

Happenings

Minnesota Community Corrections Association

MCCA Welcomes new members

La Oportunidad

A new program to provide culturally adapted services to Hispanic men reentering the community from prison or convicted of felonies and involved in county corrections systems opened its office in January of this year. La Oportunidad, Inc. has as its initial focus the metropolitan area counties, due to limitations of its single staff person. Eventually, however, the program hopes to respond to the needs of Hispanics convicted of felonies in other areas of Minnesota.

While not a residential program, La Oportunidad, Inc. does offer placement in an apartment rented by the program as one of its services. These rental units, which are monitored by the program, are drug and alcohol free, and provide a supportive environment of cultural peers who are trying to make positive changes in their lives. Men are expected to pay a \$175.00 rent reimbursement to the program. Not all program participants need to be residents of these apartments, however.

Other program services, which are available to residents and others alike, include group therapy meetings which focus on managing feelings, examining culturally based attitudes, coping with the pressures of adjustment to community living, and awareness of things which may lead a man to return to offense behavior. Direct assistance to employment is provided, or referral for vocational training, depending on the needs of the individual. Referrals may also be made for chemical dependency

treatment or AA meetings, or for other culturally adapted treatment services which are related to offense behavior or needs which emerge from the initial comprehensive assessment.

The cost of La Oportunidad, Inc. program services are being supported in part by per diem contracts with Minnesota Department of Corrections extending until June 1992. In addition, per diem contracts are being processed with metro area counties for 1992. Start-up phase by grants from the St. Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, Northern States Power, Williams Steel and Hardware Company, and two church grants are completing the funds needed for the program budget during this initial period.

Referrals received up until the present have been from state and county corrections facilities, county probation and parole officers, correctional halfway houses, other Hispanic service agencies, and from the U.S. Catholic Conference, which resettles former INS detainees. Due to the limited number of the target population in the State of Minnesota, La Oportunidad, Inc. has seen it important to consider men in a wide variety of situations for program admission. The office of La Oportunidad, Inc. is located at the Spruce Tree Center, 1600 University Ave. W., Suite 219, St. Paul, MN 55104. For information or referrals, call 646-6115.

•Richard Podvin

Citizens Council

In 1957 a group of concerned men and women formed "The Prisoners' Aid Society" to help newly released inmates make successful transitions to independent living. During the last 33 years, the organization, now called the Citizens Council, has expanded its mission to help society deal with problems associated with crime, serving the broad range of people affected by crime — victims, offenders, families of inmate, and the general public. To accomplish this we:

- 1) Work with public authorities and private agencies to identify and address the causes of crime and delinquency
- 2) Support development of systems of apprehension, adjudication, correction and victim services that are fair and effective
- 3) Conduct research and publish results to develop and disseminate knowledge in criminal justice and related areas
- 4) Evaluate existing and proposed policies and programs
- 5) Provide advice and information to policy making bodies
- 6) Provide services to help victims recover, families of inmates cope, and ex-offenders, juvenile and adult offenders and their families learn new skills and become productive society members
- 7) Provide education for the public, schools and other organizations on causes and prevention of delinquency and crime.

The Citizens Council achieves its

mission through the following programs:

a) **FAMILY SERVICES:** assistance for the families of inmates in Minnesota correctional facilities, including counseling, support, advocacy with criminal justice and social services, low cost transportation for prison visits, parent education classes and transition services to help at-risk families overcome past practices of abuse and battering, and to help the family members cope with the extreme stress related to family reintegration after release from prison. Comprised of parent education in prison for fathers and mothers and in the community for their partners, along with support groups to deal with parenting and family issues. In 1990, 985 families served. Majority of clients are women and children.

b) **VICTIM SERVICES:** 24 hour help for victims of all crimes, including phone hotline, crisis intervention, assistance with courts, police and other service providers, emergency transportation, information and referral, temporary bus cards for senior citizens, temporary board up. Over 4,700 served in 1989.

c) **MEDIATION SERVICES:** facilitates face to face meetings between juvenile offenders and their victims for the purposes of negotiating restitution, reducing victims' anxiety and fear, and increasing young offenders' accountability and sensitivity. In 1990, 795 individuals served. Conducts conflict resolution training for teachers and students at all levels to reduce violence in schools. Provides family mediation as an alternative to court for chronic truants and their families.

d) **COMMUNITY SERVICES:** provides placements for non-violent offenders sentenced by Hennepin County courts to community service. In 1990, 5,488 offenders contributed 276,128 hours of work to the community, valued at over \$1.3 million.

e) **SUPERVISION SERVICES:** new program in 1991 for intensive community supervision of offenders placed in the program by the MN Department of Corrections. Combines home detention and close monitoring with individualized case management approach to a variety of employment,

education, health, mental health, parenting and other social needs. Provides offenders with opportunities to make positive personal changes with follow-up support.

f) **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:** job training for ex-offenders and clients of the agency.

g) **MINNESOTA ASSOCIATES:** coordinates retired professionals who volunteer expert talents and time to non-profit agencies.

h) **RESEARCH/POLICY STUDY/ EDUCATION:** citizen committees examine pertinent issues in criminal justice, publicize findings and recommend effective policies and practices. Current studies focus on developmentally disabled offenders; issues surrounding the rapidly expanding population of women offenders, their special needs and possible interventions; issues surrounding the growing over-representation of racial minorities in Minnesota prison and jail populations; and futuristic examination of Minnesota's correctional system. Operates clearinghouse of law-related and crime prevention films and print materials distributed nationwide to schools, businesses and community groups.

