



Barbara Kranitz

# Mother leads attack on crime trading cards

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set that had the likes of killers John Dillinger and Al Capone. Other non-sports trading cards published by Eclipse since 1988 have included: a "Drug Wars" set, which has facts about drugs, drug lords and law enforcement agents who fight drug trafficking; "The Savings and Loan Scandal," with offers information about all aspects of it; "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy," "Famous Cartoonists" and "The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union."

Yronwode said the series is meant to appeal to the Baby Boomer generation who grew up collecting

non-sports trading cards, and those who are crime buffs. "They're aimed at the same people who would go and see the movie Bugsy," she added.

Despite the company's explanations, Kranitz is attempting to have her information distributed through a parent network in the Farmington school district. She received the information from the National Organization for Victim Assistance, a Washington D.C.-based group that is doing a similar campaign throughout the country.

"We were horrified that such a series would be developed and that a company was seeking to profit from

vicious criminal acts," said Marlene A. Young, executive director of NOVA. But Yronwode contends that Entertainment Tonight created its segment by sending slanted material to groups like NOVA, then taping their responses, effectively "making the news," she said.

KRANITZ SAID she first became aware of the trading cards by reading an article in a Detroit newspaper several weeks ago. She contacted the reporter who put her in touch with NOVA. Her letter-writing campaign suggests letters be sent to Eclipse Enterprises and to local stores that might stock the cards.

Kranitz said she did not believe the cards would "turn people into mass murderers, but I think they can really do damage to a already disturbed kids and adults."

Yronwode said she has already received thousands of letters, fielded about 10 media calls per day since January, done numerous television interviews and has also received death threats that she said were particularly ironic when you consider the subject. State legislatures in Maryland, Michigan, Arkansas and California have considered legislation banning the cards, but the American Civil Liberties Union is

backing the company against such moves.

Initial orders for the "True Crime" cards are double what they would have for other trading cards. Where Eclipse would normally sell 25,000 sets, Yronwode said they are preparing to sell 50,000 to 75,000 sets. "If the idea was to stop the cards, the effect has been the opposite," she said.

No Farmington-area store owners contacted said they intended to carry the cards, but some reiterated Eclipse's claim that the cards are intended for adult collectors and not kids.

## Why was my son killed, father asks

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"My son had a lot of friends," Mallon said. "The church was full" with his many friends attending the funeral service Wednesday at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

"He was into sports," Mallon said. "He played Little League baseball and football."

"He was a great fisherman. We found a place, a fishing lodge on the St. Lawrence River in Mallorytown

in Ontario, Canada, where we went fishing once a year."

KNOWN TO his friends and family as J.J., Wendy's son, was born in Dearborn in 1975. The couple are separated, and young Mallon had recently gone to live with his mother in Farmington Hills apartment.

In January, Mallon was enrolled in Farmington High as a mid-year freshman but had not finished one term before his death, principal

James Myers said.

He previously attended St. Agatha Catholic grade school in Redford before being enrolled in Suckey Elementary in the Redford Union School District in Redford. Mallon then attended Hilbert Junior High.

He also was placed briefly in the district's Alternate Center for Education for students who have trouble adjusting to a traditional school structure, officials said.

Mallon was enrolled in Howe Military Academy in northern Indiana, which he attended for three months

in the fall of 1990 and briefly attended adult education classes in Redford Union's Pearson Education Center, school officials said.

The academy was suggested by Redford Union officials because they said he needed discipline, but the truth is he had a learning disability," his father said.

"A Wayne County psychologist told us he had poor written expression and was an audio learner. He didn't want to continue at the academy because he missed his friends."

## Merchants organize to attract shoppers

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with businesses along Orchard Lake Road, which is our main road," Marks said. "There's a big need to bring people together. We have a lot of people driving through Farmington Hills. We don't have a lot of people stopping and shopping."

Marks says Orchard Lake Road should represent Farmington Hills. He recalls driving south of Orchard Lake Road through West Bloomfield one day and noticing banners, a diversity of stores and services, as well as attractive store fronts — and customers shopping.

"I drove back into Farmington Hills and there was nothing there. I think we can do better," Marks said. "We have to make it conducive for business."

IMPROVED TRAFFIC patterns on the thoroughfare would help, as well as improved store fronts, Marks added.

He uses the Kendallwood Shopping Center at 12 Mile and Farmington roads as an example. "It was dying on the vine." Several years ago, the center was renovated with new stores and new types of stores and

services, for example, and its now as popular as ever.

"Facades, parking lots, cleanliness — all these things make it conducive for business," Marks said. "You really can't buy a suit of clothes along Orchard Lake. There aren't any boutiques like you have north of 14 Mile. It's mostly service oriented in our area."

