

Alarm from page A1

gen.
Overlay deaths can occur when the body of an adult or older sibling sleeping with the infant compresses its face into a mattress or the cushions of a couch or chair. "All overlay deaths are positional asphyxiations," said Dragovic. "But all positional asphyxiations are not overlays."
What is important, he said, is that parents be made aware of the inherent danger.
"I've already spoken to somebody with the Michigan Child Death Review Program (within the Michi-

gan Public Health Institute in Lansing)," said the medical examiner, "and there is tentative agreement about the need for some kind of informational campaign."
Many parents - including Dragovic and his wife - believe sleeping with a baby leads to a healthy bonding and comfort for the infant. "My wife and I slept with each of our (six) children," he said. "But there are dangers, and parents should be aware of them."
The danger is particularly acute, he said, when parents are extremely fatigued or on medication. It's

also hazardous after the parent has been drinking or has been on medication, prescription or otherwise.
Dragovic envisions a campaign involving literature or, possibly, a series of public service announcements on radio or television - similar to the campaign for a drug-free America, or the "Back to Sleep" campaign promoted by the Michigan SIDS Alliance reminding parents that infants sleeping on their back are less likely to fall victim to crib death, or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

The frequency of positional asphyxiation deaths in Oakland County has been documented by the medical examiner's office in a study from February, 1992, through April, 1996. A study by Dragovic's staff disclosed 22 positional asphyxiation deaths in Oakland and nine more in counties where Oakland pathologists are involved in autopsies.
Since the end of the study in 1994, there have been eight more positional asphyxiation deaths either in Oakland or handled at county hospitals.

Hills hosts auction May 2

The city of Farmington Hills will host an auction 10 a.m. Saturday, May 2, in the Farmington Hills Police Department parking lot, which is on the south side of 11 Mile and west of Orchard Lake.
Municipal and police property such as jewelry, computers, bicycles and office furniture will be auctioned off to the highest bidders.
Among the more unusual items up for bid are: a 6.5 gallon fish tank, porcelain egg, Rolex watch, two Jimi Hendrix CDs, bowling ball, clarinet, numerous hubcaps, Star Trek cards and a heat detection gun.
A public preview of view of the items will take place start at 9 a.m.
Call (248) 474-0116 for information.

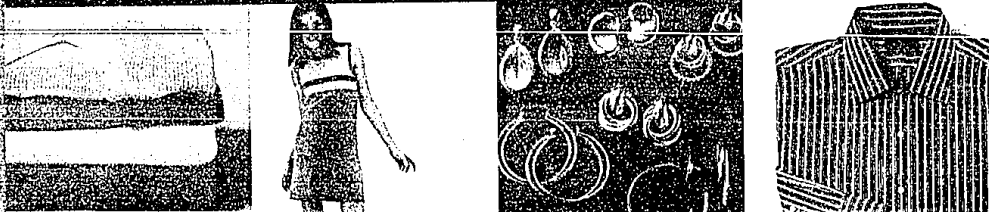


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