

His struggle over, Rivlin says a quiet goodbye

Continued from Page 1

"He died peacefully, he went quickly, there was no pain," said his aunt, Marion Gornbein-Melton of Florida, who was at his side. "The only consolation I have is that I have helped him achieve what he wanted for himself."

Funeral arrangements for Rivlin were private, according to the wishes of the family, said a spokesman from the Ira Kaufman Chapel in Southfield. He is survived by his aunt

and several cousins.

One cousin, William Bradlin, said he visited Rivlin every other day until recently. He stopped visiting because he feared he might try to talk his cousin out of the decision to die.

"In my heart, I'd like to beg him to stay alive," Bradlin said before his cousin's death Thursday. "But he has a right to be relieved of this pain."

"He's given me a lot of respect for the human spirit that kept him going and going so well for 17 years. I'm going to miss him so much."

RIVLIN — BRIGHT articulate and determined — gave numerous interviews before his ultimate wish was granted: to die with dignity. He rarely ventured from bed as he watched TV, listened to the radio and talking books and pondered his plight of virtual immobility. The isolation had sapped his will to live.

Reporters were drawn to the former Oak Park resident after he filed a petition with the Oakland County Circuit Court in May, asking for permission to disconnect his ventilator to which he was hooked up in December 1986. Circuit Judge Hilda Gage said July 5 a ruling from her court was not necessary; that the decision belonged to Rivlin because he was a competent adult.

"I'm just tired of being hooked up," Rivlin told the Observer the next day. "It's artificial. I've hated it from the beginning. I've tried to live with it, but I can't."

Rivlin severed his spinal cord in a 1971 surfing accident in his native California. The accident paralyzed him from the waist down. A former hospital caregiver, he learned to live independently, with the help of an aide. He went back to school. He flirted with marriage.

But his condition starting declining in 1979. In 1986, an aneurysm cost Rivlin the use of both arms and his ability to breathe.

Rivlin's situation is rare, when a person in a nursing home or facility is on life support and can still make their own decision, said Mike Connors, director of Citizens for Better Care, a support group for patients and their families. Many people are not conscious or mentally capable.

"The way his case was handled is the way we would encourage others to handle it," he added. "We strongly believe the individual should have the right to make that decision."

Volunteers at CBC had talked with Rivlin in recent times, listening and advising. Connors said he believed Rivlin valued the attention his case received and "never felt he was being used" by the media.

"It's created a lot of awareness," he added. "I don't think it will change things; it will change the understanding of it. People don't always perceive what their rights are."

Soronen decides not to run again

Continued from Page 1

for the county commission last year, is executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and a Farmington Downtown Development Authority member.

CITY COUNCIL candidates must file petitions with between 93 and 186 valid signatures by 4 p.m. Aug. 22. They may circulate petitions for an expiring term or for the unexpired term but can't run for both. Those who file for both must withdraw from one by 4 p.m. Aug. 25 or their candidacy for either is voided.

Residents may sign only one candidate's petition. Petitions are available at the city clerk's office in the city hall at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. Candidates must be duly registered voters.

In the regular four-seat race on Nov. 7, voters may vote for up to four candidates. The top three vote-getters will earn four-year terms; the fourth place finisher will serve a two-year term.

Marks was first elected to the city council in 1984. Vagstad was first elected in 1987. Arnold was appointed in December to fill the remainder of former councilwoman Jan Dolan's term, which expires this year. Dolan was elected to the state House in November.

OTHERS CIRCULATING petitions include Farmington Hills planning commissioner Lawrence Lichtman, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce president Jonathan Grant and former council candidates Vernon Klepinski and Raymond Cassar.

Also taking out petitions were Ron Oliverio of Liberty Lane, Al Rosen of Conway Court, Michael Cortis of Cass, Steven Reifman of Olde Franklin, Allen Glass of Olde Franklin and Herbert Liner of Kingsgate Way.

Among this group, only Klepinski has filed. He is seeking one of the expiring council terms.

Council members are paid \$1800 a year.

"HE IS in prison with no escape," Rivlin's attorney David Rosin of Detroit said in an earlier interview. "All he has to do is lay there in bed. Tomorrow is like today and so is 20 years from now."

GROUNDING HER WON'T LET HER GRADES.

SYLVAN WILL.

You've tried it all: the discipline, the tutors, the monitoring of homework, the seemingly endless conferences with teachers and counselors. But nothing can get your family's spirits off the ground faster than the hope and help you find at Sylvan Learning Centers.

Sylvan Learning Centers are a group of private neighborhood educational centers designed to help your child do better in school. We react in order to pinpoint the specific areas in which your child needs help. And we attack the problem with an individually designed program. Positive motivation, friendly encouragement, an experience of success right from the start, and individualized attention make all the difference.

