Victims say press coverage is sympathetic

Sensing Holman, Julie Frawley, doesn't mind talking about it — or having her name used — if that can foster better relations between other victims and the press, All in all, she told the panel, the reporters she dealt with were "compassionate."

with were "compassionate."

FRAWLEY WASN'T contacted by reporter until a year after the attack, when the rapist was caught. He turned out to be a serial rapist, and suddenly she was wanted for inter-view. Admittedly, it was easier for her to talk about it shoce 12 months had passed, abe said.

"You feel vulnerable enough when you're stateked, and then even more so in talking to reporters about it," said the Macomb County resident. "It's hard to describe your feelings."

Frawley likened her frame of mind to what a child goes through who is afraid of "monsters coming out from under your bed. I felt that way 24 hours a day for a long time afterward."

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Frawley also had some advice for reporters, whom she admired for being the only people who could "look her in the eyes" when talking to her. "Assure me that I'm doing something good by talking to you, that I'm helping the public in some way."

that I may good to the country of th

THE WOMAN, a Birmingham off-ice manager, said she identified with the nurse so much — both women

'You cover the jump, and the fall, but not the splash. We'd like to see a little more splash."

> - Duane LaMoreaux victim's father

had Chaldean bushands — that "I re-lived the last moments of her life, the borror she must have known."
Every day she and her daughters would rush home to catch the news and read all they could on the slaying, she said, calling the coverage by TV and newspapers factual, balanced and fair. The woman said she appreciated the fact that reporters weren't digging shamelessly into the backgrounds of the nurse and her husband.

surrounded a grisly death last year in Canton Township. She was speaking of the case where a husband was accused of killing his wife and storing her body in the family freezer.

She said reporters who dug into the murdered woman's background wrote stories about her less-than virtuous life, including affairs she'd had. The results were articles that almost seemed to justify the husband's actions, she said.

"Don't print stories blaming the victim," was her advice.

Two other panelists, the parents of a daughter who had been brutally raped and murdered, had both posi-

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- who was also worried about being identified in the press - when shortly afterward the second attack ocurred.

"I immediately went to my superiors and told them we have to go public with this now. I caught a lot of flack from investigators who assured the victim nothing would get

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ve and negative things to say about ow the press covered their highly ublicized tragedy three years ago.

MOST IN attendance had no trouble remembering the case of 22year-old Pam Landereaux, who was
soon during the contention of the contion of the content of the content of the contion of the content of the content of the Metro
Landereaux, are active members
of the Metro Detroit chapter of Parents of Murdered Children. Duane is
program director.

Duano's first piece of advice was
actually more a truism.

"Right after it's happened the victim's family is in abock, and probably won't like your message no matter what you say." Their family attorney handled all initial requests
for interview, he said.

Tacir first brush with the media
mas stupefying to say the least, when
a TV reporter crossed under the yellow police tage at the secene "to get a
better look at our daughter's naked
body," said Duane LaMoreaux. In

the process, he added, the reporter, destroyed a major plece of evidence.; "Admissible evidence is very hard to come by," Duane LaMoreaux said, adding that about only 10 percent of all evidence obtained is suitable for

court.

Another gripe they had with the press was a TV story that later ran concerning the convolved murderen and how he might be innocent after, all. The couple was shocked to learn the reporter based the story only on a letter the murderer had written to the station from jail. The reporter never checked the facts, including trial transcripts, nor contacted any of the attorneys on the case. The story was wrong, Duane LaMoreaux added.

added.

THE LAMOREAUXS, however, had little quarrel with newspaper coverage of the tragedy. In fact, it was newspapers printing their, daughter's picture that brought forth wilmesses to beip convict the murderer, they sald. Still, the parents called for a more personal and humane touch to such stories, rather than just a police-bioter type styld to them.

"You cover the jump, and the fall, but not the sphash, Wed like to see a little more sphash," sald Duane LaMoreaux.

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Most newspapers keep victims' names quiet

ries.

Detective Sandra Rochford of the Farmington Hills police, who has 10 years experience in handling such violent cases, told a panel of Journalists and victims in Southfield "there are a lot of similarities" mong all violent crimes. "It's an emotional nightmare for each of them," she added, saying victims often feel intimidated by the press. "There is a stigma attached to being labeled a sexual assault victim (in the paper)." That could explain, said Rochford, the high number of unreported abuse and rape cases. Two police representatives were among a panel of professionals last week who discussed victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and how the media handle their sto-

and rape cases.

Troy Police Lt. Bill Tullock, like Rochford, said be is adamantly against the reporting of victims'

Local cities win pedestrian awards

Farmington and Farmington Hills have carned pedestrian safety awards from the American Automobile Association (AAA).

Both communities will receive special citations for outstanding pedestrain accident records. The citations recognize communities with outstanding pedestrian death and injury records.

jury records.

The citations will be presented during city council meetings Dec. in Farmington and Nov. 19 in Farmington Hills.

names in such stories, but acknowledged that most metro Detroit news organizations adhere to that policy. Traditionally, when there is a conflict between the "right to know" and "the right of privacy," police and media often clash during high-profile abuse or violence cases. The key to overcoming that, he added, is trust and rapport.

AS AN EXAMPLE, he cited this AS AN EXAMPLE, he cited this year's two male rape cases, in which two Troy teenage boys were abducted and security assaulted at knife and gun point. Tullock said he told two local reporters about the first instance, but asked them not to write a story until more information was known.

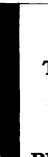
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Police were still investigating and interviewing the "distraught" victim









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