



#### rain

high 44, low 29  
Colder Wednesday  
Details on Page 2A

## Detroit NAACP election was hotly contested — 3A, 19A

## Rain forests

Scientists, biologists are concerned  
that they are disappearing — 1C

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# Detroit Free Press

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ON GUARD FOR 155 YEARS

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State

# Shultz calls deal illegal

## Meese: Prosecutor to get broad power

By AARON EPSTEIN  
Free Press Washington Staff

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Edwin Meese III has asked a special federal court to give sweeping authority to an independent prosecutor to investigate whether government officials and others have committed crimes during the last two years in connection with the shipment of weapons to Iran.

In a four-page application filed Thursday and released Monday by the court, Meese proposed the special prosecutor See PROSECUTOR, Page 8A



Secretary of State George Shultz is sworn in Thursday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

## Secretary of state: 'My role was zero'

By KENNETH J. COOPER and CHARLES GREEN  
Free Press Washington Staff

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz, in unusual sworn testimony Monday before members of Congress, said his role was "zero" in the "illegal" diversion of profits from Iranian arms sales.

Shultz also told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the U.S. ambassador in Beirut had bypassed him by communicating with the White House about efforts to free U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Hours later, Robert McFarlane, former national security See SHULTZ, Page 8A

### Also inside:

- Shultz 'shocked' that envoy went behind his back on arms deal. 13A.
- Shultz says he played no role in the Iran arms deal initiative. 13A.
- Swiss deny freezing accounts linked to contras. 13A.
- U.S.-Soviet relations haven't been directly affected by controversy thus far. 13A.
- Publicity killed accord to get Israeli soldiers freed in U.S. arms-to-Iran deal. 13A.
- Kissinger astonished that U.S. envoy in Lebanon was in contact with NSC without Shultz's knowledge. 13A.

### SPECIAL REPORT: PART THREE

## THE YOUNG OUTLAWS



MANNY CRISOSTOMO/Detroit Free Press

"Hey check yourself" is the way this group from the W. J. Maxey Training School tells a member that he is not following the rules.

**"We have created a generation of children without conscience, without value, so they have no concern about people's lives."**

— Juvenile Judge Y. Gladys Barsamian

## The verdict is frustration

"We are literally like a mass production operation here." — Y. Gladys Barsamian, presiding judge, Wayne County Probate Court juvenile division.

By JOE SWICKARD  
Free Press Staff Writer

The public address system beeps and yet another huddled group of reluctant travelers leaves the waiting area to be ushered through a locked courtroom door for one more leg on their passage through Wayne County's juvenile justice system.

The physical and emotional journey of delinquents and their families through the James H. Lincoln Hall of Juvenile Justice in Detroit takes them into courtrooms that are closed to the public, shielding a childhood gone awry.

The private, personal anguish of the families clustered in the waiting areas outside the court and hearing rooms provides a glimpse of the larger tortured mural of a county beset by young delinquents.

"You've got them shooting each other, stabbing each other, raping each other, mutilating each other and it's all done in secret," said visiting Juvenile Judge Paul Mahinske in allowing the Free Press to see COURT, Page 10A

## State loses track of wards

By PATRICIA MONTEMURRI  
Free Press Staff Writer

At any given time this year, officials of the state Department of Social Services in Wayne County did not know the whereabouts of 120 juvenile delinquent state wards.

Sometimes when they found them, they were dead.

Detroiters Johnnie Watson, 17, Ivan Berry, 15, and Ronald Carter, 16, were missing DSS wards who have been killed since July. They

had run away from their DSS placements or never returned after being allowed to go home for visits.

DSS officials can't provide figures on how many other wards have died.

Because of a shortage of treatment beds, sometimes delinquents are made wards of the state — and then just wait to be placed. Sometimes they wait at home, in the same environments and neighborhoods that contributed to their delinquency.

See DELINQUENT, Page 11A

## No spice at Smith-Perot lunch



JOHN STANO/Detroit Free Press

Businessman H. Ross Perot, left, and GM Chairman Roger Smith, Thursday at the Economic Club of Detroit. Said Perot: "If General Motors ever asked me to do anything that would help make General Motors strong, I'd be up here in a minute." Said Smith: "Ross is all right. He's trying to do his thing. I have a great admiration for Ross. I think a lot of what he's trying to do is valid. It's a tough business."

## Smith, Perot all smiles at Econ Club

The celebrated public confrontation of H. Ross Perot and General Motors Corp. Chairman Roger Smith Monday took on the proportions of a tea dance rather than the much anticipated free-swinging brawl.

