

Physicians gear for malpractice protest

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

Busloads of physicians and their supporters will depart area hospitals Tuesday to join protesters statewide in an organized march on Lansing.

Purpose of the march is to bring to the attention of legislators and the public a growing concern by physicians on the handling of medical malpractice claims and premiums in the state.

Discussion is expected to center around a proposed cap of \$250,000 for payment of noneconomic pain and suffering awards in malpractice suits. Medical expenses and loss of wages are not included in the cap. The proposal is being debated by the state Senate.

More than 600 supporters in 14 buses are expected to leave from Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The effort at Beaumont is being coordinated by two attending staff physicians in private practice, Dr. Gerald Conway, a urologist, and Dr. Willis Stephens, an obstetrician.

Stephens said the 600 supporters are composed of physicians, their families, office help, volunteers, drug company representatives and other medical support persons.

A NUMBER of people who support the cause will stay behind to "cover hospital services," he emphasized. "The hospital will not be left bare."

The primary purpose, Stephens said, "is to show physicians that they can group together and accomplish something under one banner."

'We have to bring attention to the situation that the medical field is in. We're being backed into a corner medically and legally.'

— Dr. Allen Babcock,
orthopedic surgeon

"We want not so much to impress legislators but to identify the problems to the public. We don't want to lose our neurosurgeons, obstetricians and orthopedic surgeons. These are the most critical areas, the most litigated against."

More than 200 physicians and supporters are expected to depart at 7:30 a.m. from Crittenton Hospital in Rochester Hills, where the movement was organized by Dr. Peter Duhamel, a general surgeon.

Dr. Allen Babcock, an orthopedic surgeon participating in the march from Crittenton, said, "We have to bring attention to the situation that the medical field is in. We're being backed into a corner medically and legally. People feel that we're taking away their ability to be compensated. We don't want patients to lose if they're wronged, but there should be fair compensation, done quickly."

"We want to see patients (who are) truly injured compensated, but we don't want to line attorneys' pockets."

Out of every dollar paid out, the patient is receiving only 30 cents."

"Every time I enter an emergency room, I feel I've got an attorney on my shoulder. We're practicing defensive medicine. Patients' charts have become patients' briefs."

BABCOCK SAID he hoped to bring an end to frivolous suits. For every three suits filed, whether they are dropped or not, he explained, premiums are increased for a period of five years.

Henry Ford Hospital physicians and their supporters statewide will number more than 250. The group will be leaving at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday from three locations — the main campus in Detroit, the West Bloomfield facility and the Fairlane facility in Dearborn.

Dr. Fred Whitehouse, division head of metabolic diseases, is chairman of the Henry Ford Hospital malpractice action task force and organizer of the

Henry Ford contingent to Lansing.

Whitehouse said his group will join with other area participants for a rally at the Civic Center in Lansing at 9 a.m., with a larger rally on the steps of the Capitol Building planned for noon. During the afternoon they will meet with appropriate senators and legislators to discuss the problems of malpractice suits.

"I think we will be influential," he added, "but not deterministic. We believe we should be involved in the political process, but we recognize it's not the only thing that will have an effect."

More than 250 attending physicians and residents will gather at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Providence Hospital medical building in Southfield.

DR. DON KROHN, chairman of the obstetrics-gynecology department, is heading the group. He said, "We are gravely concerned about the continuing access to medical care. Costs are increasing for both patient and physician, and in many cases has resulted in decreased availability in medical care. The proposed reforms would create a less hostile medical malpractice environment."

Dr. Michael Wayne, who has a family practice, is coordinating efforts at Botaford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, where more than 200 physicians and supporters are scheduled to depart for Lansing at 7:30 a.m.

Dr. Frederick Minkow, president of the Oakland County Medical Society, and staff member of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, is one of more than 300 physicians, their families and friends, and members of the nursing staff and other support services, departing by buses at 8 a.m. from St. Joseph.

Minkow said, "We hope to convince legislators . . . to insure that justice is

done for everyone, especially our patients, so that they are properly compensated, and that compensation is not filtered out and lost through the system."

Public relations personnel at several of the hospitals contacted were quick to point out that although the hospital administration is supportive of the physicians' involvement, the hospitals themselves are not directly involved.