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER® PROGRAMS

- Reading • Math • CLEAR Writing™ • Study Skills • Algebra
- College Prep/SAT/ACT • Reading

5755 W. Maple (W. of Orchard Lake) 9912 E. Grand River, Suite 1300
West Bloomfield Charrington Sq.
737-2880 227-1800

Fine Furniture... Where Quality Costs You Less!

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

Classic Interiors

20292 Middlebelt, Livonia • South of 8 Mile
474-6900

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00, Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30

HAIR COMPANY

FROSTINGS \$22

Includes cap frosting and your choice of blow-dry and curl or roller set.

538-1044 27716 7 Mile Rd., 2 Blocks West of Inkster
Nexus Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Expires 8-5-89

Twice a week is better 3 times a week is better

FREE WEIGHT LOSS

ARE YOU OVERWEIGHT?

You can stop bingeing and compulsive eating. It's easy. Find out about my NEW program.

• WILLIAM NAGLER, M.D.

Diet Med. MEDICAL CENTER 422-8040

16311 MIDDLEBELT ROAD • LIVONIA

Michigan's Only Medical Center Board Certified in Weight Reduction Medicine.

CLIP THIS COUPON FOR VALUABLE SAVINGS

1/2 OFF

All Silk Flowers

Hundreds of varieties in garden and fashion colors for everlasting wedding arrangements, centerpiece, and more! Reg. 694-759

1/2 OFF

All Instruction Books

Over 500 titles! Limit 5 books per customer.

1/2 OFF

Photo Frames

Over 100 styles in ceramic and metal. Reg. 1-99-20-49

1/2 OFF

All Fibre-Craft Miniatures & Western Bead Tree Ornaments

Reg. 406-439

1/2 OFF

All Wicker & Brass Containers

Sizes and shapes for any use! Reg. 366-5899

1/2 OFF

All Summer Picnic Supplies and selected Toys & Games

Not effective with any other discount offer. Expires 7/20/89

1/2 OFF

The Regular price of Any 1 Item in the Store

Not effective with any other discount offer. Expires 7/20/89

Leewards

SUMMER SPECIALS

FINAL DAYS!

15% OFF

EVERYTHING IN STOCK

- Bedrooms • Tables & Chairs
- Entertainment Centers, etc.

EXPIRES JULY 31

The YANKEE CARPENTERED

1781 S. TELEGRAPH • BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 333-0441

Getaway, Biquette Lake and Orchard Lake Roads

New Summer Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed. 10-6; Thurs. & Fri. 10-9; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 12-4

BRITISH MADE LACE CURTAINS

Ready to Hang • No Panels
No Difference in Bottoms • No Seams
Any Width • Option One Piece

We Now Carry Joanna CUSTOM ROLLER SHADES (Wood and Metal Rollers)

We Carry Graber Rods - Including Clear Rods

The Lace Curtain Shop

LARGEST SELECTION OF LACE CURTAINS IN THE COUNTRY!

33216 Grand River 1 blk. East of Farmington Rd.
Farmington • Mon.-Sat. 10-6 471-2058

1 1/2 OFF SALE AT Leewards

1/2 OFF

All Summer Picnic Supplies and selected Toys & Games

Not effective with any other discount offer. Expires 7/20/89

1/2 OFF

The Regular price of Any 1 Item in the Store

Not effective with any other discount offer. Expires 7/20/89

Leewards

WALLPAPER

- BLINDS • SHADES • SUPPLIES • ACCESSORIES •

ALL IN STOCK WALLPAPER 20% - 50% OFF

- Steamer Rental*
- Store is Color Coordinated
- Thousands of Rolls in Stock

30% OFF

All Special Order Books

All previous orders excluded

Good thru July 31, 1989

BEAUTIFUL SELECTION OF WINDOW TREATMENTS

DEL. MAR

25%-40% OFF

JOANNA CUSTOM ROLLER SHADES

LEWONIA

MD-4 SHOPPING CENTER NOV-10 MILE CENTER
2840 FIVE MILE 4150 W. 10 MILE
427-0276 340-2171

IN STOCK WALLPAPER, INC.

HAYWARD SQUARE CENTER 2828 BIRLINGTON ROAD
451-2360

OPEN 7 DAYS
Mon.-Fri. 10-8; Sat. 9-4; Sun. 11-4

Stock Up On Great Summer Specials!

Samsonite Furniture

30%-40% OFF

In stock

Immediate Delivery

M-S 10-6, Thurs. 10-7, Sun. 12-4

12 Mile & Evergreen Evergreen Plaza

Sittin' Pretty