them back than to have no bills and be blind."

For his one wish this holiday season, Wilcox says: "I want other diabetics and their loved ones to know about the effects diabetes can have on the eyes. It doesn't just affect your kidneys or circulation. And when it's in its most treatable stages in your eyes, it has no symptoms, so diabetics should have regular eye exams."

"I was lucky, I know that. But my friend and many others may not be. My holiday wishes are with them."

IN FARMINGTON Public Schools, high school students are required to take three years of English, two years of science, two years of math, 2 1/2 years of social studies and 1 1/2 years of physical education. Both foreign language and fine arts courses are offered but as electives.


A committee is studying Farmington's social studies curriculum at all grade levels this year, and is expected to recommend an increase in high school requirements, according to White. The recommendations will be in the "debate stage" this year. High school science requirements were increased two years ago, and are still being reviewed.

Bennett estimated only 15 percent of high school students are completing the equivalent of his suggested curriculum. Seven schools, none from Michigan, were profiled in the report as examples of such a curriculum.


White said most districts use federal and state reports, such as Bennett's, help to "generate dialogue and discourse."


"That's very healthy. We always need to ask where we stand with other schools in the nation."

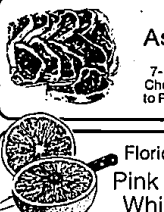
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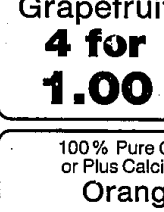
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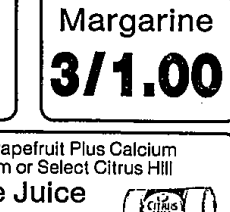
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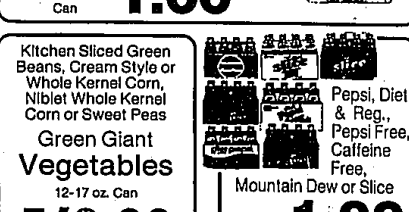
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