

# Weapons from page A1

According to co-workers' statements, Dwyer said, Olender spoke for a number of days about killing his supervisor and other employees. It wasn't until he came in with spiked hair and told co-workers he was taking on a "commando" look in preparation for when he started to kill people, that he was fired from Computware, Dwyer said.

Two days later, on Feb. 9, someone from Computware filed a report with Hills police. Computware spokesperson Doug Kuiper said the company couldn't comment on any aspect of the case.

"We put a lot of resources into it," Dwyer said of the ensuing investigation. "Too often, these kinds of threats are ignored. The red flags were there from the start. A search of Olender's work computer showed he had accessed hundreds of Web sites with firearms and military information, Dwyer added. Authorities confiscated credit card receipts, one of which showed a charge of \$209.95 to ship a gun via United Parcel Service ground transport from Monroe, N.C.

Olender had also purchased a \$25 workbook published by Arizona Response Systems, which showed him how to assemble the guns. The company's Web site contains the following advice for FAL owners:

"There are two major laws affecting FAL assembly: the 1989 import ban and the 1994 assault rifle [sic] ban." Please familiarize yourself with these laws before beginning. You can still build fine post-ban compliant rifle, by replacing the flash hider with a permanently attached muzzle control device and substituting a number of imported parts with the identical part from a US company. Bizarre, isn't it?"

Dwyer said a shooter could fire off 20 rounds in a matter of seconds with the modified FN/FAL, a Belgian weapon originally designed for use during World War II. A number of foreign countries have since adopted the weapon for use by their military forces.

While the weapon is illegal in the U.S., it appears to be readily available through gun dealers and on the Internet, Dwyer said. Olender was able to purchase two by simply presenting a credit card, despite his criminal history.



**Workplace:** A former worker has been charged with weapons violations.

The suspect had 400 rounds ready to go in clips, Dwyer added.

Wyandotte Police Chief William Lilienthal said his department hadn't had contact with Olender before Hills police called to say they were pursuing the search warrant. After the initial involvement of several officers in the raid, he has assigned a detective to follow through with the case.

Asked whether the case was a big deal for the quiet Wayne County community of about 30,000, Lilienthal laughed. "Yeah, it is."

# ATF: You can own the gun parts

BY JONI HUBBARD  
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While it was against the law for him to own a weapon, 40-year-old Kevin Peter Olender had almost all the parts he needed to build two FN/FAL assault rifles in his Wyandotte home, police say.

Authorities believe Olender intended to use the automatic weapons to kill his supervisor and other employees at Farmington Hills-based Computware, as well as any police officers who responded to the scene. However, according to a spokesperson for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, a convicted felon isn't breaking the law simply by owning the same gun parts police found in Olender's possession.

"There are provisions (under

federal law) that felons can't acquire firearms," said ATF Special Agent Vera Fedorak. "However, gun parts themselves, without a receiver, do not constitute a weapon."

Police said Olender had a receiver on order. The gun parts found in his home were unassembled.

Internet Web sites promoting the sale of guns, ammunition or gun parts are similar to any other form of advertising, Fedorak said. There are no federal statutes that prohibit the sale of firearms over the Internet.

Laws in place do include provisions regarding the interstate purchase of firearms, however. To prove a violation, authorities would have to show a gun was manufactured in another state and transported to the buyer, Fedorak said.

"If an individual who is a felon orders through the Internet with a licensed dealer, they can order parts, but they cannot order a firearm as it is defined by federal firearm law," she explained.

Fedorak could not comment specifically on the Olender case because it is an on-going investigation. However, she said, the ATF has been investigating his possession of ammunition — specifically, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, including 800 armor-piercing rounds.

A felon cannot possess ammunition. The penalty is up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine, Fedorak said.

"ATF enforces the federal firearms laws in place," she commented. "Whatever's there is what we have to work with."

# Primary from page A1

Larouche, received 52 votes. More than 300 people were uncommitted and 343 voters wrote in candidates.

In Farmington, only 24 ballots were cast for Democrats; five voted for Larouche. Another 10 voted for write-ins and nine were uncommitted.

Local Democratic Party leader Vicki Barnett isn't surprised at the small showing from her party, since they'll pick their Presidential nominee at caucuses held locally in March.

She also pooh-poos the idea that Democrats turned the tide for McCain, either locally or state-wide.

"There was no organized effort for Democrats to get out and vote in a Republican primary," she said Wednesday.

Barnett is aware people from the McCain camp made an effort to attract Democrats. She



**Rally:** McCain waves to supporters as he boards his tour bus outside Laurel Manor in Livonia Sunday.

returned from an out-of-town trip to find an answering machine message urging her to vote for McCain as a "moderate" candidate.

"I'm a Democrat. I'm not going to support a Republican candidate," she said. "It just ain't gonna happen."

Local Republican Party chair Ben Marks wasn't impressed or surprised with the primary results. McCain won by about 6 percentage points state-wide and 4 percent locally, and Marks doesn't see that as an overwhelming mandate.

"It really doesn't show me any which way that McCain has any kind of power," he said.

Marks also looks at the McCain vote as more a protest by voters dissatisfied with Gov. John Engler, who spear-headed the Michigan Bush campaign. He sees that as a very "non-political" attitude.

"I think a lot of people voted their heart instead of their head," Marks commented.

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The Volunteer Place will be North Oakland County's new one-stop shop for volunteer recruitment and placement, coming Fall 2000.

HomeTown Heroes™ will honor volunteers in six categories: Seniors (65 and over), Youth (18 or younger), Board/Committee, Direct Service, Faith-based and Business. The business award is sponsored by *Crain's Detroit Business*.

Nominees and awardees will be recognized at a luncheon sponsored by Northern Trust Bank on March 29 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

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### NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY FOR WHICH YOU ARE NOMINATING THE VOLUNTEER

Senior (65 and over)   
  Board/Committee   
  Direct Service   
  Faith-based   
  Business   
  Youth (18 or younger)

NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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YEARS OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, please describe, in 100 words or less, why you have nominated this individual for a HomeTown Hero™ Award. Entries must be typewritten. CAUTION: The 100 word limit will be strictly applied. Anything beyond the hundredth word will not be presented to the nominating committee. ("a", "and", "an", and "the" will not be counted as words).

Entries must be received by **Wednesday, March 1, 2000**  
Mail forms to: **HomeTown Heroes™ Awards—THE VOLUNTEER PLACE**  
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