Perot, appearing with Smith before a record crowd of 7,124 at the Economic Club of Detroit, managed to speak for nearly 90 minutes about

global competition to American industry without once using the words "General Motors."

While each side aimed verbal barbs at the other backstage, Perot and Smith remained cordial and correct toward one another in front of a crowd that seemed primed for more of Perot's Texas-style, blunt criticisms of the No. 1 automaker.

RATHER THAN continue the public attacks he started more than six months ago, Perot in fact indicated at a news conference that he would be willing to rejoin GM in nearly any capacity, including custodial.

"If General Motors ever asked me to do anything that would help make

See ECONOMIC CLUB, Page 2A

### Full report

- The mood at Cobo Hall. Page 14A.
- GM employees have mixed emotions. Page 14A.
- Excerpts of the Smith, Perot speeches. Page 15A.



## With 'misgivings,' Young approves gun ordinance

By PATRICIA EDMONDS  
City-County Bureau Chief

Despite what he called "my own serious misgivings," Mayor Young on Monday signed Michigan's toughest gun law into effect, im-

posing automatic jail terms on people convicted of carrying firearms without a permit in Detroit.

Ordinance violators would be forced to join daily public works crews if the Wayne County

Jail is full, as it is now.

The National Rifle Association, which monitors firearms legislation throughout the country, said the Detroit ordinance was

See FIREARMS, Page 8A

## White activists under pressure

By LARRY OLMSTEAD  
Free Press Africa Bureau

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — When white activist Audrey Coleman returns from a visit to London in about two weeks, the government likely will have something waiting for her — an order restricting her involvement in political activities.

"They came by and tried to serve it on

her the other day," said her husband, Max, a businessman who also is an anti-apartheid activist. "It was dated for Nov. 28 and listed the specific organizations she could not be involved in and certain campaigns she could not take part in."

The Colemans are familiar with police

See COLEMAN, Page 8A

■ S. Africa admits 256 people under 16 are in jail. 17A.



MONDAY 992 and 0376  
WED. JACKPOT \$3 million

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### Lotto info

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## THE YOUNG OUTLAWS

# In juvenile court, the verdict is frustration

COURT, from Page 1A

observe a juvenile's murder trial this summer.

Parole violators, thieves and killers — none older than 16 — fill and strain the system.

From the intake desk of the Wayne County Youth Home to the navy blue and kelly green courtrooms of Lincoln Hall, only the participants' age separates the nature of the criminal cases from those handled in the adult Wayne County Jail and Recorder's and Wayne County Circuit courts.

Here, childhood is not baseball cards and Barbie dolls, first dates and the senior prom. Rather, as demonstrated during a rare glimpse of the court cases by outsiders, childhood is a time of theft, strong-arm assault, drugs and armed robbery.

Shards of broken glass litter the steps of the courthouse along the Chrysler Freeway at E. Forest. Gang members — 7 Mile Nutty Boys, 8 Mile Smurfs, Popeye, Frog and MSM-Money Mark — have burned and gouged their nicknames and affiliations on rest room walls and ceilings.

"We have created a generation of children without conscience, without value, so they have no concern about people's lives," said Presiding Juvenile Judge Y. Gladys Barsamian. "Life is very cheap to them. So I don't wonder that what's happening in the streets today is happening. And it's going to get worse if we don't do something about saving our children."

For each youngster wide-eyed with apprehension about the power of the court, a casual observer can spot another — draped in golden chains and scuffing along in unlaced \$100 sneakers — snarling orders to a cowed parent.

Yet all the families tend to cluster, each giving the appearance of a separate solar system swirling around a core of distress. The family groups studiously ignore each other until the public address system hails them into one of the closed courts.

Some groups warily circle each other. Feuds are not left at the courthouse door.

"We're living on borrowed time in terms of something happening here at the court because these people — we've got all kinds of people here — and there is just not adequate security," Barsamian said.

Although the same type of crimes are tried at Lincoln Hall as at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, there are no metal detectors at the juvenile court door screening for knives and guns.

**BARSAMIAN SAID** she and the other officials are under assembly line pressure to move the cases through the system.

A juvenile in custody, under court rules, must be tried within 42 days, though that deadline is often missed and the cases stretch on, diluting the impact of timely consequences for misdeeds, Barsamian said.

Earlier this year, Chief Recorder's Court Judge Samuel Gardner ordered cases there to be tried within 60 days, a move that prompted criticism from some judges and attorneys that justice was being sacrificed for speed.

With an even shorter time limit for juvenile cases, "We are literally like a mass production operation here," Barsamian said.

