Modern crime lab looks to computer for help

Fingerprint analysis still requires a keen eye, but today's crime lab has introduced another tool: the comput-

er.
Police departments can now take advantage of AFIS, the statewide, computerized Automated Finger-print Identification System at 15 different agencies throughout Michlerent

ferent agencies throughout Michigan.
Since Its introduction late has
year, the Oakland County Shoriff's
Department has a lab up and running at the city of Southfield and will
have another operating at the count
complex in Pontiac by month's end.
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itself than a larcony to get priority,
said John Satawa, a crime lab specialist for the county who works at
the Southfield location.

He demonstrated the system last

week for officials of the Farmington Hills Pollee Department, and is busy setting up appointments for other departments to show them how AFIS

works.

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He demonstrated the system tast

palm prints. It shows how many points of comparison, or how unique the print is. It allows technicians to "clean up" the print is. It allows technicians to "clean up" the print using the computer before it is sent, via computer, to Lansing.

The system also allows law enforcement officials to check a print to determine if someone arrested is using a false name — something police estimate happens more than 30 percent of the time.

ONE OF the things Satawa is suggesting area agencies do is to process and send in all prints found the seene. Fingerprinting those who are regularly at the scene allows those prints to be eliminated from the investigation. For example, if a house is robbed, he suggests the homeowners' prints and even those of the officer be taken to make it easier to narrow the prints to that of the suspect.

Even if there's a doubt, Satawa

suggests departments give AFIS a try anyway, "You start with nothing, end with nothing and you have noth-ing. What I say is, you have nothing to lose," he said. "You never know when you'll get a hit."

The AFIS program in Oakland has been underwritten by the county, so been underwritten by the county, so been there will be no fee to local governmental agencies using it.

In addition to two Oakland County labs, other agencies that currently

Fingerprinting system lauded

Continued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1
tons because of the detail work done
by the department. One-third of the
city's department is trained in evidence-gathering and makes the effort on each felony case to dust for
ingerprints. In many larger departments, there is not enough time to
handle each case in such detail, he
said.
"We're one of a select few departments that actually go to a felony
and dust for prints," he said. "All
residential B & Es (breaking and en-

tering cases) we send an evidence technician to. It's something they re-ally get into — It's going to be a ma-jor help in that area. "We're going to have the evidence to submit to AFIS."

Farmington is just getting information about the system, and how the department will submit information for AFIS.

IN FARMINGTON Hills, police are also getting acquainted with the system and deciding which old cases

Inspector Thornas Godwin and Sgt. Chuck Nebus got a firsthand look at one of two Oakland County AFIS labs this week, at one based in the Southfield Police Department.

Nebus and Godwin said they would meet with their detectives and oth-ers to discuss the new system, and possibly send some detectives and evidence technicians to Southfield to view the system and how it operates

New Vision calls on Grace & Wild to create video

With help from a Farmington Hills firm, New Vision Communica-tions of Detroit produced a video to promote the launch of a pilot Youth Assistance Program for children of

Assistance Program for children of UAW-Chrysler employees, sponsored by the UAW-Chrysler National Training Conter in Detroit. Clarence Williams, president of New Vision and producer of the program, called on Grace & Wild Studios in Farmington Hills to create an upbeat, MTV feel to the video

through its computer graphics and video editing capabilities. Designed to encourage youngsters to get involved in several workshops offered by the training center, the video features testimonials from children who have participated in the Youth Assistance Program, and footage of the workshops in progress. Grace & Wild's computer graphics were used to create a pulsating, neon glow around the speakers in the testimonial sections of the video, with

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the live action footage and graphles then edited together at the facility. "We wanted to get the kids excited about the new program and inform them of the various workshops that are available," Williams said.

The NTC Youth Assistance pilot program has proven to be such a success, plans for similar programs are being developed at six other UAW-Chryster regional training centers.

Joan Patterson, co-director of the

National Training Center in Detroit said: "We want to develop and motivate our youth so they can look forward to a productive and reward-ing future."

forward to a productive ana sening future."

New Vision Communications is a full-service communications firm specializing in video presentation and print development for corporate and commercial clients. It has worked with the UAW-Chrysler National Training Center on several programs.

Grace & Wild Studios is a full-service production and post production and post production. Full first facility offering studio and remote production, film transfer, computer graphics and videotape editing services. The facility is in Studio Center, one of the Midwest's largest production communications production communications production communications.



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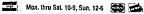
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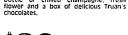
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