•Kay Pranis

For your information News in Corrections

Minnesota's corrections system has been selected by Financial World magazine as its national "award winner." Minnesota was cited for having an exemplary, innovative and cost-effective corrections system. "One of the states that has pioneered alternatives to incarceration is Minnesota. As far back as 1973—when most states weren't even thinking of prisons as an important budgetary issue—it was advancing cost-effective ideas in penology," the magazine's May 28 - June 10, 1991, issue says "Indeed, Minnesota boasts one of the lowest rates of incarceration in the country. True, Minnesota doesn't have the crime problems of New York or California. But crime rates often have little to do with incarceration rates. One of the

keys to Minnesota's success is its Sentencing Guidelines Commission. The commission accents putting nonviolent offenders into various local corrections programs, often forcing them to pay restitution and perform community service. For states financing a never-ending parade of bad guys to their prisons, alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent crimes appear to be the way of the future. Will other states take note?" the magazine asks. "Most likely they will be forced to when they realize that they are hocking their education programs to build prison cells."

And Justice for all...

What does the future hold for the juvenile justice system? What makes partnerships in community corrections work? How can we promote safety in the correctional environment? These and other issues will be examined at the American Correctional Association's 121st Congress of Corrections, August 4-8, 1991, in Minneapolis, Minnesota as we examine **THE EVOLUTION OF CORRECTIONS: OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.**

The 121st Congress of Correction will feature informative workshops and seminars, allow you to form important professional alliances, enable you to earn continuing education units, and give you the chance to explore the Twin Cities.

For registration information and a brochure, call the ACA Convention Department at 1-800-888-8784. You can register by phone by simply calling the Convention Department with your credit card information. Register by July 8, 1991 and take advantage of the special advance registration rates.

More on ACA Conference

The Minnesota Host Planning Committee is continuing work on the American Correctional Association's (ACA) 121st Congress of Correction set for August 4-8, 1991, in Minneapolis. It is estimated that the congress will have an attendance of 5,000 with several thousand vendors and business-related operations. Workshops will focus on issues such as substance abuse, the changing role of detention facilities, correctional health care and the public image of corrections. For further

information regarding registration, contact Host Planning Committee Chair Cole Smith at 612/778-1851.

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MCA Fall Conference news

The Minnesota Corrections Association's (MCA) 58th Annual Fall Conference will be held on November 13, 14 & 15, 1991 at the Radisson South Bloomington, MN. This year's theme is "RISING TO THE CHALLENGE." The tentative schedule for this year's conference will include the following: over 40 workshops, extended training opportunities and round table discussions. Wednesday's general session will feature local author, Evelyn Fairbanks. Ms. Fairbanks' recently published book, Days of Rondo, chronicles her life growing up on Rondo Avenue in St. Paul. Ms. Fairbanks is a familiar face to those in corrections, she is a past employee of MCF-Stillwater and has done consulting work at MCF-Ikoopee. Thursday's general session will be the awards ceremony, and on Friday a theatre presentation will follow the MCA Business Meeting. This conference will encompass various current correctional topics for community, institution and field professionals. Among this year's selected topics are: Aryan Nations and other extremist groups, The Therapeutic Value of Consequences for Juveniles, Nurturing Babies with Pre-Natal Drug Exposure, Arming P.O.'s, Gangs, Homophobia, Non-Verbal Communication and Restorative Justice.

This year's conference will include an extensive Resource Fair along with social events that include a Wednesday evening dance with "Incognito" and a Thursday evening talent show.

This year's registration cost is \$75.00 for the three day conference or \$50.00 for a single day. The Radisson South's room rates are \$65.00 for a single and \$75.00 for a double.

Additional information will be forwarded to you as the time draws near. For information contact Mary Ann Schmitz, 532 Ashland Ave. St. Paul, MN 55102. Telephone: (612) 292-1466.

Wanted

Reentry West in St. Paul currently has opening for a full time Case Manager. This is a 32-bed residential facility for males. For more information contact Tom Gothmann at (612) 227-6291.

Community crime prevention

The increasing emphasis on imprisonment to deter crime has resulted in the U.S. now having the largest prison population in the world per 100,000 people, surpassing both the U.S.S.R. and South Africa. Yet this phenomenal growth in imprisonment has not reduced crime in our society. Cost effective alternatives to incarceration are available. At a cost of over \$35,000(?) to imprison one person for one year, we can't afford not to consider the alternatives.