Meeting the 42-day limit "prevents us from really dealing with the case in depth because we just are constantly trying to meet those times."

The juvenile system is cloaked by rules of confidentiality and closed to scrutiny by the public. But Barsamian allowed the Free Press to observe each stage of the procedure recently — from youth home admission through hearings to trial — providing the names of the youths were not revealed.

The handcuffed ride to the Wayne County Youth Home is the start of the journey.

The intake office screens police



Two juveniles cover their faces as they await admission into the Wayne County Youth Home, and a possible appearance in juvenile court.

**"YOU'VE GOT THEM** shooting each other, stabbing each other, raping each other, mutilating each other and it's all done in secret."

— Judge Paul Mahinske, from an opinion granting the Free Press permission to attend a juvenile court murder trial.

inquiries, determines which children will be admitted and, of those, which will have their cases forwarded to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office to be considered for a petition, essentially a juvenile arrest warrant.

Certain offenses require admission: homicides, armed robberies, firearms violations, serious assaults, sexual assaults, drug charges, arson and kidnapping.

The intake desk is open 24 hours a day. This late afternoon, three children were processed by probation officer Douglas Allen.

One, a gawky 16-year-old North-western High School student, was charged with felonious assault on a Webber Middle School student.

"He's a member of the Gucci Crew" youth gang, said the police officer who had brought him in. The youngster shrugged, giving Allen a blank look.

Emptying his pockets, the youngster, all elbows and angles, seemed as bumbling as a puppy. The task finished, the child's image vanished when he fixed the officers with a hard, even stare.

**ANOTHER YOUTH** — also 16 but huskier — stared sullenly as Allen noted he was charged with robbing a Redford Township convenience store with a hand grenade.

There was no adolescent awkwardness, no appearance of childish vulnerability about him. He lounged with the easy, muscular grace of a small-college halfback as the court forms were filled out.

Police said the youth and a companion had entered the store, showing the clerk the grenade while announcing a holdup, police said. The pair fled with \$4.

"Was the grenade real? We assume it was," said Sgt. James Laho of the Redford police youth division.

Laho said the youth, a state ward, apparently got cold feet and turned

himself in after the robbery. The other youth, who allegedly held the grenade, has fled the state, taking the grenade with him, Laho said.

**WATCHING THE** booking process from a locked holding room was a 16-year-old girl, her name and residence undetermined.

"At first, she wouldn't give us any name, now she's given us about a dozen," Allen said. "We're still trying to sort it all out."

Officers said she was arrested at Northland Center mall after allegedly stealing \$600 worth of blouses, and suspected heroin was found in her purse. She was turned over to authorities in her home county.

When an aunt was finally located by phone from the welter of names and addresses provided by the girl, another layer of woe was added: The aunt believes the girl is pregnant.

The girl's mother, responding to a message left during Allen's battery of calls, rings Allen to identify her daughter. The girl, according to the mother, has been running the streets for weeks. It's the aunt's fault, the mother says.

The three youths were added to the youth home pending preliminary hearings the next day. The three pushed the population of the youth home, which has an official capacity of 215, to 242 that day.

"We have to hold them," said Eleanor Austin, director of court services. "They get mattresses in the halls."

The youth home overpopulation means that some kids who otherwise would be detained — some accused auto thieves or some charged with burglaries, for example — are released to their parents or guardians pending the issuance of a petition and the preliminary hearing, Austin said.

Some at the youth home are released on bonds pending resolution of

their cases. Others are held pending placement in state facilities.

Allen and other intake workers field calls from parents wanting unruly children picked up. Other calls come from parents fearful that their children are getting involved with guns, drugs or gangs, Austin said.

"We get calls saying, 'Come get my child, I can't handle him.' We ask how old the child is and the mother says five. Five! If you can't handle a child when he or she is five, what in the world are you going to when that child is 10 or 15?"

Austin said that being held in the youth home should have some deterrent effect. Instead of being cowed by the prospect of being locked up, many "for the most part don't seem to be overly threatened by it," she said. "Some of them are so emotionally damaged that it's just another experience for them."

**THE FIRST** court appearance will take place the next day at the preliminary hearing before a referee, with powers roughly equivalent to those of a judge. At the hearing, youths and their parents will be officially notified of the charges, bond will be set, an attorney appointed and a date set for the probable cause hearing, at which time evidence must be presented linking the youth to the alleged crime.

On a Monday morning, referee Eugene Terry presided over the small windowless hearing room. As with all juvenile court proceedings, it is closed to the public.

A weeping 16-year-old was led in, consoled by her mother. The charge was assault with intent to murder and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

The girl shot a teenage neighbor who was allegedly assaulting her younger sister, police said. There is a good possibility that it was a justified shooting by a youngster with no prior

cutting a 13-year-old east-side Detroit charged with being a carhop in a curb-side crack cocaine service.

Two police officers testified the youngster — dressed in court in a conservative Sunday school suit with pocket handkerchief — would dart up to cars at a corner known for high-volume drug traffic. When they moved in, the youngster put something under a car and flopped across its hood "like he was taking a siesta," according to testimony.

Police recovered a vial of crack and arrested the youth.

The youth turned to his mother, shaking his head in denial of the testimony.

His story from the stand was that police swooped in after he was asked by a passing neighborhood adult to run an errand to the store. Crack? He didn't know anything about it. And he never saw the stream of cars pausing at the corner.

Shapiro didn't believe him. Convicted, he was allowed to remain free on bond. Shapiro ordered the boy to be interviewed by the children's psychiatric clinic and the probation department to help her shape her sentence.

Afterward, Shapiro and Hood reflected on the youngster: His clothes were neat but not the expensive little-league gangster apparel of a hard-core delinquent, and his mother showed concern. Adults were probably using him, Hood said wearily, putting a layer of juveniles between themselves and the law.

Barsamian agreed that many children are used by adults for crime. Some parents have been turning a blind eye to — or even encouraging — those activities when the youngsters start bringing home wads of cash and new merchandise, she said.

Among some police officers, the juvenile system is disparaged as "kiddie court," all slap-on-the-wrist and empty bluster wasted on sneering, mocking young hoodlums.

Speaking privately, several prosecutors and defense attorneys said police do not appear to always put forth a full effort when they know a case will remain in the juvenile system.

While criminal sanctions are a major part of the juvenile court's role, redemption, rescue and rehabilitation are duties as well.

**ON THE SECOND** floor, a parole violator before referee Marie Miller illustrated the system's parallel mission of trying to salvage youths.

A teenage boy and his father leaned toward each other. The boy, on probation for possession of LSD, had hit his father and left home. Picked up by police, he spent five days in the youth home before being bailed out.

Under Miller's questioning, the picture emerged: The parents had just divorced, and the mother has moved to Arizona.

The assault and running away was the aftermath of a heated father-son argument. Both seemed scared, chagrined and saddened. Tears welled in their eyes when they spoke of the days the boy spent in the youth home.

The father withdrew the assault complaint and the son pleaded guilty to violating his probation. Miller ordered them to enter joint counseling and the father hugged his son.

But such intimate tragedies are often overshadowed by the crush of armed criminals.

"Guns," Miller said. "It astounds me. Between drugs — hard drugs — and guns, it's just amazing how many are involved with them. . . . With guns, the attitude seems to be that they're just part of the costume."

## AHEAD

■ Wednesday  
Some solutions.

## Crimes finally caught up with teen

By DARRYL FEARS  
Free Press Staff Writer

**ONIA** — What's a nice guy like Dwight Barnes doing in a place like the Michigan Reformatory? He said he doesn't know.

"I think I'm in here for a crime I did not commit," said Barnes, whose conviction for assault with the intent to commit murder at age 15 made him one of the youngest people to set foot in a Michigan prison. "I'm 16. I haven't even started shaving yet."

Barnes, of Detroit, admits to having committed crimes — armed robbery, car theft, carrying a concealed weapon and assault with the intent to do great bodily harm.

Barnes said he committed his first crime, stealing dogs, at age 10.

His criminal record gives an indication of how a juvenile can commit crimes and still go a long time before ever doing much time in an institution.

It wasn't until he was picked up with another youth in a stolen car at age 14, Barnes said, that he spent his first night in the Wayne County Youth Home. He was there for one night, until his mother, Bettowynne Barnes, posted the \$250 bond.

**"DWIGHT WAS** a good boy at home, so I don't know what was with him," said his mother, a Wayne State University paralegal student and a former nurse. "He and his two brothers always had an allowance. And when I had a Mercedes, I let him drive it."

His mother said she shot Dwight's father to death in 1976 and was convicted of second-degree murder and placed on probation. The shooting, she said, was witnessed by Dwight and an older brother.

Dwight Barnes said that if the juvenile system had been tougher, he wouldn't be where he is now, a baby-faced inmate on the receiving end of

taunts in a close-security prison.

"As soon as I caught my first case, they let me go. They should have stopped me from doing wrong, you know, help me get my mind together so that when I go back to society I could adapt."

