## Video laundered drug profits, claims prosecutor

Kingpins of a cocaine operation produced an anti-drug rap video to launder an estimated \$5 million in monthly profits, according to the Oakland County prosecutor who announced grand Jury indictinents against 15 members of the gang Wednesday.

The video was a "brazen" attempt to glorify their own lifestyle under the guise of being against drug user prosecutor Richard Thompson said during a press conference.

The tyrice would appear to be against drug user, said Thompson. But the actions on the video told their torry and glorified their life.

The video, produced last year, was shown on at least one Detroit area television station, but was not mar-keted as a commercial venture,

Thompson said.
"We can only conclude the video was created to explain why its pro-ducers had so much money," Thomp-

son said.

The press conference was called to announce what the prosecutor termed "the dismantling of two drug organizations." The larger operation — whose leaders allegedly formed a production company to make the video — was based in Oak Park.

THE OTHER DRUG operation as based in Troy and involved

was based in Troy and involved three men, the prosecutor said.

Of the 18 indicted, 10 had been arrested and arraigned by Wednesday morning, six were already in custody and two remained at large, said Thompson, who was accompanied by Sgt. Ray White of the Oakland Country Sheriff's Department and Lt. Dorothy K. McAllen of the Michigan State Pollec.

#### Prosecutor decries efforts to weaken law

By Pat Murphy staff writer

Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson claims drug deals want to change and weaken a Michigan law that mandates a life sentence for persons convicted of possessing 550 or more grams of occaine. As prosf, the prosecutor Wednesday distributed copies of a document he said was among the guns, cash and other things seized during drug arrests made this week."

This proves that drug dealers

and other things seleved during drug arrests made this week.

"This proves that drug dealers want to weaken one of the most powerful weapon we have against narroutes trafficking," Thompson said during a press conference announcing indictments against 18 people in two separate drug operations.

The seized document is entitled, "Endorsement for House Bill #4024," sonsored by State Rep. William R. Bryant Jr., R-Grosse Pointe Farms.

Bryant introduced the measure in January, It has already had one hearing and is currently before the House Judiciary committee.

As one reason Michigan's lawshould be changed, the endorsement claims many people given the mandatory life sentence are not drug kingpins, but first-time offenders who don't have the wealth or means to adequately defend themselves.
Furthermore, wealthy dealers

who don't have the wealth or means to adequately defend themselves. Furthermore, wealthy dealers usually have the means of avoiding Michigan's law by manipulating their case into federal courts where cless stringent penalities are applied, the endorsement says. Thompson Wednesday relterated his contention that the clitzens grandjury is the single most powerful weapon in the war on drugs because of its power to compel witnesses to testify or face contempt charges. The second most powerful weapon. The second most powerful weapon of the power of th

The second most powerful weap-on, Thompson sald, is Michigan's ex-isting law requiring mandatory life

sentences.

Faced with the possibility of life in prison if convicted, small time drug

prison if convicted, small time drug users are more than anxious to "make a deal that will get us to their bosses," Thompson said.

House Bill 4024 may be a moot point, Thompson said, because both the Michigan and U.S. Supreme Courts are currently reviewing cases questioning the constitutionality of Michigan's law.

## OU schedules

SAT workshop

SAT and ACT preparation workshops will be offered in May for the
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University, Rochester.
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from 9 a.m. to noon. The next SAT
carn is June.
A three-session ACT workshop
will be on Saturday, May 11 and 18,
from 9 a.m. to 4 pm., and June 1
from 9 a.m. to noon. The ACT exam
is set for June 8.
Tullion for each set of workshops

Tultion for each set of workshops is \$100, including materials. To register, call 370-3120, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

White and McAllen are part of the county's Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) that spent about a year investigating the cases before bringing evidence to the grand Jury. This week's arrest brings the total number of people indicted to 64 since the citizens grand Jury was authorized in the fail of 1989. Thompson said the indictened claim the Oak Park operation—headed by two briters, Franz and Paris Lane—had been importing about 50 kilos of coaline, or about 110 pounds, directly from Columbia every month since January of 1986.

"Profits were staggering," said Thompson. At one time, the drug ring employed four people to count money. Another time, it used an electronic money counter to handle stocks of money.

electronic money counter to handle stacks of money.

ON ONE OCCASION, Franz Lane helped carry six garbage bags of money into a van that had just been used by a Columbian national to deliver three dividel bags, presumably containing cocation, Thompson said.

The indictments state Franz Demetre Lane, 28, who is also known as 'F.L.' of Jetroit, They identify his brother as Paris Andre Lane, 29,

also known as "makey" of southfield.
Others indicted with them were identified as Jamal Ella, 25, also known as "Chico" of Bloomfield Township and Tad Andrew Milmine, 25, and Charles Eddle Wingate, 22, both of Southfield.

both of Southfield.

All were arraigned and remanded to the Oakland County Jail after failing to post the mininum bond of \$3\$ million, Thompson said.

The prosecutor claims the Lane brothers formed Hittin Home records to organize a rap group called the "Rap Maffa" to record both a video and cassette.

Both versions featured the Lane brothers, the prosecutor said. In the 10 different songs, they described phases of their personal life, includ-ing an apparent assassination at-tempt on one of their associates who was shot six times and remains in a wheel chair, he continued.

THE PROSECUTOR said the fo-cal point of the Troy drug operation was a house in the 1000 block of Hartland that had been owned by Florence Dahle, 36.

Although it was considered a small operation, the prosecutor said

more than \$30,000 in cash was seliced from Dable when he was arrested. Dable and Gregory Chalmers, 32,000 of Clawson are charged with conspiring to possess more than \$50° igrams of cocaine which carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison-upon conviction.

The third person arrested, William Helton, 40, of Troy, is charged with possessing less than 50 grams of co-icaline with intent to deliver.

Dable, Chalmers and Helton are scheduled for preliminary examination at \$300 a.m. Monday in Troy District Court.

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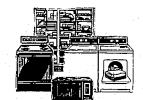
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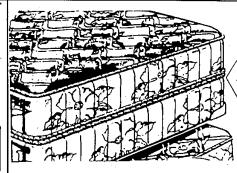
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