A car is stolen in the U.S every thirty-three seconds, every day of the year. Most are stolen because it was easy to do so. Eighty percent of stolen cars are left unlocked, and half of those had the keys inside. Don't make it easy on car thieves. Always remember to lock your doors.

You work hard at your job every day, making money to pay for your home, your car, all your possessions. Yet 80% of all cars stolen and 60% of all homes burglarized were left unlocked. Don't make a criminals job any easier than yours. Always remember to lock your doors.

Community crime prevention begins with you and your neighbors. You can be the force that prevents crime by removing temptation and increasing security in your neighborhood. The first step is getting together with your neighbors to form a Neighborhood Watch Force. Don't be powerless against crime. Join the Force. Call the Community Crime Prevention Center for information and resources.

It doesn't take a minute to make sure your home is secure and locked before you leave, and yet over 60% of burglars enter through unlocked or even open windows and doors. Take the time to prevent crime and always lock up before you leave.

Help remove theft from your neighborhood with Operation I.D. Simply, Operation I.D. is the process of marking your property to discourage theft and resale. Just posting the Operation I.D. sticker on your home or apartment will discourage thieves. Get involved with the operation that cuts crime, Operation I.D.

While you're cooling off at the lakes this summer, make sure burglars aren't soaking you for everything you own.

Whenever you leave the house, be sure to secure all windows and lock your doors.

Even if you're off vacationing in Las Vegas, don't bet that burglars are vacationing too. Whenever you're away from home for any extended period of time, take precautions to make it appear that someone is home. Have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers, and make sure all your windows and doors are secure.

While you're away at the hockey tournament this winter, make sure burglars aren't skating away with everything in your house. Whenever you're away from home for any extended period of time, take precautions to make it appear that someone is home and make sure all windows and doors are secure.

If you are a victim of crime and believe that your rights have been violated, that you have been unfairly treated by the criminal justice system, or just want further information about your rights, contact the Office of Crime Victims Ombudsman at (612) 642-0396.

While financial compensation cannot heal the deep wounds left by crime, the Minnesota Crime reparations Board has made a commitment to preventing victimization due to the financial hardship caused by wage loss and medical bills. If you've been injured as the direct result of a crime, you may be able to recover up to fifty thousand for medical costs, therapy costs, and other medical costs. Call toll free: 1-800-652-9747 for more information.

The criminal justice system can be very complex, and as a victim of crime you may not be aware that you have specific rights not only after the crime, but before the trial, at the sentencing,

and after conviction. The Crime Victims Center can help provide information and support throughout the legal process.

Victims of crime often feel frustrated, angry, confused, and alone. Support groups offer an opportunity to express and explore these feelings in a comfortable setting with others who have had similar experiences. Ongoing groups at the Crime Victims Center welcome new members at any time.

Violence against women is an overwhelming problem, but one which can be solved if all members of the community are educated about its causes. The Violence Against Women Coalition seeks to break the cycle of violence by serving as a source and resource for creating a violence free society. The Coalition's greatest resource is trained volunteers. If you would like to help, contact the Junior League of Minnesota.

Approximately 43,000 women are assaulted by their husbands or partners each year in Minnesota, and once the violence begins, it usually becomes more frequent and severe. If you've been abused even once, don't wait for things to get worse. Call the Domestic Abuse Project at 874-7063.

In an increasingly fast paced, stressful world, it's easy to get frustrated and even angry. Unfortunately, many people have trouble expressing themselves verbally and resort to harmful physical acts when angry, often against those they care about. It's okay to be angry, but it's not okay to be violent. The Domestic Abuse Project helps people learn better ways to deal with stress in their lives. Call 874-7063.

If a past or present member of your household has threatened or hurt you, you may apply for an Order for Protection issued by the District Court to protect you or another family member from further abuse. Simply go to your county courthouse or local domestic abuse shelter and ask to petition for an Order for Protection.

Everyone needs to blow off steam now and then. Unfortunately, too many people resort to violence when expressing their frustration and anger. The Domestic Abuse Project can help you learn better ways to deal with stress in your life. The next time you feel the

need to strike out, pound these keys on your phone...874-7063. The Domestic Abuse Project, helping people knock violence out of their lives.

Do your parents need to cool their jets? You don't deserve to be hit or abused by anyone, especially not your parents. You are not responsible for your parents violence.

If your parents ever hurt or abuse you, leave the situation, go to a friends house, and call the Domestic Abuse Project at 874-7063.

Community policing

When the Minneapolis Police Department drew up its Strategic Plan in 1989, high priority was placed on a concept called "community policing."

Community policing, as described by Sgt. Sharon Lubinski of the M.P.D.'s Public Housing Community Police Team, places a group of officers in a specific community where they can build long-term relationships with residents and engage in problem-solving in a way that is not feasible when police work is strictly reactive and crisis-driven.