● O&E Classifieds work! ● O&E Classifieds work! ●

Classic Interiors
Fine Furniture, Home Quality Costs Low
20202 Middlebelt Rd. (R. of 8 Mile)
Livonia • 474-8900
Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. OPEN SUNDAYS 1-5

police/fire calls



Composite drawing of Hills robbery suspect.

Listed below are highlights of Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

● MAN ROBBED

A gunman robbed a Farmington Hills businessman of his car and \$2,000 in cash outside a local bank Wednesday morning.

According to a Farmington Hills police report, the 37-year-old businessman was parking his car outside First of America, 28564 Orchard Lake, when he was approached by the gunman about 9:35 a.m.

The gunman entered the passenger side of the car and threatened the businessman if he didn't do as he was told.

At a shopping center near 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, the gunman ordered the victim out. With \$2,000 in a City National Bank money bag in tow, the gunman fled in the car south on Orchard Lake.

The car, a 1982 brown Ford station wagon with wood-grain sides, was valued at \$4,000.

The gunman was described as black and about 20-25 years of age, 5-10, 160 pounds, with black hair, a medium build and a medium skin tone. He brandished a blue steel revolver.

He was wearing a Detroit Tigers cap and possibly a black jacket.

Call tips to the Farmington Hills Police: 473-9537.

● THEFT REPORTED

Nearly \$500 in construction materials were taken from a house being built on Lancaster about 1:30 a.m. Oct. 15,

according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● BOMB THREAT

The 47th District Court was the target of a bomb threat Thursday morning, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

The switchboard operator at the courthouse, 32795 10 Mile, told police a caller asked to speak to the police chief or deputy chief about 10:05 a.m.

When she provided the police department's telephone number, the caller announced a bomb threat, the operator told police.

The caller then hung up and the operator called police.

MAPLE DRUGS
FARMINGTON — DRAKESHIRE • 1131 Grand River
PHONE: 476-6105 PACKAGE LIQUOR
FARMINGTON — DOWNTOWN • 1100 Farmington Rd.
PHONE: 476-6105 ALTA • WINE
WESTLAND — 14000 Ford Rd. Between Vinco & Wayne Rd.
PHONE: 729-2700 PACKAGE LIQUOR
WESTLAND — 1100 Joy Rd. & Menard Rd.
PHONE: 476-6105 PACKAGE LIQUOR

COUPON
PEPSI, DIET PEPSI, PEPSI FREE,
DIET PEPSI FREE
PEPSI LIGHT
MOUNTAIN DEW
6 pack 12 oz. \$1.99 + deposit

Gem Carpet 532-8080
& Furniture Cleaners
TRIPLE METHOD
SHAMPOO STEAM
RINSE & EXTRACTION

FALL SPECIAL
2 WEEKS ONLY
2 ROOMS & HALL... \$36⁰⁰
(with this ad)

10 years in your area
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FAMILY OWNED
LICENSED & INSURED
FURNITURE CLEANING

INSULATION SALE
Blown Cellulose
Blown Fiberglass

Compare our prices, quality and guarantee!

Licensed/Free Estimates Utility Participant

NORWEST INSULATION
LIVONIA
551 W. 12th St.
REDFORD
26541 GLENDALE, 534-8010

DICK'S
UPHOLSTERY SHOP

Good furniture should last a lifetime...or longer

OUR EXPERIENCED CRAFTSMEN CAN CHANGE OLD PLEASURES INTO NEW TREASURES IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

29157 W. 8 Mile • Livonia
E. of Middlebelt • 625-8825

Arthritis Today
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D.
Rheumatology
20317 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: 478-7860

ARTHRITIS OF THE WRIST

The wrist consists of eight small bones. The ability to move the wrist up, down, and in a circular motion comes from the freedom of these eight bones to move easily against each other. However, this mobility is lost without its price: the possibility of arthritis.

Because the thumb makes the widest variety of finger movements, it is subject to the most strain. This strain may be passed through the thumb to the two wrist bones that connect the thumb with the forearm. As a result of this vulnerability, the wrist bones at this site are prone to arthritis. When it occurs, there is pain at the thumb side of the wrist and no inability to grasp small objects such as screwdrivers, pencils, shavers or toilet tissue. Thus arthritis, though it occurs in one place, can be a threat both to continuing employment and dignified self-care.

