

Report: Heart patients shouldn't linger at airport gates

People with implanted defibrillators that shock the heart to regulate its rhythm may safely walk through electronic anti-theft systems, but should not linger there, according to a study in today's *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*. The anti-theft machines use an electronic beam to detect security-tagged merchandise being carried out of a store. The defibrillator can interpret the electronic beam as a rapid heart-beat for which the defibrillator is programmed to deliver a shock.

Douglas P. Zipes, M.D., the study's lead author says, "There is absolutely no danger from a slow stroll through the gates, even if it takes 10 or 15 seconds."

In the study, one person went through in a walker without any problems. "Now, one should lean on or linger in their detection devices because adverse events can happen, no question. But in normal use, there should be nothing to worry about," says Zipes, professor of medicine and pharmacology at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

An estimated 400,000 people worldwide have implanted defib-

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

illators and as many as 800,000 security systems are in use around the globe, Zipes says.

There were three recent reports of anti-theft systems causing defibrillators to fire unnecessarily, but in each case the individual lingered in the machine and in at least one instance the patient was holding on to the transmitter pole.

Previous studies were either too problematic or too small to clearly say whether the theft detectors were harmful or safe, according to Zipes.

Researchers at the Indianapolis Medical School, Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis and the Southwest Florida Heart Group in Fort Myers decided to investigate the device's response to normal use, he says.

"We attempted to replicate a normal situation of someone shopping and just passing through the machines," he says. In tests on 169 patients, they found no problems from normal, 10-to-15 second walk through the security gates.

The researchers used a mag-

netic programmer tool placed over the defibrillators to reprogram the patients' implants during the tests. Although the devices continued to record data on heart rate and whether a shock should be delivered, the shocking mechanism was turned off so that the patients were in no danger of having their devices fire during the test.

"When an implanted defibrillator fires, it is like a giant mule kick in the chest. It's not pleasant," Zipes explains.

When the patient received extreme exposure by standing within six inches of the transmitter pole for two minutes, 19 of the 169 individuals had evidence of defibrillator-surveillance system interference. In 12 of those, the interference was only minor and was considered clinically irrelevant by researchers.

However, seven experienced significant incidents in which the defibrillators would have or might have fired, Zipes says.

The researchers' findings con- sider with a Food and Drug Administration letter to physi-

cians in September 1998, which said that although the anti-theft machines appeared to be safe, patients shouldn't lean on or linger in the machines.

That same letter advised patients undergoing scans with hand-held metal detectors, such as those used in airports, to warn security personnel that they have an electronic medical device and ask them not to hold the metal detector near the device any longer than absolutely necessary.

The current study was partly supported by a grant from an electronics company which makes some of the most common security devices. "However, physicians wrote the protocol, then collected and analyzed and interpreted the data and wrote the abstract and the manuscript without company interference," Zipes said.

Co-authors were William J. Groh, M.D.; Scott A. Boshoff, B.S.; Erica D. Engelstein, M.D.; William M. Miles, M.D.; M. Erick Burton, M.D.; Peter R. Foster, M.D.; and Barry J. Crevey, M.D.

Coronary warning signs

The coughing procedure (c-CPR) that is being widely publicized on the Internet and in the media is not supported by the American Heart Association. We do not recommend doing c-CPR because there are no studies to determine if this procedure provides any better odds for survival than calling 911 under the same conditions. According to the American Heart Association, the best strategy is to be aware of the early warning signs for heart attack and respond to them by calling 911 immediately.

Following is a list of warning signs of a heart attack. However, not all of these signs occur in every attack. Sometimes they go away and return. If you or someone you know experiences

some of these signs, call 911 immediately:

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms.
- Chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.
- Atypical chest pain, stomach or abdominal pain.
- Nausea or dizziness.
- Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.
- Unexplained anxiety, weakness or fatigue.
- Palpitations, cold sweat or paleness.

Hills man to be honored at B'nai B'rith dinner

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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Garnering kudos and awa- isn't why Arnold Michlin don't much of his time to public service. But the longtime Farmington Hills resident will be honored Tuesday, Aug. 24 at the 27th Annual Spirit of B'nai B'rith and Scholarship Awards dinner.

Michlin, among 110 members of Oakland County Lodge 2692 B'nai B'rith in Southfield, will give the keynote speech during the program, which begins 6 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Adat Shalom Synagogue. The synagogue is located at 29301 Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills.