Under a contract between the M.P.D. and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Sgt. Lubinski and the three officers who comprise the Community Police Team patrol the "Northside Projects" in the Sumner-Olson and Glenwood-Lyndale neighborhoods. In addition to looking for criminal activity, however, team members participate in community events, monitor problem situations, and call in other agencies when they run across problems that threaten the health or well-being of community residents. They also enforce traffic regulations on Olson Memorial Highway where it passes between the Projects, and are planning to develop a traffic video specifically for Hmong children, whose families comprise a significant proportion of area residents.

Immediately after its inception at the end of March, the Community Police Team established direct liaison with Pilot City's parole and probation offices. In order to expedite the exchange of information, police reports originating in the Projects will be monitored by the Community Police Team, and P.O.'s

will be notified promptly of any police contacts involving their clients. At the same time, parole and probation officers will keep the M.P.D. current on all parolees and probationers residing in the area. Monthly meetings between Pilot City P.O.'s and the police team's liaison, Officer Twila Vilella, will facilitate this process and may result in new ideas for increasing accountability and reducing criminal activity.

The Fourth Precinct, which will soon be opening a storefront office at 1015 Olson Memorial Highway in space donated by O.I.C., also maintains a drug hotline. In addition to accepting "tips", the hotline provides community residents with information regarding drug treatment, including referrals.

•Ronnie Bouma

Both Democrats, GOP fight crime with errant strategy

If we can go to the moon, why can't we ...? Because not everything is an engineering problem, that's why.

If we can liberate Kuwait, why can't we house the homeless, care for our children, provide health care for all Americans? If we can win the war over there, why can't we win the war over here against poverty, drugs, crime, you name it? Because these aren't military problems, that's why.

When domestic warmongers "declare war" on various problems, no doubt they are calling for maximum commitment and tax dollars. But the money has to be spent smart, and the war analogy is a sure way to spend it stupid. General, I mean President, George Bush wants to make the streets safe for returning GIs from Saudi Arabia, some of whom are more likely to catch a bullet going home for Mother's Day than they are taking Kuwait Airport. Bush's anti-crime bill emphasizes more punishment for criminals: more death penalties, longer sentences for crimes committed with a handgun.

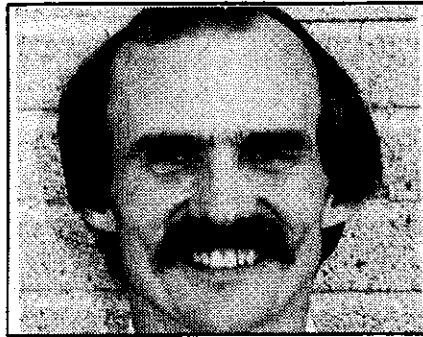
The Democrats, lead by Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., chairman of the

...Democrats/GOP continued Pg 6

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We want you to know...



Bruce Clendenen, MCCA President

Donald Evans, President of the American Probation and Parole Association, recently emphasized in their newsletter, Perspectives, the need for APPA to be a "learning organization." He states, "This essential leadership activity creates possibilities and provides for adaptive learning, allowing us to cope with change. There is no doubt that superior performance depends on superior learning..." This train of thought struck me as being quite appropriate in terms of MCCA. We, too, are dedicated to superior learning. Training is a priority with MCCA.

Our monthly training sessions, capably coordinated by Sharen Southard and Lisa Roberg, have continuously offered valuable training to the corrections community. The MCCA Board has committed to continuing this quality service by investing more money for presenters in the coming year.

MCCA was the initiating organization in the Minnesota Corrections Consortium's "Public Education Effort." Our goal with this effort is to inform the general public in Minnesota about the valuable service corrections provides.

Happenings has always been a valuable tool in training. Our newsletter has continuously provided us with insightful articles and good information about community programs. Our editor, Pete Batterman, has worked hard in the last year to expand the range of articles and set a workable publishing schedule.

MCCA continues to strive for the best with our conferences. In addition to our annual winter conference, MCCA is co-sponsoring a conference prior to

the ACA summer conference in Minneapolis. This three-day conference, August 2 - 4 is aimed at the community corrections professional, and will feature national speakers presenting on a variety of contemporary topics. You will soon be receiving a brochure describing it in detail.

As you can see, MCCA is dedicated to being a learning organization. Please help us by volunteering for committee work, writing articles for Happenings, or simply attending our training sessions and conferences. We welcome your involvement.

MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission members

Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Members:

- Richard T. Jessen, Chair, Benton Co. Attorney, Benton Co. Courthouse, Foley, MN 56329, Office: 612/968-6254
- Dr. Mary T. Howard, 110 N. #2nd Ave., St. Cloud, MN 56303, Office: 612/252-1670 ext 289, Home: 612/252-8627
- Judge David Marsden, 1421 Courthouse, St. Paul, MN 55102, Office: 298-4718, FAX: 298-4572
- Orv Pung, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, 300 Bigelow Building, 450 N. Syncidate, St. Paul, MN 55104, Office: 642-0282
- James Dege, Sheriff's Department, 135 W. Main St., Owatonna, NMN 55060, Office: 507/451-8230
- Stanley J. Suchta, Ramsey Co. Community Corrections, 398 Totem Road, St. Paul, MN 55119, Office: 292-6262
- Judge R.A. Randall, Court of Appeals, MN Judicial Center, 24 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155, Office: 297-1004, FAX: 297-4152
- T. Williams, Rainbow Research, 1406 West Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55408, Office: 824-0724
- Justice Sandra Gardebring, Supreme Court, MN Judicial Center, 24 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155, Office: 296-2285

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Judiciary Committee, want more money for police officers — a billion dollars more.

