

Prosecutors take tough stance on paroles

By RALPH R. ECHEZAR
STAFF WRITER

In an odd twist of fate, Leslie Allen Williams may ultimately have helped more people than he hurt when he killed four women while on parole for rape in 1982. In direct response to Williams' actions, the state Legislature and Gov. John Engler sacked the parole board and changed the parole laws. Among the changes made was to give circuit court judges the power to reverse or revise parole board rulings that are contested by county prosecutors.

Although Michigan's 38 prisons and 15 minimum-security camps are filled to capacity with 38,000 individuals, and the parole board by necessity must release old prisoners to make room for new prisoners, prosecutors now have the ability to look over the shoulder of the parole board and question its decisions.

Wayne County chief assistant prosecutor George Ward has led the way on appealing paroles, with about 20 successful appeals so far, but Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson, weighing in now with a new two-woman parole appeals section.

Since August, when they received their new duties, assistant prosecutors Kathryn McCarthy and Stacy Isles have initiated appeals on three paroles. Two of the appeals are pending. The third one ended when the parole board voluntarily reversed its own decision and put the man back in prison.

McCarthy and Isles review the files of about 50 potential parolees each week. They request more information on 10-20, then decide which of those cases stand a chance of being approved by a circuit court judge for appeal.

To get permission to appeal, Isles and McCarthy must demon-

strate to the judge that the prisoner in question, however heinous his crime may have been, is likely to commit more crimes.

Even though Isles and McCarthy are dealing with hard-core criminals, judges won't grant permission to appeal a parole just because the prisoner committed a horrendous crime. "If they've been absolutely a model prisoner, it makes our job more difficult," Isles said.

Ergo, possession of a prisoner's psychological records can be powerful evidence that a parole should be denied. These records might show that a prisoner is in fact likely to commit more crimes, however well behaved he was in prison.

But Isles and McCarthy have been denied access to the psychological records. Department of

Corrections officials cite doctor/patient privacy privileges as the reason for withholding the information.

"I think it's a ridiculous posture to take," McCarthy said, noting that she and Isles could appeal twice as many paroles if they were given the psychological records. "Without the psych records, our hands are tied," she said.

This is especially important when dealing with child-abusing pedophiles, McCarthy said, who are "classically model prisoners."

Although the current parole board is "far more conservative than past parole boards," McCarthy said, she acknowledges that her goal is "totally different" from the parole boards'.

Because there are legal limits to the number of prisoners that can

be held in the state's prisons, and those prisons are filled to capacity, when one man goes in, another man has to come out. When a prosecutor successfully appeals the parole of a given prisoner and keeps him locked up, a different prisoner must be released instead.

Isles and McCarthy realize this and see their mission as making sure the lowest risk prisoners are released. "I would prefer to have a shoplifter in my neighborhood than a sex offender," McCarthy said.

Another downside of crowded prisons is that most offenders are released long before serving their maximum sentences, and many of them are released before serving their minimum sentences.

For example, one of the appeals Isles and McCarthy are pursuing

involves the parole of a man who was given one to 20 years for felonious assault, a crime he committed while on parole for armed robbery. The parole board approved this man's second parole after he served just 18 months.

"It virtually never happens that anybody serves their maximum sentence," Isles said.

To help solve this problem, Isles and McCarthy support a proposal by Ward.

Ward favors a system whereby a parolee's maximum sentence would not be waived at the end of a two-year parole period, as is typically done now. Instead, Ward says, individuals who commit crimes on parole should be reincarcerated to complete their maximum sentences.

BATHTUB REFINISHING
10 YEAR WARRANTY AVAILABLE
SAVE 80% OVER REPLACEMENT

WINTER SPECIAL
STANDARD TUB
\$159.00

CERAMIC TILE
Appliances • Sinks • Tile
and Countertop Resurfacing
• Chip and Scratch Repair

Free Estimates
Expires Feb. 3, 1994
with this coupon

427-3838

A Taste of the Past
Up to 20% off
on exquisite collection of
Antique & Collectible
Dolls from the late 1800's
to 1930's.

Boxed & Chai Heads
Combs • German Dolls
Dresden Mini Figures &
Doll Accessories • More
Alexander's Tam, Tea
Chest, Trunk, etc.

SALE ENDS
SAT., JAN. 29!

The Doll Hospital &
Toy Soldier Shop

3241 W. 12 Mile Rd. - Dearborn
M. St. 102-32 FA 102 5632115

Weekend Escape Routes.

Our weekend packages offer you both escape and escapades. Enjoy our state-of-the-art fitness center complete with indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool and more. Plus, we're near racquet facilities, golf courses, nightlife and fine dining. In fact, some of the best nightlife and dining is right here in the hotel.

