

The undercover mode

Drug cop tells students about life on the street

By Karen Hermes Smith
staff writer

David Toma, the Newark, N.J., cop on whom the "Baretta" television series was based, challenged Brother Rice and Marian high school students Tuesday to reform from drugs and alcohol and commit themselves to straight lives.

"When you do drugs, you're not cool," he said with the fervor of an evangelist. "You're a fool."

Toma's appearance Tuesday at the two Catholic Bloomfield Township schools was the first of two he'll make in the area under the co-sponsorship of Birmingham-Bloomfield Families in Action, an agency dedicated to educating the community about the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Toma will return Nov. 1-2 to speak to students of Birmingham Public Schools and their parents.

The former vice squad detective, who grew up as the youngest of 12 children in a ghetto, now lectures to students across the country, graphically

describing the devastation he's seen drugs cause during his police career and personal life.

"You wanna play, you gotta pay. The price is heavy, baby," he tells the students.

Toma's hope is to reach in-teen-agers before they wind up in jail, overdose or die.

Toma, who's visited 8,000 junior high and high schools, said the majority, not the minority, of American students are "into" drugs and alcohol. "Eighty-five to ninety percent get high," he said.

DURING HIS three-hour talk Tuesday, Toma challenged students to try to match his knowledge about drugs and their effect on the human body.

"You listen to me, I know what I'm talking about," he said at one point during his talk, adding that he's spoken to 3 million teen-agers about what drugs have done to them.

While doctors, legislators and the media argue over whether marijuana

is dangerous and should be legalized, Toma said that one lighted marijuana cigarette contains 421 chemicals and poisons, one of which is THC, the psychoactive ingredient which causes users to get high.

The effect (tetrahydrocannabinol) has differs each time it's ingested, Toma said, depending on variables such as the weather when it was grown, the user's frame of mind and diet when it's smoked.

However, Toma said he's seen several hundred cases where THC has caused permanent paralysis. The drug, he said, works peripherally in damaging nerves, causing chest pains and vision problems among other ailments.

ANGEL DUST, pills, cocaine and other drugs are lethal, he said. Many times, users don't know how the drugs have been prepared by pushers before they're purchased.

Students in Grosse Pointe told him they've mixed angel dust with rat poison. Other students said they've dipped

pills in Liquid Drano before selling them.

When he's asked why they do it, Toma said the students tell him that the kids they sell the drugs to don't care. They simply want to get high.

Alcohol is the number one killer among teen-agers, Toma said. Twenty-five teens a day die in alcohol-related traffic accidents, he added.

Toma condemned social or weekend drinking as hard as alcoholism. "If you drink at all, you drink because you want to get high, not because it's the thing to do," he said. "You like the feeling."

The 50-year-old Toma, who kicked a tranquilizer habit he started after the death of his 5-year-old son, now takes no drugs and doesn't smoke. He's never drunk, he said. Tuesday, he told the students how they too could make life their only high.

The way, he said, is to give it up cold turkey and make their last joint or beer their very last.

"Be proud to be straight," he said. "It's the in-thing."



David Toma, a former vice-squad detective, urged high school students to avoid getting hooked on drugs and alcohol.

DEBORAH BOOKER/staff photographer

Courses offered for working adults

Mercy College of Detroit's Weekend College offers Saturday classes in six fields of study for working adults who wish to earn a bachelor's or associate degree.

The Weekend College program will be explained during two Open House Information Sessions at the College's Conference Center 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.

Information will be available on how the Weekend College works, admission requirements, financial aid, tuition reimbursement and career transitions. Degree program offerings will be explained in detail. The Weekend College offers bachelor's degrees in business administration, public administration, health care administration, health services, medical record science and an associate degree program for legal assistants.

Weekend College (WEC) is a part-time program that enables employed adults to take from one to eleven credit hours a semester while still maintaining responsibilities to families and jobs.

WEEKEND COLLEGE classes generally meet five times in a semester, with two Saturdays between each session. Students supplement classroom work with directed study assignments, which enable them to cover the same course content and meet the same academic standards as their counterparts in traditional college programs. Classes meet during three semesters of the academic year — fall, winter and summer.

WEC students have access to Mercy's modern library and extensive media resources. They are able to transfer

credits from previous college courses and to receive academic credit for pertinent professional experience. In addition, they are eligible for financial aid consideration as part-time students.

