



Gary Fijalkowski of Canton Township, who just bought a new house, says he has eliminated extra spending like going out to breakfast. He's full-time and makes \$12.91 an hour.

Photos by SHARON LAMITUK/Staff photographer

By Susan Duck  
Staff writer

The orange paintball which hit Kroger striker Nancy Lang behind her right ear Tuesday afternoon rendered her unconscious for a few minutes.

Even after the paint was cleaned from the Livonia resident's face and hair, Lang's co-workers had to help her remove the plastic from the paintball casing, which embedded itself in her skin.

The 15-year-old Farmington Hills youth, charged with felonious assault for shooting Lang, rode as a backseat passenger in the 1987 Chevy Nova driven by a 16-year-old charged with the same offense.

Both the driver and the alleged shooter were released Wednesday to their parents on \$3,000 or 10 percent bond.

The black, 24-inch gun — a Crossman P68 caliber paintball airgun — used in this incident is just one example of the growing number of "look-alike" guns police are seeing, said Farmington Hills officer Duane Fox, a school liaison officer.

## Striker hit

### Youth charged in paintball shooting

"They (paintball guns) pack one hell of a wallop, being quite up front with you," Fox said.

This gun looked like a handgun, Fox said. "It looks like a .40-caliber," Fox said.

THE DANGER of paintball guns, viewed as toys by many, is underestimated.

In fact, the owner manuals accompanying these guns clearly state "This is not a toy," said Carl Douglas, manager at Harry's Army Surplus on Telegraph in Dearborn Heights. "This is not a Super Soaker (water gun) that you buy at Kmart."

In a similar incident in Dearborn Heights, a youth unknowingly shot at an undercover police officer.

Anyone using these guns in areas other than unsupervised, regulated fields designed specifically for their use should be arrested and charged, Douglas said.

Although Harry's Army Surplus does not sell the model used in the Hills incident, similar models are sold there. Youths must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older, preferably a parent, who must pres-

ent his driver's license.

The store then records the information from the license and issues a stern warning that the buyer, not the store, will assume liability for the gun from then on.

The box which holds the Splattermaster Marking Pistol, the cheapest, simplest variety which costs about \$70, carries warnings on all sides.

ONE WARNING reads: "To be used by adults only. Misuse or careless use may cause serious injury, blindness or death. Appropriate eye protection must be worn at all times for safe use. May be dangerous, up to 250 yards."

Paintballs fired from guns like the Crossman P68 model can reach a velocity of 280 feet per second, according to Keith Carbury, manager of Surplus City in Berkeley. However, gun owners sometimes alter the gun springs to increase velocity, he said.

Bleeding skin welts can result when shot, Carbury said. "You know when you are shot."

## Kroger pickets grumble, walk

Continued from Page 1

and reared up his behind in a taunting manner before entering the store, said Anita Poeppoff, a deli and pastry manager who lives in Dearborn Heights.

She said Kroger should be less interested in a high profit margin and more interested in sharing with its employees.

"We're fighting for the part-timers," Poeppoff said. "We want a 50-50 ratio. If there's 7,000 employees there shouldn't be 5,000 part-time employees. Not everybody is college material and can be a doctor, a nurse, engineers or lawyers. These people are not rich people."

Joan Price, a \$10.37-an-hour cashier who lives in Inkster, said

she just took in a boarder to increase her income. Price supports herself and three children. "When you make \$4.50 an hour, how can you buy a house?" she asked.

Gary Fijalkowski, a meat cutter, paid \$12.91 an hour, just bought a new house in Canton Township. Now with the strike he doesn't spend anything on extras. "I'm afraid to spend money," he said.

Still, the strikers find humor in what they consider the temporary inexperience.

"Oh my God," a group of them said laughingly Thursday, peering into the window.

"She's weighing lettuce. Nobody weighs lettuce," they said. "Lettuce is priced by the head, not by the pound."



Harrison High School junior Lisa Jackson is a part-time employee making \$4.50 an hour. She says she is striking against her mother's wishes.

