Brain injuries have hidden, delayed effects

Physicians and researchers from around the world are calling for a five-year study of mild brain inju-ries. They're seeking to understand the long-term effects and treat pa-tients.

More than 230 experts gathered at the University of Michigan Medical Center to swap ideas on diagnosing and treating the nation's 1.5 million people hospitalized each year for mild and moderate brain injuries.

"What are the hidden effects of mild head injury?. The issues are much too unclear," said Dr. Thomas W. Langlitt, professor of neurosurgery and former vice president for health affairs at the University of Pennsylvania. "We haven't resolved the questions. There's still a tremendous amount of work to be done," he told the gathering in Ann Arbor.

THEIR RESEARCH has shown

passed on a vote of 23-8 and was sent to the House.

Sponsoring Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, said the measure was needed so city voters would get a chance to decide whether they want to raise the city income tax from 1 percent to 1.4 percent.

"I look at this as a self-help bill for Battle Creek," Schwarz sald. "The Senate is not raising anyone's taxes." AMENDMENTS TO extend the

voting rights to non-residents failed on votes of 15-15 and 17-12 despite arguments from senators who share DiNello's taxation philosophy.

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Senate passes curb on city tax sion that would have permitted non-residents to vote. The bill, designed to permit a vote on the financing of improvements of city streets and drainage projects, passed on a vote of 23-8 and was sent

AP — A bill that would allow non-residents to vote on imposing or increasing a city income tax has cleared the Michigan Senate, but there is no sign the Michigan Senate, but there is no sign the Michigan House inclined to accept it.

Sponsored by Sen. Gilbert DiNello.
DEast Detroit, the bill passed on a 22-0 vote without debate and now for the senate of the passed such legislation in the past, and it has died in the Democrat-controlled House. Cities currently can impose or increase taxes on non-residents who work there without extending them the right to vote. DiNello and others argue that is taxtalton without representation.

However, opponents of such legis-

percent to 1.4 percent.

Taxes for those who work in the city but don't live there would rise from 0.5 percent to 0.7 percent.

Combined with a special assessment, the taxes would raise \$50 million over 13 years for the local improvements, according to Schwarz.

The income tax would raise 48 percent of that amount, he said.

sentation.

However, opponents of such legislation contend non-residents would usually oppose tax boosts, thus hindering cities from undertaking needed projects. And they say it would be administratively difficult to include non-residents in a local tax vote.

IRONICALLY, THE non-resident voting bill passed shortly after the Senate approved a measure to per-mit a special tax vote in Battle Creek — but after removing a provi-

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ate brain injuries are tied to motor vehicles.

• Weekends have the highest number of brain injuries.

• People with concussions and other forms of mild brain injury have significant cognitive and behavioral problems months after impact. Delayed return to work, a loss of concentration, headaches, dizziness and other problems often surface after the linjury, yet seldom are tied to the injury.

50 percent of mild and moder-

ate brain injuries are tied to motor

THE EXPERTS concluded that

Initial diagnosis of mild and mod-erate brain injuries can be difficult, and even with accurate diagnosis, later problems often are not recog-

 Mild and moderate brain injuries account for 90 percent of all brain injuries.
 Incidence of brain injury in males is double that of females. sater problems often are not recognized.

Wayne Alves, director of research in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania, aid, "Anything can happen after a mild head injury, and everything that can happen, does . . but an early and agressive effort can get people back into their routine."

The symposium was jointly sponsored by the University of Michigan and General Metors Corp. GM cosponsored the effort as part of its ongoing research efforts to Improve automobile satety. 50 percent of brain injury vic-tims are between 15 and 34 years of

DR JULIAN T. HOFF, chief of neurosurgery at the U-M Medical Center and one of the symposium or-ganizers, said workshops will take place during the next five years to help better understand the problem or mild and moderate brain injuries. Dr. George Zuldema, vice provost

for medical affairs at U-M, said the problem is substantial. "(This) transam and its consequences affect our society to a degree that far outstrip to a degree to a degree that far outstrip to a degree that far outstrip to a degree that far only a small percentage or resources assigned to that one disease — important as that may be," he said.

he said.

Children recover more quickly and completely from all but the most severe head injuries, according to Mark Ylvisaker, program director of the Rehabilitation Center of New York.

MORE THAN 200,000 children in the United States are hospitalized each year with mild and moderate brain injuries.

Of them, 15,000 need prolonged hospitalization, and 4,000 die each year from cranlocerebral trauma, Ytvisaker salk.

Falls account for 43 percent of all mild and moderate head injuries in children, followed by motor vehicles,

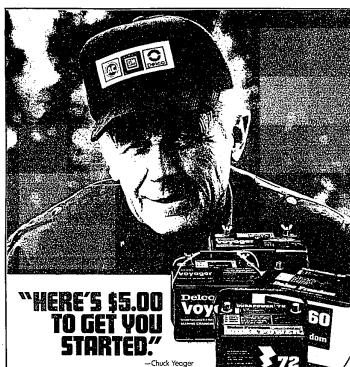
bike accidents and sport activities. Mild head injuries in children result in impaired attention, impaired consultation, a reduced tolerance for stress and impulsiveness, irritability, withdrawal and apathy, Yi-visaker sald. But injured children, on the whole, do not experience marked failure in school.

J. DOUGLAS MILLER of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland studied more than 2,000 elderly patients with mild and moderate head injuries.

Some of his findings contradicted conventional findings that more women than men suffer head injuries among the elderly, and that the highest incidence of head injuries happen on Thursday — the day pension checks are issued in Edinburgh, he said.

sion checks are issued in Edinburgh, he said.

Manuscripts from the symposium will be assembled and a book will be



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