

Hitting the kingpins

Drug unit targets 'untouchable' dealers in southeast Michigan

By Wayne Post staff writer

Call them the new Untouchables. A 12-member undercover police unit will soon begin combing the metropolitan area to bring down Michigan's drug kings. Based in Livonia, the law enforcement team will step up the war on drug dealers in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw counties. The group's official name is SEM-

CO — Southeast Michigan Conspiracy Investigative Organization. But it has much in common with the Untouchables, famous crime-busters of 1920s Chicago.

"It's a new effort to get drug kingpins, the people who never get their hands dirty," Gov. James Blanchard said Thursday in announcing the group's formation.

LIKE THE Untouchables, the goal is to bring down big time racketeers,

not street dealers. Also like the real Untouchables — not the glamorized movie and television versions — the group will rely on careful investigation rather than gun-blazing car chases to bring in its prey. It will investigate "big-time importers with no visible means of legal incomes," Blanchard said.

MEMBERS WILL begin pouring over suspected dealers' tax and financial records, keeping in mind

that notorious 1920s mobster Al Capone was brought to justice on tax evasion charges.

"There's going to be a lot of flat-foot gumshoe police work," State Police Capt. Richard Meloche said. Meloche is commanding officer of the state police Livonia Criminal Investigation Section, the unit's home base.

SEMCO is the brainchild of the Southeast Michigan Chiefs of Police. The chief suggested the unit's creation last spring.

SEMCO will receive a \$748,584 federal grant to finance its operations. Officers will be drawn from state police posts, as well as local and county departments.

AREA LAW enforcement officials said they backed the new unit.

"I think it (drug dealing) is a bigger problem than we realize," Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols said. "Part of the problem is that we don't have enough operatives in the field."

Suburban drug dealers and users are particularly difficult to arrest, Nichols said. "Our people (in Oakland County) can get narcotics without having to steal to get them," Nichols said. "That makes it that much harder to get arrests."

Detroit's success in closing its crack houses could inadvertently increase the drug problem in the sub-

urbs, Livonia Police Chief William Crayk said.

"We've seen drugs coming out into the suburbs; we've seen arrests in Sterling Heights," Crayk said. "We have to be alert. As Detroit closes its crack houses, they could be coming out here. I suppose it's just a matter of time before the manufacturing comes out here, too."

Local investigations will continue, Crayk said. Livonia's eight-officer investigative unit is one of the area's largest.

"The problem is, we haven't had the ability to go after the high-level dealers," Crayk said. Until now, police said, those criminals have been untouchable.

Blanchard: Drug kingpins should get life sentences

While announcing formation of a new anti-drug law enforcement team, Gov. James Blanchard also campaigned for crime reforms contained in his recent State of the State message. "Drug dealers, essentially, are killing people," Blanchard said. He proposed: • Jailing violent criminals and big-time drug dealers for life, without parole. • Drafting new state law based upon federal Racketeer Influenced

Corrupt Organization (RICO) law. The law, Blanchard said, would allow law enforcement agencies to smash drug rings.

• Creating a "drug profiteering tax" that would allow the state Department of Treasury to tax drug dealers' seized assets.

• Additional new law giving the state attorney general's office the power to call statewide grand juries to investigate alleged criminal conspiracies.

Blanchard spoke Thursday afternoon at Michigan State Police metro

area Criminal Investigation Section headquarters, Livonia.

The governor kept his talk primarily to law enforcement issues, pausing only to praise Michigan State football coach George Perles for spurning an offer to coach a professional team.

"I am relieved and delighted George Perles will stay," Blanchard said. "He (Perles) loves Michigan State and we love him."

Blanchard is a Michigan State alumnus.

Judges from suburban courts help Detroit fight war on crack

Each day one or two suburban district judges travel to Detroit to help the city with its crack cocaine case-load.

"The visitors hear general docket cases so Detroit district judges can hear the drug docket," said Herbert D. Lovitt, regional administrator of the state Supreme Court.

"The drug docket is up 130 percent since May," he said. "Chief Judge Adam Shakoor of the 35th District Court instituted a judicial awareness program when Wayne County Pro-

secutor John O'Hair asked for more judges."

