

DNR scrutinizing environmental law enforcement policies

Environmental law enforcement programs of the Department of Natural Resources are in need of sweeping revision, a special in-house task force reported.

Last October DNR Director Howard A. Tanner ordered that the task force—made up of four department employees—be assembled. He did so both out of his own concern and in response to recent legislative, news media and public criticism of the way certain pollution cases were handled by the department in past years.

Tanner directed the group to conduct an analysis of all DNR enforcement programs, to pinpoint weaknesses and report back to him with its findings and recommendations.

That report, which focuses on environmental enforcement, was submitted to Tanner recently.

The report recommends:
• All environmental enforcement responsibility be consolidated in a new division to be created expressly for that purpose.

• An enforcement bureau be established to house the department's existing law enforcement division, now within no bureau, as well as the new environmental enforcement division.

• A transition committee be appointed by Tanner to help define the distinction between compliance activities and formal enforcement action.

• A continuing audit of DNR compliance and enforcement functions be initiated and maintained.

• The resource recovery program be studied, with an eye on securing extensive amendments to its enabling legislation.

• The department's pollution emergency alert system and functions of the water quality division's oil and hazardous materials control section be studied in depth. The task force identified an enforcement potential in these programs that is not being achieved, but lacked time to probe deeper. Thus, the group recommends that Tanner appoint a special committee to study the programs and advise him on how they might fit into future enforcement efforts.

• Procedures involving permits, licenses and other tools used in the mammoth task of gaining compliance be reviewed, revised as necessary and formalized.

• Additional staff be assigned to the environmental protection bureau, the proposed enforcement division and the attorney general's office.

• Increased emphasis be placed on assuring that the public's right to know is honored.

The task force report identified five general problem areas, including:

• Intermingling of service and regulatory functions. Some employees, the report states, "have found it difficult to switch from a cooperative, service-oriented approach to a formal enforcement position when voluntary compliance has not been achieved."

• Internal conflicts. "The task force heard accounts of conflicts of attitudes and personalities that have been allowed to develop, and in some cases cause unnecessary delay in enforcement actions."

• Inability to document violations and assemble evidence. "The divisions have not received specialized training or provided staff with legal expertise to develop a systematic approach for assembling evidence and documentation for effective legal action."

• Commission structure complicates enforcement. "Although the enforcement responsibility has been transferred by Gov. Milliken in 1976 from the (Air Pollution Control, Water Resources and Resource Recovery) commissions to the DNR director, an advisory function remains to which the staff and public are responsive," the report said. "This complicates the enforcement process and continues to frustrate the staff and the public."

• Lack of planning for overall waste disposal, which in the past has contributed to pollution problems, especially those involving groundwater contamination.

Beyond its short-range recommendations, which the DNR director has authority to implement immediately, the task force submitted several long-range recommendations that could be effected only through action from the governor and legislature.

These would consolidate the functions of the three environmental commissions into a single environmental board under the Natural Resources Commission, restructure the Environmental Protection Bureau along functional lines, and seek what are considered necessary changes in environmental legislation, including enactment of a state toxic and hazardous materials control law.

Wayne Tody, DNR deputy director, was picked by Tanner to head the task force. To serve with him, Tody selected Gary E. Guenther, Environmental Services Division chief, and Dennis P. Tierney and Elizabeth Valentine of the Office of Program Review and Project Clearance.

Gundella writes

Twin tales of mystery, telepathy, superstition

A woman living in California experienced a severe pain in her left wrist. This pain, which began suddenly one Saturday afternoon, was great enough to bring tears to her eyes. Yet, X-rays and medical examination could reveal no cause for it.

It vanished completely, however, when the woman phoned her twin brother, who was living in Michigan. Only then did she learn that her brother had broken his wrist in an accident which took place at the exact moment at which she felt her first discomfort.

Such telepathic communication sometimes exists between ordinary brother and sister, parent and child, husband and wife, or even friend and friend. However, it seems to be espe-

cially prevalent between fraternal twins—such as those described above—and even more so between identical twins.

IDENTICAL TWINS are always of the same sex and develop from one fertilized egg. Fraternal twins, who may or may not be of the same sex, have developed from two separate, independently fertilized eggs.

