

Protests may continue, but not at Bendix

By Kathy Parriash
staff writer

Protesters arrested for trespassing at Bendix Corp. during Advent are free to return this Lenten season to defy the firm's making parts for nuclear weapons.

But if they step inside the Southfield world headquarters again, Detroit Peace Community members could spend Easter — two of them were on Christmas — in Oakland County Jail.

Wearing ashes dabbed on their foreheads during a frigid morning prayer vigil at Bendix's employee entrance, the four protesters were tried Ash Wednesday in 46th District Court, Southfield.

Instead of issuing a verdict, Judge Jessica R. Cooper decided to take the case "under advisement" for six months. She warned the defendants she will declare them guilty if they protest again. If you're interested in continuing to protest it is your business and within your First Amendment rights," she told the group, which includes two clergymen.

"But you better be sure if it's private or public property."

ON TRIAL for trespassing were Maune Arbogast, 25, who works at the Detroit Catholic worker community called Day House, the Rev. William Kellerman, 32, associate pastor at Cass United Methodist Church in Detroit; the Rev. Thomas Lumpkin, 43, a Catholic priest who works at Day House; and Ray Thibault, 38, a laid-off St. Clair Shores school teacher.

The members of the Detroit Peace Community were arrested Dec. 8 after entering the Bendix inside courtyard and refusing to leave. The group has protested regularly at Bendix for more than a year, but the incident was the first attempt to enter the building.

"We sang Christmas carols that echoed off the walls of the atrium, employees came and looked down on us," Kellerman told the court, adding that the decision to take the prayer service inside was made on the spur of the moment.

"I thought it was important to take things further," he said.

The protesters contend Bendix's Kansas City, Mo., plant makes parts

for nuclear warheads and bombs, including the neutron bomb.

David O. Taylor, director of news and public affairs for the Southfield-based firm, said its suburban Kansas City facility "produces or procures non-nuclear electrical, electronic, electromechanical, plastic and nonflammable metal components for nuclear weapons."

The Bendix spokesman said there is no tension between the company and the protesters, but the two are "philosophically fundamentally at odds."

"WE TAKE the view that our Kansas City operation is contributing to the peace process — contributing to the balance of power by which the modern world has avoided war."

"While we can share the ideal of disarmament, we see no benefit in unilaterally disarming."

Appearing in court without a lawyer, the protesters talk about the "religious necessity" of their actions.

In an emotional speech, Lumpkin compared the proceedings to courtrooms in Germany during World War II where there might have been objections to corporations making parts for gas chambers used to kill Jews.

"I want to make sure that if more than six million people are incinerated this time that someone — including me — says it's not right," he added, his voice cracking.

Thibault said property rights do not allow people to make drugs in their homes. "What they (Bendix) make is more lethal than any street drug," he said. "I feel they are grossly immoral and unjust in what they are doing with their resources."

Joel Saxe, the deputy assistant city attorney who represented Southfield, said the defendants did not present a legal defense to the trespassing charge. "There is no so-called religious justification for violating criminal law," he told the court.

Before making her decision, Judge Cooper asked the defendants if they would return inside the building regardless of her ruling. "If I were to order you to remain outside that building would you feel you had to disobey?" she asked.

"Not categorically, but I wouldn't promise that as a condition for guilt or sentencing," answered Kellerman.

"THIS IS NOT Nazi Germany and there are differences. We have rights

and freedoms and a court system," the judge told the defendants after a lunch recess.

She also said she has "deep respect for their convictions and moral beliefs." "But there are ways to protest more effectively than you've done and within the law. Bendix is a very large corporation, and they have their rights and beliefs too."

"Perhaps they believe that in making weapons they are protecting. It is their right to do that. And I don't think entering their building is going to make that much impact."

She said her main concern is that there isn't any further trespassing. "On public thoroughfares and public property, do whatever you want within the bounds of the law," she told the defendants.

"But if you trespass again you will have a conviction. I don't want to do that because I believe you are four

very deeply sincere people."

To questions by Bendix attorney Paul T. Breistein about where the protesters had to go, Judge Cooper said the defendants should have access to any public property.

"If you have property where you allow the public to go, you can't discriminate against these people. She also suggested the protesters seek legal advice about their boundaries."

"YOU'RE ALL college-educated people and don't want convictions. I don't want a conviction and don't believe Bendix wants one either. Just avoid their private property."

After the hearing, group members said noon Friday protests during Lent were scheduled to be outside anyway. But they added that much depends on Bendix.

"I don't see how we can confine our protest to public property. It would be

very difficult," said Ms. Arbogast.

Bendix's Taylor said the company has allowed the protests on its property and hasn't decided whether it would be appropriate to change our view of these things as a result of court action."

But he stressed that the company is not concerned about demonstrations unless they interfere with business operation.