Barnes, who is about six feet, 170 pounds, said prison life is tough. "They say mind your own business. . . . but I'm young, and they try to pick on me. I got two (disciplinary misconduct) tickets for fights."

**IN MARCH 1985**, Barnes was accused of shooting 64-year-old Kenneth Moore in the buttocks as he, riding with another youth on a moped, chased Moore down Plymouth near Schoolcraft. A juvenile court referee set Barnes' bond at \$10,000. Again, his mother posted it and Barnes was freed. But his luck was about to run out.

A few weeks before his trial on the Moore shooting, Barnes picked up an

other charge, for allegedly robbing a 10-year-old of his gold chain. The prosecution assembled several witnesses for a trial, but it wasn't held because Barnes agreed to plead guilty to credit card fraud in a different case.

Two months later, a judge ordered Barnes to be tried as an adult after the prosecutor filed a waiver petition in Moore's shooting. He eventually was sentenced to 20 to 40 years.

Barnes said he is appealing the case. His mother said he should have been charged only with being an accomplice. "The man testified in court that Dwight did not shoot him and that someone else did," she said.

In the unadorned visiting room at the Reformatory, Barnes stared at his Louis Vuitton sneakers and called the charge a bum rap. "I was nowhere near where they said he (Moore) was shot."

"I had problems," he said. "But I wasn't wrong every time."





## THE YOUNG OUTLAWS

## Intensive help is no guarantee

By PATRICIA MONTEMURRI  
Free Press Staff Writer

**H**endri Graham is one of the failures of the Wayne County juvenile court's intensive probation program.

His mother doesn't blame it on the program, which gives juvenile delinquents a chance to stay out of a state-licensed institution while court probation officers or private agency counselors seek to rehabilitate them with close supervision.

"They would come to the house, I think it was every three days at first," said Graham's mother, Wanda. "If you act right in your house and do your chores, you can get something like a pair of pants or a shirt, and they bring it."

"But the program couldn't protect going backwards and forwards to school, or just being out on the street," she said.

**HENDRI GRAHAM** ended up in the state-run Adrian Training School anyway — pleading guilty to manslaughter after killing a 36-year-old Detroit who showed up at an alleged dope house in northwest Detroit in October 1985, according to juvenile court documents.

Graham, now 17, is an example of the 50 percent of participants in the intensive probation program who since 1983 have gone on to commit more crimes. He and 263 other delinquents who participated in intensive probation eventually were committed to the state Department of Social Services for placement in a state-licensed institution or waived into the adult court system, said Eleanor Austin, director of court services for the county juvenile court.

A near equal number, she said, have so far successfully stayed out of trouble. About 150 now are under intensive probation — the umbrella term for programs by the court's intensive probation unit, New Detroit Inc. and Michigan Human Services, a private agency.

Its critics say intensive probation just buys time for an overburdened, overcrowded placement system that can't provide a bed to every Wayne County juvenile who deserves to be declared a state ward. For it to work, they say, it needs to be administered when a youngster commits his first offense.

Intensive probation costs \$25 to \$30 a day per child, compared to \$100 per day for out-of-home placement as a DSS ward, says Chief Juvenile Judge Y. Gladys Barsamian.

**IN THE FIRST** phase of intensive probation, juveniles can only go out in public, except for school, in the company of a parent or legal guardian. Probation officers make surprise visits or phone calls. Youths are required to participate in group counseling sessions in later phases. It usually lasts eight months to a year.

But probation workers often can't punish for slippages with a return visit to the Wayne County Youth Home because of its chronic overcrowding.

In 1985, Wayne County juvenile court provided probation, regular and intensive, for 1,892 juveniles, a 33 percent increase from 1984.

Graham first received regular probation in December 1983. He had pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of larceny after being picked up for suspicion of armed robbery.

In police custody a year later for carrying a starter pistol, Graham was committed to DSS by juvenile court referee Chester Drake. But an intensive probation screening committee selected Graham, and he was diverted from DSS wardship to the program in February 1985.

On Oct. 3, 1985, Graham shot to death Henry Jackson, a visitor to a suspected dope house in Detroit.

His mother said Hendri himself was shot by a robber in a neighborhood arcade in May 1985. And his father is in a wheelchair, paralyzed from a bullet that pierced his spine in a robbery attempt before Hendri was born, she said.

"I can't blame the program. It's the streets and the drugs," she said. "It's bad to say, but it's really the truth — it's real sad here in Detroit."

## State loses track of 120 delinquents

DELINQUENT, from Page 1A

Sometimes while they're waiting, they die.