The Judiciary Committee report released last week proclaimed the United States “the most violent and self-destructive nation on Earth.” Since 1960, the population is up 41 percent; violent crime is up 516 percent. The report stressed the decline in the ratio of police officers to violent crimes reported: In 1950, there were more than three cops per crime, compared with three crimes per cop in 1990.

Both the Republican and Democratic proposals are based on the idea that we good people are fighting them bad people and that we need to send more troops with more weapons into the battle.

This not only doesn't work; it can also be counterproductive.

The result can be seen in the videotape of a black motorist being beaten and kicked for two minutes by Los Angeles police officers. There was no shortage of police power: There were 15 guys per that non-violent non-crime. Punishment was swift and sure, not to mention savage.

What does it say about a police force in which three officers feel they can beat and kick a man whose only known offense is speeding — and a black skin — for two long minutes in full sight of a dozen colleagues and dozens of apartment windows? They didn't try to hide what they did. They must have thought it was OK because they were the good guys and he was, based on his race and his driving, the enemy.

Police Chief Daryl Gates said, “We've been the model, the LAPD,” but what is the LAPD model?

A March 12 Wall Street Journal story describes it as “a paramilitaristic us-against-them style” that relies, like the military, on “a high-tech arsenal including pursuit helicopters and mechanized battering rams.”

Officers don't have time to walk a beat and get to know people in a neighborhood. They drive into hostile territory on search-and-arrest missions, getting out of the car only to make an arrest. Then they leave.

The LAPD conducts sweeps in high-crime, minority neighborhoods, taking in everyone who looks like a gang member. Guess what they look like. Last year, 25,000 people were arrested in gang sweeps, the Journal reported. Only 1,300 were charged.

What does it say to the 23,700 people picked up by the police for the offense of being young, male, non-white and on the streets? The policeman is your friend?

The problem with paramilitary policing is not just that it leads to police brutality, which it does, but also that it doesn't control crime.

“There is a growing realization that the best strategies for fighting crime in residential neighborhoods are those where the police work closely with resident organizations,” writes Carl Horowitz, policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation.

That won't happen if police are strangers, even if they are professionals, certainly not if they can't tell good kids from gang wanna-bes from gangsters.

What seems to work is to enforce the laws by enforcing order.

That means the police have to get out of their cars, walk (in some places, bicycle) the streets, getting to know people. It can involve storefront police offices, where citizens can bring problems before they get to be crimes, or citizen patrols, which deter crime by their presence.

Community policing is not simply a job for the police: It means working with city agencies and citizens to literally clean up the streets, removing the visible signs of disorder that implicitly authorize disorderly behavior.

This is based on James Q. Wilson's broken-window theory. If a factory window is broken and left unrepaired, it sends a message: It doesn't matter if you break a window here. Nobody cares. There are no rules.

And soon all the windows are broken, and all the kids are window-breaking criminals.

Bush loves the Persian Gulf analogy, but if the “war on crime” can be seen in military terms, the analogy is Vietnam, where there were no battle lines between us and them, no way to tell enemies from friends, where

meaningless body counts substituted for control of territory, where force was used indiscriminately — where we had to destroy the village in order to save it.

•Joanne Jacobs

Jacobs is a columnist for the San Jose, Calif., Mercury News.

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Editor's Note: The following article by Ronnie Bouma presents a local example of new national trends in police work, which emphasizes the involvement of police officers in the affairs and problems of the communities which they police. Sgt. Lubinski's team, as an example, recently met with members of Hennepin County's probation office in North Minneapolis to discuss ways in which the two groups could cooperate and help each become more effective. Preceding Ms. Bouma's article is an editorial that appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on 3/20/91, whose topic is the form of police mentality that was characterized in the recent incident involving a squad of LAPD officers assaulting a black motorist. Hopefully, Sgt. Lubinski's team represents the way of the future in police work.

One way in which Minneapolis police are establishing a positive presence in the community is by establishing storefront offices in different locations throughout the city.

In the Third Precinct, “Central House” will soon be opening at 3350 Clinton Avenue South, across from a park which is being built on the former site of Central High School. This three-bedroom home, acquired through the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, will provide space for officers who will deal with walk-in traffic several hours each day, and who will spend the rest of their time on foot patrol in the nearby community as members of SAFE teams, which are comprised of civilian crime prevention organizers and sworn police officers.