Twinship often seems to show a relationship consisting not only of similarity in appearance, but also of some fascinating, mysterious, intangible quality which binds twins together even when they are physically separated by thousands of miles.

In primitive cultures, twins were often either feared or revered.

In some cultures, the weakest of the two was put to death, so as not to drain strength from the stronger. In such cases, the surviving child was given a carved piece of wood representing the deceased twin. This was to give the ghost of the dead child something to return to, so that it would not attempt to invade and possess the body of its living twin.

In some ancient societies, brother and sister twins were said to be "betrothed in the womb."

An Indian myth tells of twins named Yama and Yamu, who were, according to legend, the first human couple.

THE OLD TESTAMENT mentions two pairs of twins: Esau and Jacob

(Genesis 25); and Perez and Zerah (Genesis 38). In the case of the second pair, who were the twin sons of Tamar, the mother is said to have conceived the pair as a result of harlotry.

Today, much of the superstition surrounding the birth of twins has been done away with by a better understanding of the genetics of twinning, but there still remain many inexplicable events concerning the bond between twins.

I RECENTLY MET a woman who told me that she always believed herself a twin. She frequently dreamed of a twin sister. As a child, she fantasized such a sister for an imaginary playmate.

As an adult, she found herself frequently looking over any crowd of people she happened upon, for a face similar to her own.

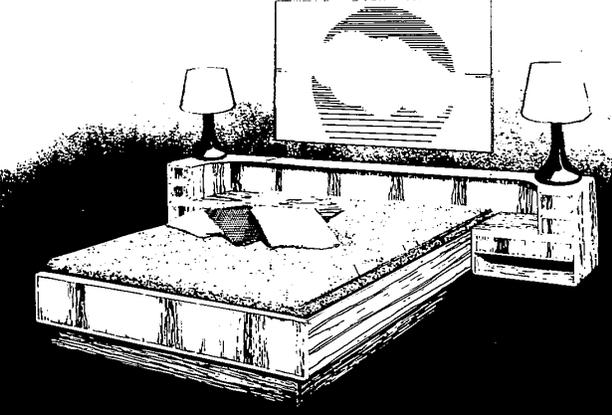
Then, after years of denying the girl was a twin, her mother confessed on her deathbed that she had, indeed, given birth to twin girls. On the day of their birth, however, she had given one up to a woman whose child had been stillborn the same day.

No one but herself and the doctor attending her had ever known this. But, the twin she had kept with her spent the rest of her life searching for her lost sister, whom she seems to have remembered from the womb.

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FOR OUT OF THIS WORLD REQUESTS
WANT ADS

twelve oaks mall

Here's a handy reminder of all the exciting special events coming this month

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28

1 Julie Adler **DANCE STUDIO GROUP**
6:30 p.m. Performances Center Court

2 **Michigan 10 BALLET THEATRE**
Performances in Center Court
Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1:00, 3:30 & 5:00 p.m.

3 **Community Band**
7:30 p.m. - Center Court

4 **TB Testing**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Just off Center Court

5 **Oakland County TB Testing**
10am to 2pm Just off Center Court

6 **Renaissance Wind Quintet**
6 & 8 p.m. Center Court

7 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

8 **Plymouth Community Band**
7:30 p.m. - Center Court

9 **TB Testing**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Just off Center Court

10 **Michigan 10 BALLET THEATRE**
Performances in Center Court
Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1:00, 3:30 & 5:00 p.m.

11 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

12 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

13 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

14 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
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12 to 3:30 Center Court

23 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

24 **Brad Lowes' ALL-NEW MUSICAL REVUE**
Showtimes: Friday 1, 3 & 7 p.m., Saturday 1 & 3 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. only

25 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

26 **Brad Lowes' Musical Revue 3 Days!**

27 **Hot-Melter Productions VALENTINE Program**
12 to 3:30 Center Court

28 **Novi Chorales**
7:30 p.m. Center Court

Everyday is a fun day at twelve oaks!

Premiere of the 4th **Wednesday Fashion Show**
Watch for details soon!

Don't Miss any of these family events February at twelve oaks mall - I-96 at Novi Rd.