In May, the DSS Youth Parole and Review Board ordered Mario Morales, 16, of Detroit, who pulled a gun on his former girlfriend and already had been in a state-licensed facility for other crimes, to be sent to the W. J. Maxey Training School in Whitmore Lake.

Robert Houston, the parole board judge in the case, ordered Morales held at the Wayne County Youth Home or the Flint Regional Detention Center until there was an opening at Maxey.

**I**nstead, DSS officials sent Morales home. In June, he was caught stealing cars, detained and released. On July 20, Morales was found in his grandmother's bedroom with a gunshot wound to the head. His mother says officials don't know whether it was a suicide or an accident.

"He was supposed to be going to Maxey. I just wish he'd gone a lot

sooner. Maybe he would be alive," said his mother, Mary Morales. "We understood it was going to be weeks... but it dragged into months."

Houston, writing to DSS officials, said the deaths of Morales and Carter "are not isolated cases."

Kenneth Visser, acting director for DSS delinquency services in Wayne County, first said DSS was only aware of two deaths. He later acknowledged four this year but would not confirm their identities. He said DSS has information about cases closed because of a state ward's death but said the information was not readily available and does not disclose how the ward died.

About 8.5 percent of 1,400 Wayne County delinquency wards are considered truant from their placements.

When a juvenile is missing from a placement, a DSS social worker notifies police by writing an apprehension order. Wayne County DSS officials said they cannot provide the number of apprehension orders they send to local

## "APPREHENSION" orders are not worth the paper they're written on.

— A Wayne County DSS worker

police asking them to find truants.

Said one Wayne County DSS worker, who spoke on the condition that she not be identified by name:

"Apprehension orders are not worth the paper they're written on.... A policeman told me apprehension orders are not a high priority item. They are a no priority item," the worker said. "In Detroit, they just file them away, and if they pick them up on something else, they'll check it."

**V**isser says police do look for truants who were committed for major crimes.

Mark Sperling, the executive director of Boys Republic, a private youth home in Farmington Hills, identified the body of Johnnie Watson at the Wayne County morgue on Thanksgiving Day. Highland Park police had found Watson shot to death in a known crack cocaine house Nov. 19. He had not returned to Boys Republic after a visit home in August.

Watson's father, Johnnie, said police never came looking for his son. He said his son was usually at his house or young Johnnie's mother's house.

Some state wards are placed in non-secure settings, even when they've run away from similar placements before. That was the case with Ivan Berry and Ronald Carter.

Berry, 15, committed to the state in August on a larceny charge, ran away from Boys Republic in September after his first day there. He also ran away from his next placement, a Detroit

group home where he was taken shortly after being picked up Sept. 27 in Southfield on a charge of receiving stolen property.

He was found dead Nov. 11, one of two teenagers shot and killed at a crack cocaine house in Detroit.

Ronald Carter was supposed to be in a secure placement this summer when he was awaiting a Youth Parole and Review Board hearing on an auto theft charge, Houston said. Instead, Carter was placed in the non-secure Monte Vista Shelter in July, from which he went AWOL after two days.

On Aug. 1, he was found slain, about a block from his home.

DSS officials say a new computer system will enable them to keep better track of what happens to their wards, both in state and private institutions. But for the moment, says Diane Emling, executive director of the DSS Office of Children and Youth Services, not being able to track wards is a "big problem."



Juveniles at Children's Village in Pontiac sit on the floor in front of their rooms after a body search after dinner.



Juveniles at the bathroom of the Special Treatment Centers at the W. J. Maxey Training School in Whitmore Lake.



A juvenile in his room at the Delinquency Treatment Center at W. J. Maxey.

## Felony suspects act just like kids

By ERIC KINKOFF  
Free Press Staff Writer

**L**ate one evening, he gave his version, with no emotion, of how he shot a 13-year-old in the head with a sawed-off .22-caliber rifle, then went to a relative's home to watch the evening news to see if the victim had died.

The next morning, the 16-year-old first-degree murder suspect, who says the gun went off accidentally, sat in the front row of a pleasant, brightly lit classroom on the second floor of the Wayne County Youth Home in Detroit. He read aloud from a primer on criminal justice.

The topic was the rights of the accused. The sound of bouncing basketballs from the gymnasium interfered with his recitation, but no one seemed distracted.

The suspect, who reacted with good-natured embarrassment when classmates hooted at his answer that the U.S. Supreme Court is in Florida, was not acting at all like the cold-blooded executioner he is accused of being.