Central House will also provide space for the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association's Youth and Crime Committee, which organizes block clubs and offers juvenile programming, and for the Park Avenue Church's Urban Foundation, which

provides two athletic league coordinators and which hopes to start a family program, Roots and Wings, which would hook families up with the resources of their choice.

Other possible "tenants" are a summer DARE program to combat drug use, a Junior Achievement chapter, and branch offices for social service agencies.

In the Fourth Precinct's Elliot Park community, a storefront office has been operating since July of 1990 at 802 South Tenth Street, staffed with sworn officers and community volunteers.

Police-citizen cooperation is viewed by law enforcement and by the community as an important tool for combating drugs and crime, and for keeping neighborhoods liveable.

•Ronnie Bouma

Repeat offender program

While the words "Top 40" normally confer a position of honor, such is not the case for those nominated to the Minneapolis Police Department's Top 40 Program. To qualify for this dubious distinction, one must be a career property offender with at least three prior felony convictions, no legitimate means of support, and a history of criminal activity characterized by such factors as a high frequency of convictions, law breaking in support of a drug habit, frequent supervision failures, and a relatively short period of time between release from incarceration and a new offense.

Once chosen for the Top 40 (or Repeat Offender Program), suspects are tracked by ROP staff - two M.P.D. sergeants who work closely with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, the Hennepin County Parole and Probation offices, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, and the Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development.

Using the intelligence network which they have established in the law enforcement community, ROP officers are able to obtain recent photos to determine what kind of vehicle a suspect is driving, to learn whether any additional law enforcement agencies are investigating the individual, and to keep

track of his residence, his job (if any), and his movements.

Investigative work by ROP staff is made available to any jurisdiction which becomes involved with an ROP suspect, as well as to any prosecutor who needs it. Accordingly, the FBI, the BCA, the Sheriffs Department, and other police departments may also be involved in monitoring an offender.

Results from the program's first year of operations are impressive. By late 1990, 33 "Top 40" suspects had been arrested on felony charges, 29 had been charged by the Hennepin County Attorney, one had been charged by the U.S. Attorney, one had been revoked, one had been charged by the Washington County Attorney, and was awaiting charging. By November 15th, 19 of the 33 had pled guilty and three others had been convicted, with 21 of these 22 having been reincarcerated by the end of the year. Almost 80% of those Top 40 suspects who were "on the street" at the time that the original list was compiled had been arrested for a new felony by the end of the year, and the project's conviction rate was 92%. Fully 96% of those convicted had been incarcerated, most of them in a state or federal institution.

In addition to the arrest, conviction, and incarceration record compiled by the program, a significant amount of stolen property (approximately \$360,000 worth) had been recovered from ROP suspects and their confederates by year's end. Further, 14 "associates" of Top 40 suspects had been arrested during the course of ROP investigations, with 11 having been charged and 4 incarcerated by year's end.

ROP staff note that a major factor in the program's success has been the staff's ability to be pro-active, allowing them to prevent future crimes by removing career criminals from the community, instead of having to wait until a crime has been committed, to initiate an investigation. Based on the M.P.D.'s experience, it appears that targeting career criminal property offenders for intensive investigative work pays large dividends.

•Ronnie Bouma

Values that govern Minneapolis police

The Los Angeles police officers accused in the beating of Rodney King will have their day in court and will be judged by a jury of their peers as to the rightness or wrongness of their actions.

But larger questions need to be addressed. What value system is driving that organization? Has a value system been allowed to grow in which brutality and racism are the norms rather than the exception? These are the issues on which Chief Darryl Gates should stand or fall.

Minneapolis is a case in point. During the 1980's, the Police Department had as its CEO a flamboyant, erudite, charismatic theoretician who, by his own admission, was a poor manager. This CEO did many good things: He brought stability to the department and refocused some priorities in response to community realities.

We all remember the speeches railing against "pockets of corruption" and about brutal, racist police being endemic to the progression. Somehow, theory did not find its way into practice. During the last five years or so of this chief's tenure, not one complaint for brutality was sustained. This certainly seems a mixed message to the rank and file officer, and to the citizen who is the recipient of police services.

With the transfer of power in January 1989 a vision statement was published. That vision statement articulated a value system which would govern conduct as a member of the department. The chief, in effect, stated very clearly what type of behavior was expected.

Raymond C. Davis, chief of Santa Ana, Calif., wrote in a 1985 article, "It is not realistic to expect to change an individual officer's personality and prejudices acquired over a number of years. But a police administrator has a right to demand that traits inconsistent with departmental programs not be displayed in an individual's capacity as a police employee."

The written word was backed up with actions. Complaints were being

sustained; disciplinary action was being taken. According to the chief, complaints are down by some 40 percent. I'm sure that several factors may have some affect on those statistics. Critics will say the system itself is flawed — that a lack of confidence keeps people, especially people of color, from participating in the process. I like to think part of the reason is because the department CEO has put in place a set of values that encourages professional conduct.

In the conclusion of her April 13 Counterpoint article, Polly Mann points to possible solutions to the problems of brutality and racism. She wrote, "In order to prevent themselves from becoming lawbreakers by the illegal use of force against suspects, officers must find ways to defuse their anger, and society must find way to diffuse their power."

