Suburbs are no haven from serious crime

ENOUGH OF the war games.

The year 1987 ended in violence for many, including people from our area and others who live just a abort drive from our comfortable, suburban hub of Farmington.

How sad that death, injury and fear of crime have become a way of ille. They're an expected thing, Recont news reports show we have the highest per capita nurder rate in the country here in southeast Michigan.

In Detroit alone last year, nearly 700 people were killed, including children shaken to death, put limited the province of the press. Often, they merit only a small paracular in the province of the press. Often, they merit only a small paracular form the province of the press. Often, they merit only a small paracular form page washing mealines as punhamment, or simply shot in the name of drugs.



Help poor kids go to college. Break the

portant by the sheer volume of inci-dents and limited news space. Even in our own Observer, break-ins and acts that violate a person's privacy are sometimes relegated to several lines of news in our police column: Unfortunately, this some-

times makes it easy to forget the victims, as they quickly become statistics.

victims, as they quickly become statistics.

It seems like yesterday when reporters and photographers from both Detroit dallies and the Birmingham Eccentric visited our suburban house in the early 1960s. Tage interviewed my mother and took photos of her pointing to the bullet hole in our living room window.

Our family had become a victim of the "Birmingham salper," as be was known in the area. As an elementary student, I was scared, but quite impressed with all of the attention.

My older sister was saved by the angle of the bullet, police said, which was found between the glass and screen on our southeast Michigan community. He's right. "We" includes all the residents of Detroit, that clip's subscreen on our siding glass door. IT WAS big news then. I wonder how much news coverage our 1800s sniper would get today. Here we are, some a Sy years later, proclaiming goals and desires, hopes and dreams. One of mine is for peaceful existence for all, including those in neighboring communities like Detroit. Farmington Hills city councilman and former mayor Ben Marks told the state of the work o

TIP gives insight into state budget

SOME DAYS even the good news can bother you when you think about it.

Rick Cole brought some good news o Oakland Community College's counselors and financial aid officers counselors and financial and officers last week. It was the same news that his boss, Gov. James Blanchard, has been delivering to urban classrooms. Michigan has a "tuttion incentive plan" (TIP) beginning in June. If a poor kid gets a high school diploma or passes the GED equivalency test, the state will pay his tuition, up to \$1,000 a year, for two years at a community college.

The bill sailed through the Legislature with bipartisan support. Cole, the governor's former press secretary and now higher education adviser, was voluble in pralse of its Republican author. That bipartisan-ship may mean TIP is a good idea.

A POOR kid is one whose family income is at the poverty line or whose family has been on welfare three of the last four years.

If its works, TIP will give poor kids an incentive to complete high school and to go to college.

Cole said the plan is to identify such kids by the third or fourth grade; then to imbue them, their families and teachers with the ambition to bead for college.

ramilies and reacters with the ambi-tion to head for college.

Since poor kids can't afford living expenses in high-cost university towns, TIP aims them at community colleges so they can live at home.

Help poor kids go to college.

Break the cycle of poverty. I love it

- so far.

THEN ONE counselor raised the delicate question of whether a family might go on welfare just to make

Tim Richard

cycle of poverty. I love it -- so far.

the kid eligible for college ald.
Not likely, answered Cole, because there would have to be a long-term eligibility. Besides, he said, the odds are that if a kid's family is on welfare when he's in fourth grade, it will still be on when he has completed 12th grade, unless maybe they hit the lottery.
That part was sad just to think about.

has a revealing chart about the MFDC caseloud in Michigan.

No matter what good things hapthe property to the consequence of more than 200,000 that is a tid's family is on welthe lotter, and in fourth grade it will.

There are, as I hear the experts discuss it, two basic groups on welfaire. One is a short-time grouphard luck cases; jobies benefits expired; divorce. In time, they get on their feet. The other is long termunderclass, never-married teen mothers.

BLANCHARD'S BUDGET booklet

has a revealing chart about the AFDC cascaded in Michigan.

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There are, as I hear the experts discuss it, two basic groups on welfare. One is a short-time group—hard luck cases; jobless benefits expired; divorce. In time, they get on their feet. The other is long term—what sociologists call the permanent underclass, never-married teen mothers.

'Ban pit bull' hysteria excessive for my mind

THIS IS A canine alert.
Once again, the law and order toughs up at the 48th District Court in Oakland County are at it.
Judge Bernard Friedman has carried on a tradition by banning a pit bull from the environs of the Birmingham/Bioomfield area.
Grittr. That'il show the underworld crime bosses where they should fear to tread.
"Yup, just ain't enough room ints town for you and me, Towser."
Does kind of remind you of a Gary Cooper western.

Does kind of remind you of a Gary Cooper western.
This case almost surpasses in judi-cial imprudence the time fellow dis-trict judge Ed Sosnick ordered King Boots' teeth pulled.
Prudent citizens might think these guys have taken too literally the "let's take a bite out of crime" slo-ran.

gan.

OF COURSE, the King Boots case caused far less panic because most dog afficionados don't see old English sheep dogs as innately victors.

A once in a lifetime occurrence, we told ourselves. So Boots got his teeth pulled and shortly after died, gumming his way to doggle beaven.

A dier all, they're not exactly call cutch buggy and furry.

They even look mean.

But I, for one, have had enough of this "let's ban the pit bull" hysteria. It wasn't all that many years ago the Dobermans were getting the bad rap. You know, the innately victous animal, unsafe for any kid to be around. Before that it was the German shepherd.

Sure pit bulls have been attacking

man shepherd.

Sure pit bulls have been attacking other animals and people. But we don't hear the other statistics. Other breeds of dogs have been on the attack during the same period. But we don't read about those inclidents.

Especially disheartening to see is

Steve Barnaby

the judicial system joining in the hysteria against pit bulls. It really has more important issues with which to deal.

We expect such behavior from the state Legislature. And they haven't disappointed.

AS ALWAYS, jumping on an issue which it is bot, some lawmaker or other has introduced a bill to actually has these mailgned canines. Bad enough they introduced the bill. Even worse, they waste our money in desting the issue.

The analyst of the state o

keeping up with government

the Stewart-Glenn Furniture

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free tele-phone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information ● The pulse of your community ● The pulse of your community ● The pulse of

Center in Lansing offers to help peo-ple find out about such things as pending legislation, the state consti-tution, election laws, voting regula-tions or tax information.

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.
The telephone service is paid for
by the league's education fund. The
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keep voters interested and informed
about governmental issues. Donate Blood.



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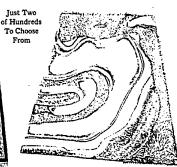
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