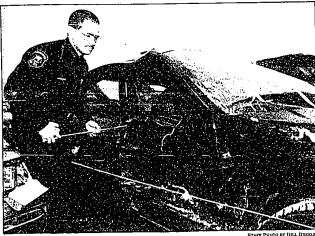
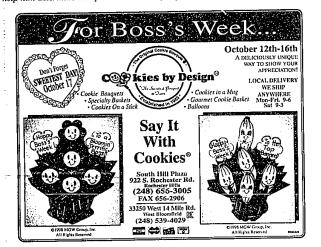
Why?

If there's an accident, reconstruction expert finds the reason



Search: Police officer Mike Ciaramitaro takes measurements from a wrecked car to help him determine the speed at the time of impact.





BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WHITER

Mike Cinamitaro, accidents don't just happen.
They're crashes and they happen for a reason.
The Farmington Hills officer is one of the few accredited accident reconstruction experts who can find out the why in traffic collisions.

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After the wreckage has long been moved, he's there measuring skid marks, taking photos and examining the angles of impact. He'll go on to figure out the speed of the vehicles involved, their direction, weather and other factors that cause serious crashes.

Unlike the pawkers that typically turn up at traffic crashes, Cinarmitar admits the technical aspect of his work causes observers' eyes to glaze over. His boases view his talents as extremely vital, though.

"When you have things like the Red Wings accident and the

Math wasn't much fun then, but it's fun now with the computers. Now I know why story problems were so important'

Mike Ciaramitaro Reconstruction expert

Princess Diana accident, the public turns its attention to the importance of accident investigation," said Assistant Chief Marty Bledsoe. "You can have anywhere from six to eight traffic fatalities a year.

If we had that number of murders, people would be up in arms.

acra, people would be up in runs.

"When you have a traffic death, you still have a loss of life and you have to find out who is responsible. That's an important thing for us to get right.

He uses complex physics in his everyday work. Ironically, Cia-

ramitaro hated math in high school.

"Math wasn't much fun then, but it's fun new with the computers," said Giarmatiaro, who is a Warren Lincoln High graduate. "Now I know why story problems were so important."

Crash investigations have grown to include tools such as computers and digital video cameras. With all the new technology, though, Ciaramitro still relies on instinct.

He cited a case two years ago where a woman was killed while riding her bicycle on Freedom and Drake.

Through subsequent investigation, Hills police were able to determine her bike was partially in the road when she was hit. The key piece of evidence turned out to be a skid mark – not from the vehicle involved but her bicycle.

"That investigation came down

"That investigation came down to a matter of inches," Ciarami-taro said.

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