Again, Minneapolis is a case in point. The Police Department has embraced and is implementing the concept of Community-Oriented Policing (COP). The department is looking for positive ways to interact with citizens to find cooperative solutions to problems affecting neighborhood livability. By stressing these positive contacts, officers are learning that even in the most drug-infested neighborhoods there are residents who want to see change, who support police activity, and who are willing to become involved.

Instead of dictating to the community what police services will be provided, the department is asking the community what its priorities and needs are, and then trying to be responsive to those needs. COP is not a panacea. It requires commitment, hard work and a willingness to listen to each other for society to work and to prevent future Rodney King incidents.

•Sgt. Steven C. Sizer, Minneapolis Police Department

Commlsion members cont'd from pg. 5

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Reports take same crime facts, reach opposite conclusions

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on 6/18/91 and is reprinted here with permission of the Washington Post Writer's Group (c), 1991: Reports take same crime facts, reach opposite conclusions

Which is more likely to reduce crime: Improved opportunities, including better education, for those tempted to lawlessness? Or harsher and surer punishment for offenders?

Seldom has the question been put more boldly — or the answers presented in starker contrast — than in two papers that have recently crossed my desk. What follows is less an attempt to push you toward one answer or another than to provide a basis for thinking about this incredible vexing question.

Jerome G. Miller, president of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, has no doubt that education works or that imprisonment doesn't. And he is outraged that government outlays for incarceration — at the local, state and federal levels — have overtaken spending for education.

"We're trading textbooks for prison cells," he says in remarks accompanying a report done for NCIA by William

Chambliss, a George Washington University professor. "But the more money we throw at the criminal justice system, the more it fails ... It's time to begin holding the criminal justice system as accountable as it holds those trapped within it."

Or as Chambliss puts it: "Education is perhaps the most effective means available to deter a life of crime. Yet it is losing to criminal justice in the battle for scarce resources. We are shortchanging our future with this misguided criminal justice spending spree."

The Dallas-based National center for Policy Analysis looks at the data and reaches the opposite conclusion. In a monograph titled "Why Does Crime Pay?" NCPA argues that the reason crime has increased is that it is an increasingly good bet.

"The evidence shows that crime will increase if the expected cost of crime to criminals declines ... The less costly crime becomes, the more often people fail to control their passions."

An "expected punishment" index — calculated by multiplying four probabilities (of being arrested, of being prosecuted if arrested, of being convicted if prosecuted and of going to prison if convicted) and then multiplying the product by the median time served for an offense — tells the story. The expected punishments based

on these calculations range from 2.2 days in prison for larceny and theft to 27 years for robbery to 2.3 years for murder.

"On the average, a potential criminal can expect to spend only 5.4 days in prison for an act of burglary. Stealing is profitable so long as what is stolen is worth more than five days behind bars."

But increasing the expected punishment — "the prices we charge for various crimes" — has its own costs. The country is already in the midst of a prison-building boom, at an average cost of \$50,000 per cell. Increasing arrest, prosecution, conviction and incarceration rates would lead to enormous new outlays.

These costs, plus recidivism rates that suggest imprisonment doesn't work, lead the Alexandria-based "Alternatives" group to its conclusion that we'd be better off to shift a major portion of those expenditures to education.

"Education deters criminal activity," it argues. "Studies show that those with a high school diploma who do spend time in prison are less likely to be re-arrested than those who haven't graduated from high school ... The likelihood of being arrested for delinquent behavior as a teenager (is) nearly twice as great for children who do not have the Head Start advantage as for those who participate in this extensive early education program." And yet, it is education, not prisons, that is under fiscal siege.

The Dallas group doesn't dispute the prison cost statistics; it only argues that they don't tell the whole story.

"Although the cost of building and maintaining prisons is high, the cost of not creating more prisons appears to be much higher." For example the cost of sending an offender to prison — \$25,000 a year in the "Policy" estimate — has to be weighed against the finding by a Rand Corp. survey that the average professional criminal commits between 187 and 287 crimes a year, at an average cost of \$2,300 per crime. Thus: "Keeping a career criminal out of prison costs, on the average, \$430,000 a year. Saving \$405,000 more than the cost of imprisonment."

It's hard to say which group has the

better of the debate. In fact, most of us believe both arguments. We find it hard to imagine well-educated youngsters turning to lives of crime and thus we are tempted to embrace NCIA's point that education may be the best deterrent to crime.

But we also believe that the clogged prison system, which has the practical effect of reducing the likelihood of serious sentences (and thus the cost of crime more attractive).

Given unlimited resources, most of us would say yes to vastly increased expenditures for both schools and prisons. But given both our fear of crime and the reality of local, state and federal budget constraints, where do we place our priorities?

The two papers, with their diametrically opposite conclusions, constitute a solid basis for launching what should be a national debate.

