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Gray Panther leader warns:

Mrs. Dolan nixes

filing charges in

dowsing incident

Senior housing creates underclass

Homeowner groups fighting con-struction of senior citizen high-rises have an unlikely ally in Gray Panther founder Maggie Kuhn of Philadelphia.

rouncer Maggie Aum of Philadelphia.

"We're creating a permanent underclass of people who are isolated,
powerless and poor with federal money
and federal programs," Ms. Kuhn said.
In Southfield Saturday at a University
of Michigan-Esalen Institute confer-

ence of aging, the activist for the aged called for a "10-year moratorium on senior housing."

Farmington Hills Councilwoman Jan Dolan has announced she will not file charges against George Majoros, Jr. for throwing water in her face.

for throwing water in her face.

Majoros is the son of former City Manager George Majoros. The senior Majoros was forced to resign his position last August after conflicts with the city council. Mrs. Dolan was mayor at the time of Majoros termination.

The water throwing incident occurred on Dec. 4 at the Roman Terrace restaurant where the junior Majoros was employed. Majoros admitted to throwing the water.

Mrs. Dolan had threatened to file charges unless a letter of apology came from the Majoros familty. It never did.

"This was a very frightening experi-

than for buinding senior citizen housing.
Ms. Kuhn, who makes a point of telling people she is "73, going on 74," saidsenior housing complexes and retirement communities like Sun City, Ariz,
are glettos for the aged.
"I spent two horrendous days in Sun
City a few years age when another conference was held there," she said.
The a terrible place where no young
people can live, they can only visit, and

report with the city juvenile depart-ment and requested the file remain suppressed in hopes the incident could be resolved "quietly."

suppressed in more or many and in the between this by receive help in learning to deal with his most receive help in learning to deal with his motions. In hope this could be achieved without notoriety so said a compared to the Detroit News wrote a column about the inclient. Since that time, Mrs. Dolan has become convinced that hims of many the motion of the Detroit News wrote a column bout the inclient. Since that time, Mrs. Dolan has become convinced that hims of manlow want he forthcom-

about the incident, since that time, Mrs. Dolan has become convinced that a letter of apology won't be forthcoming and that pursuing the incident further would be useless.

"As the mother of four sons, I can appreciate and commend the boy for his loyally to his family," she said. "I will defend his and any resident's right to discarge with me or was member of

tors believe oldsters' time should be spent playing bingo or making crafts with discarded egg cartons.

"They assume we're little babies who want to play, that's all we want. So we throw away our lives and throw away a lifetime of skills.

"Every senior citizen center could be "Every senior citizen center could be a staging area for a food co-op, or a a staging area in a house crop, or a housing cooperative." Home for Ms. Kuhn is a refurbished old house in Philadelphia. She shares the house with three people, 25, 31 and 36, three cats and 100 plants.

When she says that her hope for the future lies with "families of choice" who live with, learn from, and work with people of all ages, she backs up that conviction with personal experi-

that conviction with personar experience.

"I like the family definition of the
American Home Economics Association that defines a family as "Two or
more persons who share recognized
goals, litestyles and decision-making
over a time," "Ms. Kutha said. "The
group one comes home to is a family of
choice. In the unit here is a network of
committeent and responsibility.
"Of course, everything I am telling
you violates every housing code in
America."

America."

CATCHY SLOGANS such as "Senior Power" aren't chanted by the Gray Panthers, said Ms. Kuhn. She said it is 'demonic' to believe that seniors acting alone can affect social change. "We don't want to pit various groups against each other to gain special privileges for us," Ms. Kuhn said, "We want to help the tribe survive, and we are the elders of the tribe. Age is a unifying force — the youngest person is getting old.

"Age is the one thing that can bring us together. We're all getting old, so we must as well accept it and enjoy it."

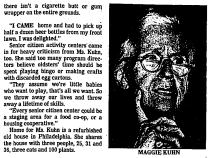
But Ms. Kuhn sees the three generations ("generations of learning, earning and yearning") Becoming more isolated because of economic competition and mandatory retirement laws.

I also the seed of the seed of the seed of the seed of people must find a "staging area" to meet people and form "a network of committement and responsibility."

In her own life, Ms. Kuhn said she met the people in her extended family through the Gray Panthers organization and through her former work with the United Presbyterian Office of Church and Society. A church or a synagogue could be a staging area for a lonely person of whatever age, she said.

One encouraging sign, said Ms. Kuhn,

THE SEGMENT of society most resistant to change, Ms. Kuhn said, is business and industry. But the workplace is the most logical place to form ties, she said.



said. One encouraging sign, said Ms. Kuhn, is that public school systems are opening the doors to people of all ages with continuing education programs. People can get together with friends they meet at school, she said. Also, empty school or college dormitories could be converted into apartments for



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