

# Tests clear rape suspect

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 appears he's going to be cleared as a suspect in our case too," he said.  
 Dwyer said his department's investigation is continuing "under the one perpetrator theory."  
 Officer Denomme and West Bloomfield Lt. Daniel Pitsoos agreed that Birmingham's tests left them without a suspect.  
 "The results of this work have left us in the situation where there are no specific suspects at this time," Denomme said.  
 Lt. Pitsoos agreed.  
**DOES HE BELIEVE** It is more than one person? "We've always gone along and thinking it was one person doing this. We were just guessing. We can't say for sure it was one or six or eight for that matter," Pitsoos said.  
 Thompson said police are "doing a tremendous job" investigating the sex attacks. Detectives from each of the four departments formed a task force, which met

Wednesday.  
 All the female victims — between the ages of 13 and the mid-40s — were attacked between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., Thompson said.  
 The method of operation also includes studying, stalking the victims. "We think he's been doing stalking on foot or at least he parks his car some distance away," Thompson said. They have all happened when the women were most "vulnerable, defenseless," Thompson said. "Several of the incidents involve an attack on a woman when she is getting out of her car either in her driveway or garage."  
 The rapist also make sure there are no men nearby. "When he is in the process of attacking the woman, raping the women, he asks if there are any men around," Thompson said. "He checks for men's clothes."  
**THE PROSECUTOR'S** office opened a Tip Line at 332-8383 this

week, where anyone with information on any of the eight incidents can call with information.  
 The information, if it leads to an arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible, will be worth \$2,500, a reward set up by the United Home Owner Associations of Bloomfield Township. The reward will be administered by the prosecutor's office.  
 The Oakland County Chamber of Commerce is also offering a \$1,000 reward under its "Silent Observer Reward" program. If information leads to an arrest and conviction, those with information should call their local police department, saying they want to talk under the silent observer program.  
 Dwyer said the Farmington Hills case is very difficult. "We do have physical evidence from the crime scene to compare when we have a suspect, but we have no witnesses who saw him enter or exit the house."

# Jury out in murder trial

By Casey Hana  
 staff writer  
 An Oakland County jury will continue deliberations today in the murder and arson trial of James Arnold Edwards of West Bloomfield.  
 Edwards, 56, is charged with killing his wife and setting fire to their Farmington Hills home in 1985.  
 Closing arguments were concluded Tuesday morning. The 11-man and one-woman jury began deliberations, breaking late in the afternoon without reaching a verdict. They were expected to "reconvene this morning."  
 The trial, entering its fifth week in the courtroom of Oakland County Circuit Judge Francis O'Brien, evidenced more than 20 prosecution witnesses, several defense witnesses, and nearly 100 exhibits, including photographs and other physical evidence.  
 A 14-member jury heard the trial; two alternate jurors were dismissed Tuesday before deliberations began. "Whether he intended to kill her or not will be your decision," assistant Oakland County prosecutor Joyce Todd told the jury during closing arguments. "The fire speaks for itself. The arson is clear. He set the fire to cover up the homicide. It's as simple as that."  
 The badly burned body of 50-year-old Mariene Edwards was discovered Oct. 14, 1985, in the family room of the Edwards' house on Rhonowood in the southwest sector of the city, according to prosecution testimony. Her husband, James Arnold Edwards, was charged in January 1986 with murdering her and setting fire to the house. He has remained free on \$5,000 cash bond since the fire and throughout the trial.

murder was dismissed during the trial.  
 If convicted of first degree murder, Edwards faces up to life in prison without parole, according to detective Darnel Krause, Farmington Hills police investigator in charge of the case. Conviction of the arson charge could bring a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.  
 Defense testimony painted a picture of a man concerned about his wife and two daughters, his wife dying of natural causes and an accidental, careless smoking fire that caused an estimated \$200,000 in structural and property damage.  
 Edwards took the stand in his own defense Monday.  
 "A man doesn't run around his neighborhood between five and six o'clock after committing murder and arson when people are coming home from work," said Southfield defense attorney Nicholas Smith in closing arguments. "His was the behavior of a man who got home and found his house on fire."  
 "He's never said, 'Hey, I've got something to hide.'"  
**PROSECUTORS CALLED** to the stand neighbors, who testified to seeing Edwards leaving the neighborhood shortly before 6 p.m. on the day of the fire, and returning several minutes later as the house was ablaze. Edwards testified he was out of the area running errands from 5

p.m. until he returned home one hour later.  
 "The clock kills him," Todd told jurors. "That's the fatal flaw in Mr. Edwards' testimony. Why do we find the defendant at the corner of Halsted at ten to six and back at the house at five minutes of six?"  
 Four forensic pathologists testified during the trial — one for the defense and three for the prosecution, and all had slightly differing viewpoints on the cause of death. The prosecution contends that Mariene Edwards died of a stab wound, found by two of the pathologists, and then the fire was set to cover up the death.



# Architect lauded for project

Architect Robert Wakely Jr. of Farmington Hills was among five Michigan architects to earn a design excellence award at the 13th annual M Awards Program banquet.  
 The Farmington-based Masonry Institute of Michigan and the Michigan Society of Architects co-sponsored the banquet Feb. 20 in Troy.  
 Wakely was honored for additions and renovations to the Grosse Pointe Fibers Municipal Building.  
 Masonry was the predominant vehicle for preserving the 1918 Albert Kahn Improvement project.


Because of six prior renovations, which had virtually removed all original interiors, the building probably would have been demolished had the exterior not been masonry. Intricate brick details of German bond and forceful arches were used on the addition to preserve the old with new. Defined roof details and clerestory "enhance the bold masonry, yet portray a welcome open feeling of space," according to the Masonry Institute of Michigan.  
**THE JUDGES**, a panel of prominent Chicago architects, said about Wakely's project: "A fine example of the celebration of masonry. The res-

toration, remodeling and addition is an outstanding example of blending old and new. . . . The new adds value to the old."  
 Charles Fromm Co. of Grosse Pointe was mason contractor. Suburban Brick Co. of Fraser supplied materials.  
 Winners were selected from 62 entries submitted by Michigan Society of Architects members.  
 Cast-bronze M Award plaques were presented to architects and to owners of winning buildings.  
 The Masonry Institute of Michigan is the educational, technical service and promotional arm of Michigan's masonry industry.

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**clarification**  
 In the Observer Feb. 18, a story about MetroVision of Oakland County cable rates should have said subscribers who have a three-pay package, including any three premium channels, plus who get a remote control device and the cable guide, will receive a \$2.70 discount.

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