A witness to the shooting Oct. 9 said the gunman asked, "What if I shoot your a--?" before firing, then kicked the body off a bench.

The startling irony of the youth home — called the "baby jail" by its inmates and the first place children are funneled after committing man-sized crimes — is that the kids there often act just like kids.

"We get youths here who have committed heinous crimes and the next day we see them acting like kids, with very little remorse," said Peter Wilson, executive director of the youth home. "That's disturbing."

After classes are dismissed, Charlie Primas, principal of the youth home school, keeps a sharp eye on the 16-year-old and his classmates as they file through a metal detector on the way back to their rooms. "You just never forget where you're working," he said.

The youth home is a nondescript six-story brick building next to the juvenile courthouse along the I-75 service drive and E. Forest, near downtown Detroit. It is a short-term detention facility for offenders under the age of 17 who are either awaiting a verdict on charges or placement by the state. It's the largest of 19 county youth homes in Michigan, including Oakland County Children's Village and the Macomb County Youth Home.

**LAST YEAR**, 2,906 children were admitted to the Wayne County home, almost 60 percent of them for the first time. About 88 percent were male.

About 80 percent are from Detroit. Almost two-thirds are admitted on charges of murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, armed robbery, breaking and entering, carrying a concealed weapon, drugs or auto theft.

The capacity of the home's 13 units — 11 for males, two for females — is 215, one person to a room. But on Sept. 9, the youth home population hit 282.

The overflow population slept on mattresses on the tile floor in the stark common area of the sparsely furnished units. They were alongside children listed as suicidal, the 10 percent of the population who regularly sleep in the common area so they can be watched.

Overcrowding is blamed by Wilson on the inability of the state Department of Social Services to quickly place children who are made wards of the state by juvenile court. Wilson said recently that 90 percent of 213 children at the youth home were awaiting placement.

"Kids, on the outside, should be here 90 days," he said. "At best, they should be here 30 to 60 days. We have had kids for six, seven, eight or nine months." About one-third are moved within 10 days, he said.

"The longer the stay, the more problematic they become. What development is a high degree of frustration and boredom," he said.

**PLACEMENT** in a longer-term juvenile program is tough, he said, "for those with serious psychiatric problems. We see some pretty emotionally disturbed kids. And they stay here a long time."

Psychological or psychiatric assistance is usually only available in crisis situations, said Wilson.

He shows off a slide-tape orientation presentation that includes a comforting voice telling the children that the rules are "designed to make your stay a little more comfortable."

None of that soothes the youths who grump about, among other things, cockroaches, hard toast and tattered youth home uniforms.

But, said one: "It ain't supposed to be like home."

**DURING THE DAY**, the children — segregated in units according to gender, seriousness of crime, size and age — are clad in blue dungarees, blue slip-on sneakers and a scattershot array of shirts, and march single file to classes. The curriculum consists of language arts, math, science, social studies, health and physical education, industrial arts and homemaking. All of the instructors are special education teachers. Any number of topics are covered in a classroom.

In one classroom, a slogan, tacked above the blackboard, reads: "Maturity is... the ability to bear an injustice without wanting to get even." A code of conduct is also posted: "No violence. Respect property. Work hard. No profanity. Remain seated."

The students in teacher Fred Arnold's class average about 15 years old and work on a fifth-grade level. "I teach them world history to get them to realize that there are many other things in the world besides their neighborhood," he said.

"If I can make them use their minds..." said Calvin Martin, a teacher whose courses include criminal justice. "They're used to people telling them what to do. If they thought about some of the damn things they do on the street, maybe they wouldn't do them."

Said Primas, the principal: "I never met one youngster here that had not been excluded from school before coming here. That is the only common ground."

**IN THE EVENING**, the children spend time in the common area of their unit. Stainless steel food carts are wheeled in, and they eat dinner at the tables there. Later, they play cards or Ping-Pong, write letters or watch television.

The lack of variety of activities is criticized by Charles Harper, a former clinical psychologist for the Wayne County Probate Court, which oversees the youth home.

"Adolescence is one phase of development in which children need to be active," he said. "Their main activity (at the youth home) is watching television. The children are forced to sit for hours in front of TV and told to talk only during commercials."

They are in their rooms by 9 p.m. A guard sits in a glass-enclosed office, watching the doors to the rooms along the hallway. The guards can eavesdrop on the rooms through an intercom system.

"The best thing is when you come here is for the system to teach you a lesson," said a 15-year-old awaiting a hearing on car theft charges. "Let you stay two weeks, so you can find out how it is so you won't come back."

