

# Computer to cop: Is it safe to shoot?

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

**YOU ARE** a police officer, and you get a message about a bank robbery. As you arrive, an armed man is leaving the bank. The suspect turns on you with a pistol in his hand. Do you shoot? What is your department's policy? What could be the consequences of your shot?

"Most officers go through their careers without firing a shot at someone," said Dr. John Domm, who should know. He is a retired commander of the Detroit police homicide bureau and now director of the Oakland Community College Police Academy.

So Domm has made this one of 25 scenarios in a computer program he is developing, not only for trainees but to keep veteran officers on their toes.

"THIS IS NOT a survival exercise," said Domm. "This is geared to restraint — they (officers) may have a right to shoot, but is it wise to shoot?"

When he is finished, he will have produced a floppy disc program that can be loaded into a personal computer. The student sees a scenario — say, a car fleeing the scene where a guard has been shot in the chest, or a barricaded gunman — and is asked a couple of test questions.

The computer gives the trainee

immediate feedback — a "right" or "wrong" on the answer, a chance to try again if he's wrong, an explanation of why an answer was wrong, and an overall score at the end.

"And there's no variation in the teaching," Domm added.

**DOMM'S OFFICE** is in the Police Academy Building on OCC's Auburn Hills Campus, and there he works on his computer program.

His is a pilot project. IBM and the League for Innovation in the Community College want to see computer programs integrated more fully into college courses. They set up a competition.

Some 300 proposals were made nationwide, and 74 grants were awarded. Two of the winners were from OCC — Domm and Mary Alice LoCicero, chair of the business administration department on the Royal Oak Campus.

Winners receive IBM equipment and software to develop their programs.

Colleges have been slow to use computers as a learning tool, because developing programs is so time-consuming, said Dorothy J. Hopkin, OCC's vice president for information and telecommunication systems.

"Computer-aided learning will not replace the professional educator any more than a textbook does. It simply enhances the learning process, like the abacus, the slide rule

and the hand-held calculator," she said.

"We are pleased that our faculty participated. In fact, we submitted more proposals (17) than any other community college in the country."

**THE FACT** that few officers in a lifetime ever need to use deadly force makes it all the more necessary for them to get interactive training on a computer, Domm said.

"I would say at least twice a year they should have this kind of training," said Domm, who spent 10 years in the homicide bureau.

He recalled that in the last year, two Detroit officers were killed by a barricaded gunman, and Miami witnessed rioting because a police officer killed two men on a motorcycle and is facing criminal charges for it. Domm holds three degrees in political science from Wayne State University and has headed the Oakland Police Academy for four years.

The academy produces two classes of 30 to 45 a year. Most are sent there by the agencies which plan to hire them, but a few enroll and pay tuition on their own.

"We draw from Oakland County, Macomb and the Flint area. I think we are one of the best in the state," Domm said.

LoCicero's project is in marketing. It will involve both teaching marketing concepts and training students in the applications — such as producing story boards for television scripts and layouts for ads.

She has two degrees in English and a master of business administration degree, all from the University of Michigan.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

John Domm's computer program shows one effect of police shooting at a fleeing driver — an innocent bystander could be run over.

## Roll Call Report

## Senate backs 3 in Bush Cabinet

Here's how Michigan's U.S. senators were recorded on roll call votes in the week ending Jan. 27.

There were no votes in the House, where Democratic leaders have refused to bring bills to the floor as part of their low-profile strategy to secure a 51 percent congressional pay raise.

The pay hikes proposed for members of Congress, federal judges and top executive branch employees will automatically become law Feb. 8 if the House and Senate do not pass resolutions of disapproval before then. Lawmakers would start receiving their new salary of \$135,000 on March 1.

### SENATE

**BAKER FOR STATE** — By a vote of 99-0, the Senate confirmed James A. Baker III as secretary of state.

Baker, 58, was White House chief of staff and treasury secretary for President Reagan. He was the first of President Bush's cabinet nominees to receive Senate confirmation.

Supporter Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Baker's "pragmatic, down-to-earth, straightforward manner is going to take some of the foggy out of Foggy Bottom."

No senator spoke against the nomination.

Supporting Baker as Secretary of

State were Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle.

**DOLE FOR LABOR** — The Senate confirmed, 99-0, Elizabeth H. Dole as the Bush administration's secretary of Labor. Dole, 52, was President Reagan's transportation secretary 1983-87.

Supporter Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, praised Dole as "an activist who wants to make an impact... a pragmatist who can communicate with both management and labor."

No senator criticized the nomination.

Senators voting yes supported Dole as secretary of labor. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

**DARMAN AT OMB** — By a vote of 99-0, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Richard G. Darman to head the Office of Management and Budget. Darman, 45, was deputy treasury secretary 1985-87. He will direct President Bush's fiscal policy.

Supporter William V. Roth, R-Del., said Darman in confirmation hearings "reaffirmed his, and the president's, tough stand against new taxes."

No senator spoke against the nomination.

Levin and Riegle voted to confirm.

## clarification

U.S. Rep. Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, said a "procedural nightmare" led to misinterpretation of his vote on congressional pay raises, as reported in the Roll Call Report of Jan. 19.

Hertel was recorded as voting "yes" on a 1982 pay increase of 16 percent. He said the proposal, as worded, allowed him to choose only

between pay raises of 16 and 27 percent. His yes vote was for the lower amount.

That resolution was tied to a later resolution the next day to cap members' salaries at the existing \$60,663. Hertel is recorded as voting for that resolution. The vote was tied at 208-11, hence the measure capping salaries failed.

## Skygazers to see Jupiter

Dress warmly and you can see Jupiter tonight.

Oakland University's physics department will sponsor a "Jupiter View" at 7 p.m. today starting at the west end of Hannah Hall. The hardy

souls will take a shuttle bus to the observatory to view the large planet.

In case of cloudy skies, the program will be postponed to either Feb. 14 or 16. For details, contact OU at 370-3416.

## Korn topic: Medicare tax

Finance expert Monte Korn will speak twice, Feb. 16 and March 16, on Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills Campus, Featherstone Road two miles east of the Pontiac Silverdome.

Korn, heard daily on radio station WJW-AM, will speak on "The Effects of the Newly Implemented

Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act." He will explain the benefits and pitfalls of tax increases in the new act.

Both talks run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Advanced Technology Center conference room. They are free, but you should make a reservation by calling OCC at 853-4241.

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