•William Raspberry

Crime in Minnesota: Focus on Facts

Only five states in the nation have not had any lawsuits concerning prison overcrowding or prison conditions. Minnesota is one of those five. Minnesota's criminal justice system is the model looked to most frequently by other states in crisis.

Minnesota responds firmly to crime. Minnesota ranks 12th in the nation in the use of correctional supervision and social control, according to a report issued in 1989 by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. That report found Minnesota to be 12th in the number of people on probation, parole, in jail or prison relative to the crime rate.

The violent crime rate in Minnesota is less than half the national average. Minnesota ranks 36th in the nation in violent crime rate. Of those states with a lower rate only one, Wisconsin, has a major urban center.

Most drug offenders spend time

behind bars. Nearly 92% of all drug offenders and over 95% of all drug dealers served time in prison or jail.

Minnesota's Sentencing Guidelines Commission and Community Corrections Act are the national standard for criminal justice reform throughout the nation.

Minnesota is not lenient with offenders. The number of offenders convicted of felonies who were sentenced to jail or prison increased from 56% in 1978 to 80% in 1988. There is a stronger correlation between dropping out of school and ending up in prison than between smoking and lung cancer. Through drop out prevention programs we can decrease the likelihood of ending up in prison.

Research based on 17 years of data found that inmates who experienced a furlough prior to release from prison had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did individuals who had not experienced a furlough prior to release.

Most rapes, assaults and murders are committed by persons known to the victim. Most robberies are committed by strangers.

The Minnesota corrections system uses a wide variety of punishments for convicted offenders, including probation, treatment, fines, restitution to victims, community service, intense community supervision, house arrest, jail and prison.

In 1990, offenders sentenced to community service in Hennepin County contributed 337,917 hours of work to the community. That work had a value to the community of over \$1,000,000. In the same year offenders in Hennepin County paid over \$1,000,000 in restitution to victims.

Send our kids to preschool - not to prison. For the cost of a one-year prison sentence at Stillwater, six children can be sent to a Head Start program. A year of high quality preschool has been shown to decrease the rate of arrest in the teenage years by 40%.

1991 MCCA Crappie Tournament

Despite cool rainy weather, a record-breaking crowd turned out for the 8th Annual Corrections Crappie Tournament. The new location, Lakeview Resort, was very hospitable. The owners were so hospitable that when a certain threesome sunk their boat and returned to the resort drenched and shaking, the owner built a fire, gave them blankets and dried their clothes. The threesome shall remain unnamed.

Lino Lakes took the Traveling Trophy away from Anoka County with a nice string of crappies. Dave Prozybylski took first prize with a 10-ounce crappie. Steve Wakem and Rick Peterson took 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

Mary Seabloom from MCF-Shakopee was the elated winner of the first place prize of a canoe in the raffle drawing. Arnold Anderson won the

second place prize of a VCR. Proceeds from the raffle go towards MCCA training for the coming year.

Once again, the Crappie Tournament proved to be a great time. Keep it in mind for next year! It's usually the first week-end of May.

•by Barb Emer

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Minnesota Community Corrections Association Training Committee Presents...

"1991 Correctional Legislative Issues"

**Wednesday, August 21, 1991
650 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN
10:00 AM - Noon**

Mr. Ron Wiborg, Contract Services Manager of Hennepin County Community Corrections, will be presenting this important topic. Mr. Wiborg has background in Corrections Planning and Management. He was with the Region F State Crime Commission for six years. Prior to coming to Hennepin County, Mr. Wiborg was the Director of Blue Earth County Community Corrections for nine years. His extensive prior knowledge should provide an interesting look at corrections today.

Mr. Wiborg will be giving an overview of the 1991 Legislation as it relates to corrections, the impact it had on community corrections, and will then remain available for questions.

This topic promises to be informative as well as interesting to us all. There were several changes in corrections with the new legislation and with Mr. Wiborg's assistance, we can get many questions answered, so please come prepared.

For advance registration, please call **Lisa Roberg at 227-6291**. Cost is free to individual members of MCCA. There is a \$5.00 charge to program members and a \$10.00 charge to non-program members. Thank you. See you there!

Minnesota Community Corrections Association Training Committee Presents...

"Urinalysis Surveillance"

**Wednesday, July 17, 1991
650 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN
10:00 AM - Noon**

Mr. Dennis Ganley, Director of Rainbow Bridge, will be speaking on urinalysis procedures and protocol used in Hennepin County. Rainbow bridge is currently operating a 60-day pilot program for drug testing at the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Center. These services are currently available to Hennepin County Parole and Victim Services clients and juveniles in the detention center.

Mr. Ganley will be addressing questions on the developing of the program, equipment that is being used, and the reading of printouts, etc. Rainbow Bridge is also developing plans for other collection sites and hopefully this service will be available to everyone in the Hennepin County Bureau of Corrections.

For advance registration, please call Lisa Roberg at 227-6291. Cost is free to individual members of MCCA. There is a \$5.00 charge to program members and a \$10.00 charge to non-program members. Thank you. See you there!