Says Wilson: "We feel we do a lot of good on a short-term basis. We give the kids three meals, school, counseling, recreation programs, arts and crafts. Certainly (when kids leave here), they are healthier and cleaner in most respects. They have a schedule. We try to give them some order in their lives. Short-term, we think we don't do them any harm. At least Johnny is not worse for being (here) — and maybe he's a little better."

## Teens shrug off punishment at Maxey

By DARRYL FEARS  
Free Press Staff Writer

**W**HITMORE LAKE — Stretched comfortably on a plastic chair at the W. J. Maxey Training School — Michigan's largest juvenile rehabilitation institution — a 16-year-old explained why he is there.

"I capped somebody," he said, mocking the fatal shooting with a quick flip of his right index finger. "Now I'm in Maxey. All I have to do is control my attitude, and I can get out whenever I want. If I don't, so what? They have to let me out when I turn 19 anyway."

The youth realizes — as do many of his peers — that being sent to Maxey is the very worst that can happen to a Michigan teenager found guilty as a juvenile of a serious felony, including murder. The law prohibits them from being held beyond their 19th birthday.

Maxey, home for 440 male juveniles, is described in a state-issued booklet as a center for stringent delinquent rehabilitation. When others look at the center, however, they see a 322-acre complex set in gorgeous Whitmore Lake, just north of Ann Arbor, where felons sometimes roam the fenceless grounds without supervision. "Sure some of them have the run," said Maxey Superintendent Neil Wasserman. "It's rare because an adult is with them most of the time. But we're not perfect."

In Maxey, you find street-smart young men who are wise about the ways of the juvenile justice system. They know Maxey is the last and toughest stop for them unless they are waived into the adult system. And statistics show juveniles are not often ordered to stand trial in adult court.

**MAXEY** IS ONE of the state's 18 maximum and minimum security juvenile centers. There are 60 private cen-

ters providing similar services. Maxey and the Adrian Training School are the most secure, by far.

"There are some kids who think they will just do their time (at Maxey) and get out of here, sure, but they're a small minority," said Wasserman. "Most of the kids here seriously want to stop committing crimes, and we're concentrating on them."

Of 184 state wards who were released from Maxey in 1984, state Department of Social Services statistics show, 21 were rearrested within three months. Seven of the 21 were charged with a serious felony against a person, including murder. The others were picked up on simple assault and misdemeanors.

Delinquents assigned to Maxey are separated into two categories, "Type One" and "Class Two." Type One cases are youths who have committed serious felonies; Class Two cases are those who committed lesser felonies.

A care assessment review committee, a 12-member group of private and public agency representatives, meets weekly to assign juveniles to private and public facilities. It also selects juveniles for each of the five residence centers at Maxey.

**THE GROUPS** in the centers, made up of 11 youths each, play a crucial role in control. Maxey calls it "Peer Pressure Culture," meaning the youngsters police one another. No youth can travel anywhere at Maxey without the company of two others from his peer group. If one of them gets "rowdy or tries to run away," the other two are supposed to apply a restraint hold.

If a peer isn't properly restrained, all 11 members of a group are confined for three days to their individual rooms, which are stripped of furniture during the punishment period. A mattress is supplied at night.

"Some people in our group hate each other," the youth said. "So when

you get restrained by one of your enemies they can kick you or stomp on you or hit you while you're down."

Two broad-chested youths demonstrated the restraining technique, grabbing a third youth from behind and pinning him face down on the ground with his arms stretched outward. The arms began to twitch and his lips pressed the concrete. "I've seen a guy's arm turn purple down there," one said.

"It's a better restraint system than, say, a guard-prisoner situation," Wasserman said.

**REVIEW** committee Chairman Ralph Patterson said the process of assigning the right delinquent to the right peer group is neither smooth nor easy. Often there is no space in the group or poor bureaucratic procedure at a youth home delays the assignment.

At a recent meeting, the committee was faced with examining nine cases when only two beds were available in the state.

Then there was the problem of assigning a 14-year-old Detroit youth who had shot an 11-year-old for his silk shirt. The committee found that the Wayne County Youth Home had failed to give him a psychological examination.

Ed Overstreet, a private agency representative who may have taken in the youth into his juvenile facility, balked because of the oversight, saying, "We don't know nothing about this kid." The case was delayed.

"Maxey might be too tough for this kid — he's just 14," a committee member said.

Back at Maxey, an 18-year-old convicted of raping a six-year-old girl at gunpoint said:

"Maxey ain't that tough if you know how to handle."

"All you have to do is keep your cool and you'll get out. I'm going to get out. No problem."