Area judges from Oakland County and their assigned dates in Detroit are: Gus Clifell of the 48th (Birmingham-Bloomfield) District, Jan. 28; Bernard Friedman, 48th, March 29; Edward Sosnick, 48th, April 7; Michael Hand, 47th (Farmington) District, March 8 and April 5; Margaret Schaeffer, 47th, March 15; Susan Moiseev, 46th (Southfield) District, April 6; Stephen Cooper, 46th, April 27; and Bryan Levy, 46th, March 27. Western Wayne County Judges in-

clude: Robert Brzezinski, 16th (Livonia) District, Feb. 19, March 4 and April 8; Gail McKnight, 18th (Westland) District, Richard Hammer, 21st (Garden City) District, Feb. 5, March 17 and April 20; John MacDonald, 35th (Plymouth-Canton) District, Jan. 28 and April 19; and James Garber, 35th, Feb. 12 and March 1.

District courts handle pre-trial examinations in criminal cases, minor criminal cases, traffic cases and minor civil lawsuits.

Fine paintings and drawings by D. Col, E.R. Maes, J. J. Henner, G. Wiggins, G. Grosz, L. Icart, H.C. Christy, F. H. Hayward and others.



Oriental works of art include an interesting collection of approximately 75 snuff bottles made of jade, amber, Peking glass, rock crystal, cloisonne, lapis, amethyst, rose quartz, coral, etc., Han, Wei and Tang Dynasty pottery, Canton porcelains, famille noir lacquer, other decorative accessories and carpets.

Highlighting the silver will be a George III covered tea urn, London 1764 by Thomas Whigham and Charles Wright and a pair of Sheffield silver plated candlesticks by Matthew Boulton.

Also in the auction will be a grouping of boxes and other "smalls," a fine pair of cobalt blue Meissen covered urns with serpent handles, 2 pair of pate sur pate vases, a pair of Web art glass vases, heavily carved furniture, etc.

PREVIEW:

Wednesday, February 3 Noon to 8 p.m.
Thursday, February 4 Noon to 8 p.m.
Friday, February 5 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AUCTION:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1988 11:00 A.M.

Stalker Gallery, Inc.

APPRAISERS • AUCTIONEERS

2975 W. Maple Road, Troy, Michigan 48084 (313) 288-3820

(Stalker Gallery acts as agent for the consignors and does not have a monetary interest in any lot sold. All items are guaranteed as described) 10% buyers premium on all lots.

from Alexandra de Markoff, new makeups with a difference. Two new Countess Isserlyn makeups that are treatments, too. Luminous finish and totally oil-free Soft Velvet. Each, 1 oz., \$5.00. Plus a superb gift, a 30.00 value, now yours with any Alexandra de Markoff purchase of 12.00 or more: "Colour Agenda": a faux lizard textured cache that opens to reveal 6 eyeshadows, 2 cheek colours, and 3 lipsticks. In Cosmetics, Main Level, Somerset Mall

BONWIT TELLER

SHOP SOMEWHERE MALL: SUITE 10-13, 10000, THREE, THE 10-10, BUES, WED. 10-4, SAT. 10-4, (313) 461-8700. USE YOUR BONWIT TELLER CARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, VISA OR MASTERCARD.

Clip and Mail

80th Annual Shrine Circus

Best House Seats! 2 top price ranges only!

DNR State Fairgrounds 8 Mile & Woodward • Detroit

UP TO **30% OFF**

MAIL ORDERS ONLY!

	Reg. Price	Your Price
9:30 A.M. Saturday, March 12, 1988 Ringside (Rows 1-9)	\$9.00	\$7.00
Saturday, March 19, 1988 Reserved (Rows 10-18)	\$7.00	\$4.75
7:30 P.M. Sunday, March 13, 1988 Ringside (Rows 1-9)	\$9.00	\$7.00
Sunday, March 20, 1988 Reserved (Rows 10-18)	\$7.00	\$4.75
Wednesday, March 16, 1988 Ringside (Rows 1-9)	\$8.00	\$6.00
Thursday, March 17, 1988 Ringside (Rows 1-9)	\$8.00	\$6.00
Friday, March 18, 1988 Reserved (Rows 10-18)	\$6.00	\$4.25
Wednesday, March 23, 1988 Reserved (Rows 10-18)	\$6.00	\$4.25
Thursday, March 24, 1988		

Make your check or money order payable to: METROGROUP, INC.
Mail to: METROGROUP, INC. • P.O. Box 3241 • Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

Tickets By Return Mail NO SERVICE FEES Postage & Handling included

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Select Date _____ # of Tickets _____ at Price Range Desired _____ = TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

THESE BARGAIN PRICES BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

FLY SOUTHWEST JUST SAY WHEN

Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS, INC.

WJWJ

Metromedia

Wardus

CLARK'S

24 Hour Circus Ticket Information HOTLINE (313) 353-9777