Usually, treatment with aspirin and injection will control pain and inflammation and permit the hand to engage in unobstructed movement. If the treatment fails, surgery can be undertaken to remove the involved wrist bones and replace it with a plastic component.

In almost every case, having wrist arthritis does not mean that you have a condition that must only be endured. Rather, the many types of arthritis, if not cured, it can be treated and helped.

BERGSTROM'S
FALL SPECIALS

25429 W. FIVE MILE
REDFORD TWP.
427-6092

The Energy Experts

SALE ENDS OCT. 28, 1985

STORE HOURS
8-8 MONDAY-FRIDAY
9-5 SATURDAY
12-4 SUNDAY

CARRIER GAS SAVER FURNACE
75,000 BTU #58 GS 075-101
Electronic Spark Ignition
\$369⁹⁵

INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

SUPER COUPON
HEAT SEAL
Thermally Activated Vent Damper
Reg. \$40.95 \$27.50
T-300 \$40.95 \$27.50
T-400 \$59.95 \$34.95
T-500 \$69.95 \$39.95
T-600 \$79.95 \$47.95 LIMIT 2
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
DUCT PIPE
25% OFF
ALL FURNACE PIPE AND FITTINGS
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
Toilet
\$45⁰⁰
Grade A
MODEL 4031 Reg. \$61.99
Seat Not Included
White Supplies Last
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
White Plastic TOILET SEAT
OVER 50% OFF
\$499
Reg. 9.95
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

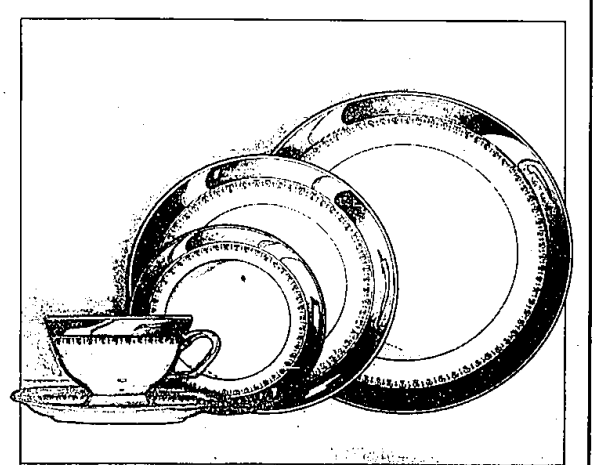
SUPER COUPON
MOEN LAV. FAUCET
"The Good Stuff"
LAVATORY FAUCET OR POP-UP AND 16" COPPER SUPPLIES
MODEL 4825 A **\$379⁹⁵**
Reg. \$59.95
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
3 VALVE TUB & SHOWER
with water saver head
Reg. 69.66
DENBER #8-46-030
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
INSINKERATOR
BADGET I
Reg. 64.05
SPECIAL PRICE
\$37⁹⁵
1/3 H.P.
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

SUPER COUPON
A. O. SMITH
40 GALLON
WATER HEATER
\$139⁹⁵
Reg. 172.95
Installation Available KGA 40
EXPIRES OCT. 28, 1985

FAUCET • GARBAGE DISPOSALS • LAUNDRY TUBS • FAUCET • AIR CONDITIONERS • SALES • CUSTOM VANITY TOPS • STAINLESS STEEL SINKS • LAUNDRY TUBS • SHOWER DOORS • TOILETS • SHOWER DOORS • TOILETS • PIPE FITTINGS • SHOWER STALL • TOILETS



PICKARD CHINA SHOW

FAMOUS AND PERSONAL PLACE SETTINGS ON DISPLAY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 12-9 P.M., BIRMINGHAM

Allow Mr. Jay Voss, Pickard General Sales Manager, to show you his company's exquisite china collection. See the official service settings for our U.S. Embassies as well as the Chrysler and General Motor executive services. Choose your own personal place setting from 33 patterns on display. Each pattern skillfully hand-crafted into a work of art...America's finest.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday