

## Police use laser technology in battle against criminals

## By Jackie Kieln staff writer

If not for a new technique using laser beams to lift latent fingerprints, South-field police may never have linked Vic-tor Malone will the slaying of a wom-an whose nude body was found in a platic hag Jan. 29 dumped behind the Tel.Twelve Mail. Malone, 38, a social worker from De-troit who formerly lived in Southfield, faces trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on an open murder charge in connection with the strangling death of Deborah Love Debrus, 20.

"I was called to Tcl-Twelve Mail where the body wrapped in a sheet and stuffed into a plastic hag was found near package pickup," said Southlield Police Sgt. Melvin Paunovich, who heads the department crime lab.

"I REMOVED the red garbage bag and used conventional methods to try and get fingerprints on it. But I was unsuccessful.

"Through professional organizations, I knew about the laser beam technique, which was developed by Ontario Pro-vincial Police in 1976."

Paunovich went to Toronto to use the laser. When he photographed the plas-tic bag, the lingerprint of a left little finger became visible, he said. The laser beam brings out what is lixed but doesn't change or destroy the print, he said.

"THE BEAM OF light causes excita-tion of latent prints," Pounovich said, "When you take a pholograph, you wear special filtered goggles and with the filter on the camera, the print be-comes visible.

"The filter provides a viewing area of about 12 inches, and you get ridge ending characteristics of the finger. I compared this with ink impressions of Malone's print taken in Derroit." Pauovich said he formed an opinion based on years of experience which in-cludes fingerprint comparisons. Malone had been arrested by police in Detroit, where he faces trial in connec-tion to the murders of two prostitutes, shorty after Debru's body was found, Paunovich said.

PAUNOVICH OBTAINED Malone's

PAUNOVICH OFTAINED Matores ingerprints from the Detroit Police Department and compared them with the print lifted in Toronto. "This was the first time we used the new state-of-the-art laser tecnique and we're hoping to get both the portable and stationary equipment for our de-partment," Paunovich said.

"The laser can pick up fingerprints on fabrics including gloves used in crimes. This could have a significant impact on the detection of criminal fingerprints."

THERE WAS no missing persons re-THERE WAS no missing persons re-port on Debrus, Paunovich said. During Malone's preliminary examination in 6db District Court, testimony brought out that Debrus, formerly of Royal Oak, was a prositiute who worked the streets and wasn't in touch with her family, he said.

I took a fingerprint from Debrus's body and wilb the cooperation of Dar-rick Hicks and Lt. Edward Zupanelc of the Detroil Police Department, we were able to identify her in a low min-ules. Our detectives had a strong lead instead of an unknown body in a gar-bage bag. bage bag.