## Reducing risk of burglary starts with secure windows

By Kim Kamake  
special writer

A burglar strikes about every 10 seconds in the United States. But it doesn't have to happen to you. By reducing the opportunity, you can help to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of burglary. One way is to improve the security of your windows.

Often break-ins occur through open or unlocked doors or windows. Even a window that is not close to the ground may be vulnerable, especially if it is left unlocked. Always lock doors and windows, including second-story windows, even if you will only be gone a few minutes.

Make sure when securing the windows in your home that the windows can be opened quickly from inside in case of fire. It's all right to lock your windows but don't lock your family in at the same time.

Never buy window or door lock that require a key or tool to operate. Avoid placing locking devices at the top of sliding windows or doorways if they need to be moved for you to open the window. In the event of a fire you don't want to have to reach up to release the locking device. Metal bars are usually necessary only for basement windows, and even then, should always have an inside release.

• Sliding windows: Like doorways, open by sliding one or both window panels horizontally. Secure by placing a metal or wood bar or dowel, about the diameter of a broom handle or larger, into the low-

er track. Make sure the bar can be easily removed from the inside.

To prevent lifting, install several sheet metal screws at least 1-1/2 inches long above the sliding panel of the window. Adjust them so the head of the screw is just above the sliding panel so the window slides easily but can't be lifted.

Auxiliary locks are available at most hardware stores for use on the bottom of doorways.

• Double-hung windows: Wood frame, double-hung windows are easy to secure with either double-head nails or simple eyebolts. Drill at a slight downward angle through both upper corners of the lower sash about half-way into the outer frame, and insert a nail or bolt. The hole should be of large enough diameter so that it can be easily removed from the inside. To secure the window in the open position, a second hole can be made with the window open about four inches large enough so a hand could enter but a head couldn't.

• Casement windows: This is the easiest window to secure. With the window in the closed and latched position, just remove the crank handle. Make sure you keep the handle within arms-reach of the window, but not visible from the outside so it's available when you need it.

• Basement windows: Standard basement windows are large enough for a normal-sized adult to fit through and consequently must also be secured. Because they are close to the ground and often hidden from



view by shrubbery they are a frequent entry point. One of the most attractive ways to secure basement windows is to replace them with glass blocks.

Don't forget about the garage windows when securing your home. In addition to security devices on garage windows, make sure that you have blinds or opaque curtains on all windows. You don't want to show burglars what you have in your garage or let them know that you're not home because your car isn't there.

Often having doors and windows locked is enough to keep out the opportunist burglar. If you would like further information on how to secure your home, call the crime prevention section of the Farmington Hills Police Department at 473-9640 to schedule a free home security survey.



LOUIS FERAUD

FALL 1992

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## Farmington Artists Club hosts spring show at Spicer House

Farmington Artists Club will have its Spring 1992 Art Exhibit Thursday, April 30, through Sunday, May 3, at the Spicer House, Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

The art exhibit includes a juried section, an open section and an unframed section. Joan Lasher was juror. The exhibit offers works in watercolors, oils, pastels, prints, collage and mixed media, in realism and abstract.

Juror this year is Joan Lasher, an award-winning, nationally known watercolor painter. Her oil paintings are in private collections in Connecticut, Florida, Michigan and New York.

Lasher's latest watercolors are being exhibited in the lobby of First Federal of Michigan bank, downtown Detroit.

"Big Onions" by Linda Rizza was selected "Best of Show" by Lasher while Donna Vogelheim's watercolor painting "Artichokes over the Top" earned a first place.

Vogelheim teaches watercolor painting at the Farmington Community Center, Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association and for Creative Art Workshops. She also received an honorable mention in the 1991 Spring Exhibit.

Nancy Herd's colored pencil portrait, "Frederico," was a second place recipient while Gwen Tomkow's watercolor painting "North Star Lake" earned a third place.

Times for the exhibit are 7-9 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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