According to lodge spokesman Bol Kozloff, the Spirit of B'nai B'rith award is given to the member who made the biggest contribution for that particular year.

"Arnold belongs to groups that promote better understanding and he does it on a part-time basis," Kozloff said.

Michlin, who is retired, remains active in area affairs. He is co-founder of American Arab and Jewish Friends, Detroit Commission for Soviet Jewish and Muslim Christian Jewish Trialogue; past president of Detroit Council of B'nai B'rith; member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek; board member

SPIRIT AWARDS

for Ecumenical Institute for Jewish and Christian Study and the interfaith round table NCCJ; member of Materials for People of Palestine and the Anti-Defamation League; organizer of Sports for Peace; and participant on the Project Equality for Archdiocese of Detroit.

Also at the Spirit of B'nai B'rith program, three \$500 scholarships will be doled out to Jewish students "whose academic and social achievements indicate future commitment to the Jewish community," according to a press release issued by Oakland County Lodge 2692.

Kozloff said student scholarships will be awarded "depending on their need and their (grades) and by various activities."

One of the scholarships is for hotel management, presented in the name of the late Al Rosenberg, a longtime caterer.

Meanwhile, Kozloff said a light buffet dinner will be made available Aug. 24 for a nominal charge.

Guests from the general public are welcome to attend the program. For more information, call Kozloff at (248) 737-0088 or Harold Samuels, (248) 368-3284. Adat Shalom Synagogue can be reached at (248) 851-5100.

Helping Hands holds furniture drive

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A church ministry is hoping that people will take their old mattresses to their furniture drive instead of putting them on the curb.

God's Helping Hands Ministry, a combined effort of the Rochester and Lake Orion Churches of Christ, has teamed up with the non-profit Furniture Resource Center of Pontiac for the furniture drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21.

Bed mattresses of all sizes are especially needed said Lisa Cain, a member of the Rochester Church of Christ and a ministry co-founder and coordinator.

"There are 270 families in Oakland County that we know of needing beds," said Cain, whose ministry works with agencies that keep lists of low income families and their needs.

"Those are just the ones we know of. We are hoping to make people more aware that there is a shortage of beds."

The drive will be held at the Rochester Church of Christ, 250 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, between Livernois and Rochester roads. The Furniture Resource Center will have a trailer parked in front of the building, and items will be unloaded from vehicles and loaded onto the trailer.

In addition to gently used beds, furniture and other household items such as appliances are being sought. "There is a long waiting list for refrigerators and gas stoves," she said.

God's Helping Hands Ministry has helped 300 families since November 1998 with food, clothing, household items, Bibles and personal invitations to worship. Call the ministry at (248) 370-8877.

Wide variety of handbags for autumn

NEW YORK (AP) — BCBG Max Azria says a woman can't have too many handbags.

So the fall 1999 handbag collection features designs for each day of the week. For Sunday, there's the urban sport collection, followed by the folded-calf collection for Monday, box-calf collection for Tuesday, pony-hair collection for Wednesday, flat-envelope collection for Thursday, embellished flannel collection for Friday, and robin's-egg collection for Saturday.

Styles include shoulder bags, body bags, waist pouches and small and large totes. Colors

include black, charcoal, chestnut, ruby and loden. Suggested retail prices range from \$40 to \$282.

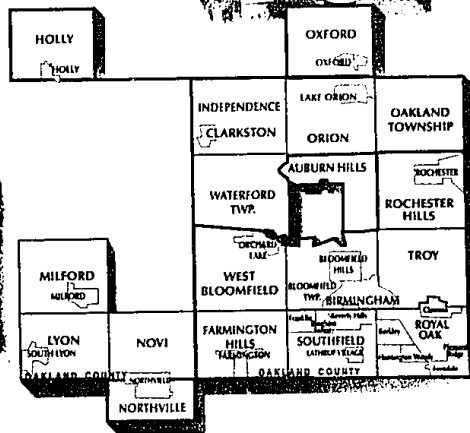
For the flat-envelope collection, collapsible exaggerated flat silhouettes are sleek and streamlined, featuring three-pocket storage for magazines, notes and newspapers.

The robin's-egg collection features the 21st-century shopping bag that holds everything. Two bags in one, the totes are fully reversible in speckled felt or matching suede. They are available in mimosa or cerise.

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*SOURCE: March 1999 CAC Audit Reports Observer & Eccentric HomeTown Newspapers
The Media Audit Fall 1998