"This is a business institution and while we respect their right to free speech we clearly can not accept disruption of our business activities. We have to respect their right to free speech and only ask that they respect our right to do business."

Taylor added that Bendix does not believe it should define the defense role of the United States. "That is for leaders in Washington to decide. As good corporate citizens it is for us to support what our leaders want."

BOB HENKLE, a Southfield city planner, said there is public access along Bendix Civic Center Drive and Northwestern at Bendix, which includes grass and a sidewalk running along the front of the east building which contains the atrium.

"I know she didn't acquit them. It looks to me like a conditional verdict and they will be found guilty if they perform certain acts in the future. I'm hard pressed to find another ruling like

Southfield attorney Saxe said his concern is the "rights of all people in this city who own private property."

He expressed concern over the ruling, saying that "from the standpoint of the public it's always nicer to have a clear decision."

"I don't know if a verdict has been rendered," he said, admittedly "perplexed" by the ruling.

Library features theater-in-round

The Friends of the Library will sponsor two theatre-in-the-round programs on Michigan history. Presented by the repository company of the Detroit Historical Department, both programs provide the audience an opportunity to examine authentic every-day articles used in early Detroit.

LES FRANCAIS A DETROIT shows what life was like for the adventurous French habitants who settled the Detroit area 250 years ago. The woods-

men whose livelihood was provided by the wilderness will share portions of their lives through artifact and story. Examine their colorful costumes, pelts, traps, trade items and utensils, while listening to their real-life tales. This program will be on March 8 with a performance at 4 p.m. for children and another show at 7:30 p.m. for adults at the Farmington Hills Branch Library. Call 553-0380 for reservations.

HARDTACK AND COFFEE shows how the Civil War affected the lives of our Michigan forefathers. A woman of the 1860's tells the audience how her life was changed by the "rebellion" and allows the audience to examine her washboard, iron, carpet bag and books. An authentic Union soldier demonstrates his gear and depicts life "on campaign." Both characters tell of the battles which took place hundreds of miles from Detroit, yet affected their

lives so profoundly. This program will be held on March 10 at the Farmington Branch Library. Performances will be at 4 p.m. for children and 7:30 p.m. for adults. Call 474-7770 for reservations. Join the Friends of the Library to watch these periods of history come alive. Performances will be limited to 40 children or 60 adults. Call for your reservations as soon as possible. These programs are open to the public and free of charge.

Students inducted in honor society

Three students from Lutheran High Northwest, Farmington Hills, were inducted into the membership of the National Honor Society in a morning ceremony at the high school on Friday, Feb. 26.

Members were selected by a Faculty

Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character. The grade point average for Juniors needed is 3.25 and for Seniors it is 3.0. The students inducted were: Linda Barkoot and Shelly Sheppard, Juniors, and Laura Sylvester, Senior.

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. More than six million students have been selected and more than two million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to senior members,

by the sponsoring organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The Lutheran High Northwest Chapter of the National Honor Society has been in existence since 1911 and members total 13 in two years.

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It's YOUR Money

by Charles H. Williams, C.F.A.

A HUSBAND'S BEST LEGACY

The best thing a husband can leave his wife is the ability to get along without him. The size of the estate a man leaves is not as vital to the family's well-being as proper planning by a couple so that the remaining spouse knows how to manage it.

There are 10.5 million widows in this country, and many of them have been thrust into the role of money manager with no background or training. Many wives are "taken care of" until, suddenly, they must take care of themselves (and, often, young children, too). They must make momentous decisions they may not have even considered before.

Death is difficult to accept, which is why so many families carry on as if it will never happen. Yet it is serious planning for this eventuality that protects the family, its members, and its assets.

Husband and wife together should review family finances and discuss what the surviving spouse will inherit and how it should be managed. Priorities and goals should be agreed upon. What will the spouse live on? Is there enough?

A wife should know what there is and where it is: bank accounts, insurance policies, stock and bonds, safe deposit boxes. If there are financial advisors involved, they should meet regularly with the wife as well as the husband.

Experts in the field and women who have been widowed advise caution: many decisions should wait until some months after the initial shock of death. Sell the house? Invest? Safe, liquid instruments are wisest at first.

One kind of "insurance" cannot be underestimated — a widow's own job, or skills to help her earn money on her own. These offer long-lasting financial and psychological advantages to many women.

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For St. Patrick's Day, Wed., March 7, we'll have special shamrock cookies, 3.24 doz.; petits four, 4.95 doz.; St. Pat's cup cakes, 4.95 doz.; and cake, 6.95; Irish potato bread, 85¢ a loaf and it's great!

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• whiteiced fry cakes	3.12 2.50
March 22 to 27	
• chocolate chip cookies	3.24 2.60
• Hawaiian sweet bread	1.50 1.20
• banana fry cakes	3.12 2.50

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