Health-care costs harm companies

Many companies in the United States could fail within three years if the rapidly escalating costs of health care are not controlled, according to a health care expert.

Michael Samuelson, president of the Ann Arbor-based National Center for Health Promotion, gave that message to 250 business executives attending a health symposium at Memorial Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif.

Samuelson is an expert on health care cost containment and the cost benefits of improving employees health and lifestyles.

"During 1988, premiums for many health care cost containment and the cost benefits of improving employees health and lifestyles.

"During 1988, premiums for many health care costs account for as much as 65 percent of the average payroll.

"EVERTRODY HAS heard horfor

"EVERYBODY HAS heard horfor stories about how much of the cost of

a car is attributable to health benefits and employee absenteelsm,"
said Samuelson. "These horror torica are now occurring in virtually
every Industry."
According to Samuelson, American businesses have become very sophisticated about health care costs
during the past five years.
"Companies have aggressively
promoted outpatient services, alternatives, to fee-for-service arrangements such as health maintenance
organizations and shifting some
costs to employees," he said. "Unfortunately, all of these efforts are falling far short of the expected costreduction goals."

Samuelson encourages companies
to take a pro-active approach to
health care costs by improving the
overall health and iffestlytes of employees. "Even small reductions in
alcohol use, smoking and obesity can
have a significant impact on the bottom line," he said.

Group fights 'war toys'

Contending that "war toys are influencing children toward violence," WAND (Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament) will conduct a public program on "Disarming the Toy Chest" at 7.30 pm. Tuesday.

The free session will be in Kouthfeld Library's Marcotte Room, 26000 Evergreen, between 10 and 11 mile roads.

Orders will be taken for "Discovery Toys," oriented toward peaceful play.

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Older drivers to be retrained

Older drivers in Oakland County will be given refresher training by the Traffic Improvement Associa-

the Traffic Improvement Associa-tion.

TIA received a \$32,000 federal grant for the second year of the pro-gram. During the first year, 30 drivers over age 50 took part, ac-cording to Carol Tomcak, TA start former.

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month.

"The goal of the workshops is to help senior citizens improve their driving skills and enable them to drive for as long and as safely as possible," she said.
"The TIA workshops are unique because no other driving refresher program in the United States offers the opportunity for psycho-physical

testing and a behind-the-wheel driving performance measurement," Tomczak said.

TESTS WILL measure brake reaction time, depth perception, glare recovery ability, visual aculty and other factors. Results are known only to participants. No written records are kept, abe said.

The schedule:

Southfield — Nov. 18 and 17 from 12:50 to 4:50 pm. both days, at Grace Community Center, 210:30 Indian. Registration contact: Midge Apple at 356-0750.

Waterford — 3 am. to 1 pm. both days, at the parks and recreation buildings. 15:50 Andersonville Road. Registration contact: Sandy Middleton, 623-690.

Ford UF gifts total \$11 million

Pledges by Ford Motor Co. employees in southeastern Michigan and a gift from the company fund will add a record \$11 million to the 1988 United Foundation Torch Drive.

Joseph A. Kordick, vice president and general manager of the automaker's parts and service division, reported the contribution at a UF luncheon.

Kordick said the combined total of

luncheon.

Kordick said the combined total of \$11 million is the largest single amount ever pledged to the Torch Drive in its 40-year history. He also noted that it is the largest single



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amount that has ever been pledged to the United Way.



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THE COURSE teaches older drivers techniques to compensate for age-related deficiencies. The course was developed by AARP (American Association of Retired Persons).

"Research shows that the skills necessary for safe driving begin to deteriorate around age 55. Nevertheless, most older drivers can continue driving safety when they learn to compensate for the physical effects of aging.

with state regulations for insuralize company discounts to graduates of defensive driving courses. Seniors drive their own cars with an evaluator, who will point out gra-sible problem areas and suggest rective techniques.

ONE IN FOUR Michigan drivers is 55 or older. By the year 2000, that will increase to one in three. The number of drivers over 75 will in-crease fastest of all.

The course covers effects of medication, defensive driving techniques, interacting with traffic, adverse farmington Hills, probably in driving conditions and accident prevention measures.

Tomczak said the course complies 334-4971.

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