To ensure processing of applications for winter semester, new students should complete application procedures as soon as possible. Students who have completed the application process may register for the winter semester of

Weekend College Nov. 1 through Dec. 21 for classes beginning January 7.

For further information on the Weekend College or the Open House Information Sessions, call the Mercy College Admissions office at 822-6030 or the WEC office at 822-6100.

Mercy College is at 8200 W. Outer Drive, at the Southfield freeway, between Six and Seven Mile in Detroit.

EXCALIBUR SHOES for MEN

SAVE 20% Bass

Jackson **\$39.90** reg. \$50.00

Available N, M, W Widths

BONE TAN GREY BROWN 87 Pairs While They Last!

*10% OFF All Special Orders

Orchard Mall • West Bloomfield • 851-5122 • Sun. 12-5

GOLD GALLERY

ALWAYS 30% OFF

Grand Opening Special

16" Fresh Water Pearls
124" white supply lasts

Celebrate Sweetest Day with us
Saturday, October 15
Complimentary Wine & Sweets

Enter Drawing For A SEIKO WATCH Until Nov. 15 No Purchase Necessary

Watch & Jewelry Repair Done on Promise FREE Jewelry Cleaning Ring Sizing Watch Repair Gift Wrapping

HUNTERS SQUARE

TALLY HALL
Orchard Lake Road at 15 Mile
851-3155

Open Mon.-Tues.-Thurs.-Sat. 10-5
Wed. & Fri. 11-9 Phone 855-3155

MOVING SALE!

20-50% OFF AND MORE!

Before moving to THE BOARDWALK, we're presenting this RARE OPPORTUNITY to save on distinctive home interior furnishings used in custom interior design. All superb quality, from famous makers...

- Lamps
- Wall Units
- Sofas
- Chairs
- Accent Pieces
- Accessories
- Pillows
- Bedspreads

...and more from our complete collection!

DECORATIVE INTERIORS

Extraordinary things for extraordinary people.

Orchard Mall • Orchard Lake Road north of Maple
851-3200 • Thursday & Friday open until 9 p.m.

GRAND OPENING

Tues., Oct. 18-25

EST. 1978

THE CORN POPPER

32 Flavors of the "Best Popcorn you will ever taste"

EVERGREEN PLAZA

12 Mile and Evergreen Southfield

DECORATED CANS FOR ANY OCCASION

FREE 1 Bag Of Buttered, Salted POPCORN
Last One For Coupon Good Thru Oct. 25, 1983

\$200 OFF Any 4 Gal. White Container
Last One For Coupon Good Thru Oct. 25, 1983

\$100 OFF Any Hand Painted or Lithograph Container
Last One For Coupon Good Thru Oct. 25, 1983

We Have The Plants

English Gardens And The Know-How And Everything You Need

To Create and Enjoy AN INDOOR GARDEN

SALE...29.98 Value

3 to 5 ft. Floor Size Tropical Plants
Fresh, New Shipment. Big 10-INCH Pots

- ARBICOLA - RUBBER PLANT
- ARECA PALM
- DRACENA MARGINATA
- WEEPING FIG BUSH OR TREE

14.98

FREE GARDEN CLINICS Saturdays 1:00 P.M.

20% to 50% Off On ALL Evergreens Shrubs and Trees

Now, best time to plant and SAVE

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Oct. 15 - Selling Non-potential Plants
Oct. 22 - Decorating with Plants
Oct. 29 - Attracting Insects

DEARBORN
Oct. 15 - Attracting Birds
Oct. 22 - Selling Non-potential Plants

Daffodil Bulb Sale Holland Imports 10 for 1.98
100 for \$18
King Alfred yellow daffodils
Large No. 3 size

Potting Soil Sale Fertillite Brand
20 lb. Bag REG. 1.98 99¢
40 lb. Bag REG. 2.98 1.89

Japanese YEWs, 12 to 15 in. REG. 10.98 6.99
Pyramid ARBORVITAE, 2 to 3 ft. REG. 10.98 14.98
BURNING BUSH, 18 to 24 in. REG. 25.98 15.98
Colorado Blue SPRUCE, 4 to 5 ft. REG. 49.90 39.98

West Bloomfield, 6178 Orchard Lake Rd. at Maple, 851-7500... Dearborn, 2750 Ford Rd. at Oak St. 274-4233, 8:00 to 9:00, Sunday 10:00 to 5:00. Prices Effective Through Wed. Oct. 16. Visa and Mastercard.