

## HUNT Delivers Anti-Drug Message to College Student Population

**ERIN SHARP**  
Staff Writer

HUNT is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics team of officers from state and local levels, operating under an inner-local agreement. This team works in Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties.

HUNT's primary objective is investigating narcotics manufacturing and delivering. They are information based, utilizing confidential information from various sources.

Detective/Lieutenant Rick Schultz of the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team is a twenty-three year veteran of the Michigan State Police. He is the Unit Commander, as a result of a May 2002 promotion.

Previously Schultz had served the Alpena area as the Post Detective Sergeant

for twelve years. During his career, Schultz served as a Trooper in New Baltimore and Flat Rock. He also served as the Post Detective Sergeant in Ypsilanti.

When asked about the relationship between narcotics and the ACC campus, Schultz said, "Based on our investigations here we have not found it necessary to target the ACC campus.

But there have been cases where we have been able to establish a link to certain students. It is that 2% that ruins it for the whole bunch."

Information obtained through public records indicate Nicholas Howe and Matthew Szymoniak, two ACC students who lived in the College Park Apartments were arrested for selling cocaine and marijuana.

This investigation took place in the spring of 2002

when Howe and Szymoniak sold to a HUNT operative.

One student was attending college on a student loan, and now that he is a convicted drug trafficker he has lost his student loans and has had to obtain employment in order to continue college.

Neither student is living in the apartments at this time.

"You need to look at the big picture, time is money, first you get arrested, then jail, then bond proceedings, court, attorneys, fines, costs, probation, treatments, your license will be suspended, this will effect your insurance, this all costs money.

This could all be time spent on academics, time spent in the community, volunteering, being a mentor, acting as a role model," said Rick Schultz.

Detective Sergeant Mike

Hahn said, "Nobody wants to hire a convicted drug dealer, much less a user."

There is a theory that drugs also support terrorism. Each year ad campaigns spend an incredible amount of money regarding this issue. If you watch television you have seen all of the commercials telling of the role that drugs play in supporting terrorist activity.

Schultz said, "Hollywood tries to glamorize drugs, but no where does the dope dealer become the hero.

Even after September 11th, narcotics are supporting some sort of terrorist activity. Somebody always pays the price."

Schultz, who had first hand experience in metropolitan drug enforcement, discussed the contrast of suburban and rural areas.

"We are very fortunate up here in the northern area that

we don't have the violent drug problems like they do down state, but it is just a matter of time before it starts, in the homes, in our schools, everywhere," said Schultz.

When asked about cleaning up the drug problem Schultz said, "Very commonly there is a direct relationship between drug use and a variety of other crimes.

This is a public safety issue that affects our schools, streets and property. If you think your friend won't turn you in, you're wrong, they are looking out for one person."

The HUNT Team wants you to ask yourself these questions: Do drugs facilitate higher learning? Do college students have the money to spend on drugs? Are you receiving a college grant that can be retracted if you are caught with drugs in your

possession? What is more important to you, educating yourself and becoming a well rounded citizen or a drug addict that society is responsible for?

Hahn added, "There is no war on drugs, there's more to it than that, there is policy and procedure.

The criminals play their games and we play ours. They don't play by the rules but we have to. We can afford to slip up once in a while, but a drug dealer slips up once, and we've got them. If the HUNT Team is at your door they have everything they need for a conviction."

If you need help or know someone who does, please call: Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services at (989) 732-1791, Birchwood at (989) 356-7242, or HUNT at 1-800-573-DRUG.

## Michigan Firefighters, Alpena Quilters Deliver for NYC Firefighters

**CONNIE IRLAND**  
Staff Writer

Federal Express delivered the remaining 342 Firefighters Memorial Quilts in time for Christmas. On December 3rd, Federal Express picked up the quilts made by a group of women in Alpena, and delivered them to the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York.

One quilt will be delivered to each family who lost a firefighter in the September 11th attack on New York. The inspiration for this project

came from Margaret Quagon. When Quagon realized the enormity of the project she enlisted Betty Harris to help.

Each of these 347 quilts was made from used uniforms that were donated from departments all over Michigan. A patch from the department that donated the material was sewn in the center of each quilt.

Women from the community, including some ACC students, met on Tuesdays for just over a year to complete this project. Community involvement

included local and state politicians, area churches, local businesses, and other community agencies.

Monetary donations, from numerous sources, were spent directly on quilt making materials such as batting, backing, and binding. Earlier this year, Michigan State Representative, Andy Neumann delivered the first five quilts to Engine 214/Ladder 111 Company, in Brooklyn. Federal Express donation of delivery for the remaining quilts brings this project to a timely completion.



Photo Courtesy Andy Neumann  
Front row: Alpena quilters proudly display one of the handcrafted quilts delivered to families of NYC firefighters. Back row: Andy Neumann with three NYC firefighters.

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