Rooms? Luxurious!
So get out of your weekend rut and take one of our weekend routes.

Romance Weekend \$89
Includes champagne, chocolate covered strawberries, bath soaps, roses in your room and American breakfast for two in bed.

HILTON'S WEEKEND \$65
Includes continental breakfast, and kids stay free.

Winter Saver Package Weekend \$59
Kids stay free.

Dinner Package Weekend \$89
Includes \$25 credit toward dinner and pay-per-view movie.

Shopping Package Weekend \$89
Includes continental breakfast, beach towel and shopping bag from 12 Oaks Mall, \$25 gift book from Hudson's, and one-day pass to Source Club.

Hilton
1275 W. 8 Mile Road • Novi, Michigan 48225 • (973) 349-4000
For reservations, call your professional travel agent or 1-800-HILTONS.
HILTON. SO NICE TO COME HOME TO.

Leewards

Going On Now!
"Spring" 8 page circular filled with fantastic savings. Pick up yours today!

99¢ ea. Reg. 1.29
Spring Flowering Bushes. Mixed varieties. Also soft satin shades.

8.88 Reg. 15.99
2 Pc. Long Sleeve Pant. Set. One size fits most. Plus size Reg. 18.99 12.88

\$1 Skeln Values to 2.49
Fashion Yarns. Wide assortment of acrylics and acrylic/wool blends.

88¢ Reg. 1.49
2 oz. Ceramic Acrylic Paint

2/\$1 Reg. 89¢ pkg.
"Puttin' on the Gills" Jewels

1.98 Reg. 2.99
Leewards' Carefree Yarn. 8 oz. solids. 6 oz. ombres.

1.99
Small Nostalgia Tins
Large Tins...2.99

3.88 Values to 6.99
Children's Playwear Rabbit Skins playwear in a variety of styles & colors.
• T Shirts
• Shorts
• Sweatshirts
• Sweatpants
Assortment varies by store.

39.88 Reg. 44.88
7 Ft. Lifelike Ficus Tree
• Over 800 Leaves
• Real Birch Trunk
• Natural Clay Pot

33% Off Reg. 3.99-19.99
Greenery Bushes

5/\$1 DMC Embroidery Floss. 396 colors.

50% Off Reg. 99¢-24.99
Wicker Baskets

99¢ ea. Mini Potted Floral & Greenery Plants

5/\$1 Plastic Canvas Sheets. Clear or colors. 7 mesh.

67¢ Reg. 99¢
2 oz. Apple Barrel Acrylic Paint. Over 15 colors.

33% Off Reg. 2.99-7.99
Iron-On Transfers & Daisy Kingdom No-sew Appliques

Buy 2 Get 1 FREE Artist Paint in Tubes

33% Off Reg. 2.99-34.99
Poster Frames

30% Off Reg. 6.99-129.99
Artist Papers and Canvas

30% Off Reg. 4.99-129.99
Latch Hook Kits

1.88 Reg. 2.99
Mini Trimmer Feed Game Gun, Regular or Low Temp.

On Sale 1.26 thru 1.29.94
These great savings can be found at all Metropolitan Detroit Area Leewards locations!

BIRMINGHAM
The Corners
13 Mile Rd. & Southfield Rd.
(next to T.J. Maxx)
(810) 433-3880

Madison Heights
Madison Place
John & 14 Mile Rds.
(810) 589-2583

Rochester Hills
Hampton Village Ctr.
5831 Rochester Rd.
(810) 853-3900

Ann Arbor
5723 Oak Valley Dr.
Oak Valley Center
(313) 994-2800

Westland
35745 Warren Rd.
(313) 789-4080

Warren
13 Mile Rd./Schoenherr
(810) 773-8500

Taylor
11500 Telegraph Rd.
(313) 946-9910

Novi
New Town Center
(810) 347-1940

Please step outside and read this.

The cold you feel right now is how thousands of families feel 24 hours a day.

This year, thousands of men, women and children will be cold due to a financial hardship. For them, the thought of snow only brings doubt and fear. Whether they are physically or mentally disabled, unexpectedly unemployed or the working poor, these people will endure the chill of winter without the protection of a warm home. That is until The Heat And Warmth (THAW) Fund.

THAW is a non-profit organization which helps struggling families in 11 Southeastern Michigan counties keep their heat on. It is the last resort for families who have exhausted all other possible resources. Since 1986, THAW has assisted over 11,000 families, more than half with children. Yet, THAW is not considered a handout, but a helping hand, for less than 10% of the recipients are repeat cases.

Once again, Detroit Edison is supporting THAW's efforts. Every dollar you donate will be matched by Detroit Edison and will go directly to those in need. So, as the nights grow longer, please remember the families who grow colder.

Detroit Edison