

McDonald's placemats offer serious message

By JOE MARTUCCI

One year after the murder of Birmingham's Timothy King, children are still constantly reminded of the potential danger lurking in the community.

Nowhere is the message more clear than in area McDonald's restaurant. Placemats proclaim, "A stranger can look like anyone! Don't go with strangers!"

Children are warned, "Strangers will say anything to convince you to go with them. Remember, don't listen, don't talk and run to the nearest safe place."

still appropriate? Or do they instill in children a feeling of paranoia?
Diane Vincent, director of Common Ground, a human services agency based in Birmingham, said warnings like those contained on the McDonald's placemats were more appropriate last spring than now.

"I think they need to represent less of a crisis flavor and more just general, sound safety tips for children," said Ms. Vincent. "I wish they would continue, but change our copy to be more educational and less frightening."

Last spring, Common Ground and area police officials helped McDonald's design the placemats.

It took several months, however, to obtain approval from McDonald's and to have one million placemats printed, said John McLellan of the Ross Roy advertising agency, which handles advertising for the fast-food chain.

CONSEQUENTLY the placemats didn't appear in restaurants until late fall. And McLellan said the supply is nearly exhausted—there's only enough for a few more weeks.

"We were just trying to help out," said McLellan. "We've received letters from police departments thanking us for doing this. And the comments in the stores (restaurants) have been good."
McDonald's restored the bill for print-

ing the placemats, but McLellan wouldn't say how much it was.
Said Ms. Vincent, "Our approach now is quite different. Essentially, we're trying to educate children to feel as though they have control of their own bodies."

"There's less of a sense of urgency. Since we're not in a crisis, we're teaching them to make more discriminating judgments. We still encourage children to report advances."
Ms. Vincent stressed, however, that placemats cannot teach children about molestation. It's too complex for that, she said.

"We still teach children that if someone is persistent and they begin to get confused, they shouldn't listen and

they should run. But the message is more one of positive reinforcement than fright. It's important for people to feel safe in their community. They can't do that if there's a feeling of paranoia and that the community is under siege."

PSYCHIATRIST Bruce Danto of Bloomfield Township scoffs at the theory that children are getting paranoid from all the warnings about child molesters. That theory has been advanced recently by several mental health professionals.

"We're dealing, fundamentally, with a problem, not just a specific crime," said Danto. "I don't think that a year later is too late (for warnings). Chil-

ren don't get traumatized, unless their parents become fanatics about it."
"There are two types of paranoia—good and bad. If it helps enhance survival, then it's good. I fully expect we haven't heard the last of the killer or killers. He may be in custody on some other charge, or just lying low because he's been contacted by police."

Danto has worked with police on the slayings of Timothy King and three other Oakland County children. He helped develop a profile of the suspect.

"People who are trying to build this theory of trauma don't know what they're talking about. We're living in a time when everyone has to become a little paranoid."

State laws impact on municipalities

By JACKIE KLEIN

The State of Michigan and local units of government in 1977 shook hands on some issues and came out fighting on others.

That's the word from William G. Davis, a associate director of Michigan Municipal League, in a final report on last year's state legislative sessions.

The most significant measure, according to Davis, was passage of a public act creating a permanent program of reimbursement to cities for the cost of fire protection to state-owned facilities in their communities.

On the other hand, said Davis, the state continued to tighten its grip on local budgets by passing unemployment compensation act amendments.

"The act abolished less costly local unemployment compensation systems and eliminated the exclusion for seasonal employees," Davis said. "The league, however, was able to win approval for public employers to form self-insurer groups and a group unemployment compensation program."

OTHER LAWS passed affecting municipalities were:
• Drunk and disorderly arrests are allowed for an intoxicated person causing a disturbance or threatening people or property.
• A bill for decriminalization of alcohol authorizes police and treatment centers to take an incapacitated person into protective custody. Approved jails can be used for eight hours as transfer facilities if immediate attention or transportation is unavailable.

• Studied tires on ambulances are allowed but the sale or use of tires with unsafe tread or ply conditions is prohibited.

• State mental health patients vote absentee where they lived before admission.

• Gas tax refunds for school bus contractors are extended.

• A rehabilitation fund, administered by the State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) was created. The fund is financed by bond sales, state and local funds to provide low interest, long term loans and grants to moderate and low-income families under home and neighborhood improvement programs.

• Governing bodies are allowed to waive a three per cent collection fee on late property tax payments for eligible senior citizens, paraplegics, quadriplegics, totally disabled, blind and eligible servicemen, and widows who filed but didn't receive state income tax credits by Feb. 15.

• Registration deadline notices for special elections on a proposal must contain the statement as it appears on the ballot.

• Dog law enforcement is transferred to district courts.

• A one-year program of state subsidized heating costs for senior citizens and low income persons was established. Benefits vary with household size and income.

• The minimum wage was set at \$2.65 and provides a timetable for gradual increases to \$3.35 in 1981.

• Police-fire compulsory arbitration awards of benefits and salary increases are retroactive to the start of any period in dispute.

Legislative bills which have progressed through March 8 are:
• Raising the legal drinking age to 19 for three years beginning April, 1979.

• Allowing totally disabled persons to receive the same amount of property tax credit as senior citizens.

• Reducing penalties for possession of marijuana to \$100 for one ounce or less and up to 90 days for more than one ounce.

Lenore Romney set for scouts

Lenore Romney will be the guest speaker at the 41st annual meeting of the Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, in the Lathrup Village Municipal Building, 4700 Southfield Road.

The topic of her speech will be "Volunteers Make It Happen."

Mrs. Clement Detloff, Council President, will conduct the meeting, at which area delegates will vote on a single state of new officers.

The state includes a board of directors, council nominating committee and national council delegates who will attend the 1978 national convention in Denver, Colo.

The state includes Mrs. John Law of Birmingham, as first vice-president; Mrs. William Donahue of Madison Heights as second vice-president; Mark J. MacGuldwinn of Rochester as treasurer.

Members-at-large include Mrs. A.

Frank Gerstenecker of Troy as area chairman for a one-year term; Mrs. Donald Potrzaski of Troy and Mrs. Kristine King of Southfield for one- and two-year terms, respectively.

Mergers-at-large for three year terms include Mrs. Frank Barnes and Mrs. Robert Stewart of Birmingham;

Mrs. Warren Bart and Mrs. Leon Piecuch of Farmington Hills; Mrs. Michael Klotzski and Mrs. Lawrence Trevarrow of Bloomfield Hills; Mrs. Daniel Potter of West Bloomfield; Mr. Phillip K. Webb of Troy and Mrs. Ted Weber of Pleasant Ridge.

Mrs. Bart and Mrs. Carl Freeman of Birmingham will make up the nominating committee. National Council delegates will be Mrs. Clement Detloff at Mrs. Charles Friedl of Southfield; Mrs. Law and Mrs. James Mason of Birmingham; Mrs. Beverly Robbins of Lathrup Village and Mrs. Kenneth Wheeler of Troy.

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HEDSTROM GIRLS 13 INCH SHORWALK BIKE 3393
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Cross-braced handlebars, BX saddle, number plates, coaster brake. Unassembled.

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LIVONIA 29150 W. 7 Mile Rd. at Middlebelt East of Livonia Mall.	SOUTHFIELD 27000 Telegraph Rd. at 12 Mile South of Van Dyke	MADISON HEIGHTS 32700 John R. Road at 14 Mile South of Oakland Mall

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