But McNamara believes with some improvements along the Farmington Hills corridor, specialty stores and boutiques may be attracted to the Uptown Shopping District.

"It seems like West Bloomfield learned from the mistakes we make in planning. Maybe we can also learn and improve the accessibility and beauty of the area," McNamara said. "Burnett is also hoping merchants will want to get involved to improve the corridor. We're going to do our best to improve the immediate community. It will be better for the people who live here and better for business."

"I think business people and owners along Orchard Lake Road will have to think twice and get involved on the vine." Several years ago, the center was renovated with new stores and new types of stores and

## Cops nail 2 after Wendy's is robbed

Two 17-year-old men, one from Southfield, the other from Lathrup Village, face felony charges in connection with the armed robbery of a Farmington Hills Wendy's restaurant during which a toy Uz-lik gun was used late Wednesday night.

Daniel Scott Lucas Goosby of Southfield and Angelo Louis Nunes of Lathrup Village stood mute to one count each of armed robbery at their arraignment before 47th District Court Magistrate James Brady of Farmington Thursday. Not guilty pleas were entered on their behalf. Both are free on a 10 percent-\$5,000 cash/surety bond.

A preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, in 47th District Court. Conviction of armed robbery carries a penalty of life or any term in prison.

Farmington Hills' police officer

Bob Burkart is credited with getting a description of a shiny black car, which was at a red light on eastbound 12 Mile as he drove to the scene of the robbery at Wendy's, 30725 12 Mile. Police believe four men are responsible for the robbery.

"OFFICER BURKART's alertness with observing the car and providing the information led Southfield police to stop it," said Farmington Hills Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus.

According to the police report, three men entered the employee door of the restaurant, one of them carrying what appeared to be a Uz-lik weapon. The men ordered two employees working near the salad bar area to the floor.

The man with the weapon pointed it through the salad bar area at the cashier, who jumped over the coun-

ter and fled out the door to a nearby gas station where he called Farmington Hills police.

A night manager was in the restaurant's office when one of the men walked in and said, "this is a robbery," and ordered him to open a safe. While holding down the manager's head with one hand, the man used the other to take a cash drawer containing an undetermined amount of cash, according to police.

An employee who was washing dishes saw a man dressed in dark clothing and wearing a red ski mask run into the back office. He heard shouting and then saw the same man run toward the front of the restaurant. The three fled on foot with the cash drawer west through the restaurant parking lot. They were seen getting into a shiny, black car in an adjacent parking lot, according to

the report.

FARMINGTON HILLS police followed the car eastbound on 12 Mile through Northwestern Highway onto the Lodge freeway. Southfield police, who received information on the car from Farmington Hills dispatchers, began following the car as it traveled southbound on Lahser from 12 Mile. Southfield police stopped the car. Farmington Hills police who were nearby arrested the car's two occupants.

"We believe four men were involved (in the robbery)," Nebus said. The investigation is continuing.

Farmington Hills officers also found an empty cash drawer and a toy Uz-lik weapon on the ground near Green Castle, south of 12 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads.

## Police gang up on bank robbery suspects

A cooperative effort between area police agencies led to the quick apprehension and arrest of two Detroit men believed responsible for the armed robbery of a Farmington Hills bank Friday morning.

At 10:15 a.m. two men, armed with 9 mm pistols, walked into the United Savings Bank, 33505 14 Mile, and leaped over the counter. One man pulled the bank manager into the vault and announced a holdup, said Farmington Hills Deputy Police Chief Milt Spencer.

"One had a scarf around his face, and the other had a ski mask on. And they were bald," Spencer said. Police did not release the suspects names or charges, pending arraignment.

The robbers took from the bank an undetermined amount of cash, which was later recovered when two people were arrested in Southfield.

"We were alerted of the robbery by a nearby businessperson who reported screams coming from the bank," Spencer said.

That call was followed by another from the bank.

DESCRIPTIONS OF the men were broadcast on police radios. A plainclothes Farmington Hills officer saw two men matching the description in a silver-and-blue Chrysler on-door shortly after the robbery on Orchard Lake Road near 14 Mile.

"He saw them changing clothes in

the vehicle," Spencer said.

The plainclothes officer, who requested assistance, followed the men south on Orchard Lake Road to I-696. As the car entered eastbound I-696, it sped up, and the officer followed it onto the Lodge freeway. The car left the Lodge at Lahser Road.

Southfield police joined the pursuit as the suspect's car entered a nearby apartment complex near Nine Mile and Berg roads where

"they hailed out of the vehicle," Spencer said.

Police apprehended one man on the spot without incident while the other man ran off. At 11:30 a.m., units from Farmington Hills, Southfield, Michigan State Police, Franklin and Lathrup Village police, as well as a helicopter and dog from the Detroit Police Department began searching for the second man near the Southfield Marriott Hotel.

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