

# WC psychiatric ward in jeopardy

By SANDRA ARMSTRONG

A battle seems to be brewing over the fate of Wayne County General Hospital's psychiatric and long-term care facilities.

The battle pits the county board of commissioners and the State of Michigan against the psychiatric hospital's director, Dr. Mortezu Minui, and Local 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which, with 1,450 members, is the largest bargaining unit at the hospital.

Faced with what Wayne County Board Chairman John Barr (D-Deerborn Heights) calls the "inevitable" closure of the hospital and takeover by the state of in-patient psychiatric treatment in western Wayne County, members of Local 25 have formed a task force to oppose those plans.

The task force currently is circulating petitions and questionnaires about care at the hospital, and Local 25 President Robert Urdike has urged his members to ask area legislators for their support in preventing a change in the hospital's operation. Local 25 members fear the possible layoff of some of the 340 psychiatric and 300 long-term care facility employees, although Barr says the county will insist that the state absorb at least some of those employees.

Tentative plans, which Barr said could be implemented this fall, call for the state to purchase the \$10 million Walter Reuther long-term care facility, which also is located on Wayne County General grounds at Merriman and Michigan Avenue in Westland.

The Reuther facility would be converted into a new, expanded psychiatric facility operated by the state. Some renovation would be required and would be completed while the building housed a projected 350 psychiatric patients.

Long-term care patients would be moved into the general hospital, which has been operating below capacity. Special clinics and services now housed in the Reuther building also would be shifted.

The old psychiatric facility would be closed. Its future has not been determined.

The hospital shift apparently has been prompted by the county's financial woes, high operating costs at Wayne County General and by the state and county's inability to reach a state agreement for funding psychiatric care in western Wayne County.

The county anticipates a budget deficit this year of \$12 million. Barr hopes that transferring the psychiatric patients to the state and moving long-term care patients into the general hospital will reduce some of the deficit.

Dr. Minui, however, says the county will be the loser in the long run should the hospital shift occur. "For instance, he says the county will still be saddled with 10 per cent of care costs for psychiatric patients and for upkeep of an empty building." In addition, Dr. Minui says the county will also lose revenues from third parties such as insurance companies, which last year paid the county over \$2.7 million for psychiatric patients. Dr. Minui proposes that the capacity of the old psychiatric facility be increased from 124 to 180 beds, thus reducing the per patient cost, which currently is about \$190 per day. The state proposes to run the Reuther facility at a cost of \$90 per day per patient, less revenue from third parties.

Barr called Dr. Minui's proposal "inappropriate" at this time. Certain operating costs at the psychiatric facility—such as laundry bills—haven't been reduced even though the facility's patient load was reduced by more than 1,000 patients years ago.

Dr. Minui believes if costs like those were lowered, the operating cost per patient in the psychiatric facility would decrease. Those costs would still be absorbed by the county, however.

Barr also attributes the county's financial problems to the "state's failure to pay psychiatric costs" for the last two years, and said that the county should insist on the state paying the county the \$9.5 million he believes it owes.

State officials, however, may be unwilling to pay past costs of psychiatric care.

Dr. Donald Worden, deputy director of the state department of public health, and D. Young, state deputy budget director, say the state is only obligated by law to pay 90 per cent of the costs for care of psychiatric patients when it has a contract with another group, such as the county, to do so.

The two state officials, along with Dr. Minui, met last Thursday with about 130 Local 25 employees.

Barr said that a subcommittee of the state senate appropriations committee is committed to treating inpatients in Wayne County the same as they do elsewhere in the state.

"I agree you (county employees) provide excellent service, but that's not the question before us," Barr said.

There is no question that the state is going to take over psychiatric inpatient care. That's a foregone conclusion. The only question now is does the state take over the long-term care facility or build a new one? There is no way to reverse the state's plan."

Young later told the hospital employees: "No definite decisions have been made by the state yet, but discussions are under way."

Quoted further, Young responded, "I believe the term Barr used was 'inevitable.'"

Barr then added that he had letters on file from state budget director Gerald Miller saying that the state refuses to fund the hospital as a psychiatric facility. Asked later if the state was hedging, Barr said, "They left me hanging up there."

"I don't believe it's inevitable until the state passes the legislation (for the takeover)," Local 25 president Robert Urdike told local members. "I intend to make every effort to see it doesn't happen. I think the mental health act can provide for a contract to operate this facility by the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Board."

Urdike, acknowledging the need to reduce operating costs at the hospital, said last May the state told him the hospital couldn't be "saved as a county function by cutting costs."



## Slogan's rewards

John Mac (right) of Livonia, winner of the CB slogan contest accepts his prize, a new 40-channel CB, from Alton Brown of the Southfield Police Department, and Norman Pigott, owner of Berkley Communications. The contest, co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Oakland County Public Relations Task

Force, was designed to help warn children, especially those living near the Woodward Avenue corridor, to be wary of strangers. Mac won the contest with his entry: "When you see a stranger, make like the Lone Ranger—Hibo Silver and Away."

### GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS

**Genie 450D**  
CRYPTAR II DIGITAL CONTROLS  
\$175.00 installed  
1 Year Warranty—Any Suburb  
ALLIANCE AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.  
358-3833 SOUTHFIELD

### FASHION TENNIS SALE

**NOW! LPINE**  
ski & tennis  
4702 N. Woodward Ave.  
Royal Oak, Mich. 48072  
(313) 549-7474  
The Racquet Room  
at Franklin Racquet Club (313) 358-5420

### A Sterling Gift Idea

For a man. For a woman. For any gift-giving occasion. A heavy 1 1/2" sterling silver initial band ring. Split in ring makes it easy to add or remove keys.

Sterling Silver \$14.00  
14 kt Gold \$250.00

**George Ohrenstein**  
Jewelers Ltd.

Creative Jewels—  
Precious time pieces  
Diamonds—Precious Stones

11 Mile & Lahser HARVARD ROW MALL 353-3146

**SEPTEMBER**  
**SKI**  
**PRE-SEASON**  
**SKI**  
**AND**  
**SKIWEAR**  
**SALE**  
**at all**  
**Bavarian Village**  
SKI SHOPS

### Smoking

Used to be  
"Cool!"  
Now it's a "Drag"  
How can I quit?

Call Smoke Watchers  
for information on  
their gradual withdrawal program. Become a permanent non-smoker without weight gain or nervousness!

524-2495  
OR  
645-1768

Smoke Watchers  
of Michigan, Inc.

### HANES AND HUDSON'S PRESENT "THE SUCCESSFUL WOMAN" WORKSHOP

A program designed to help all women find themselves, achieve meaningful success, find personal fulfillment and cope with all the demands of the 1970's. Join us:

Wednesday, September 28 at  
12 Noon at Northland or at  
7 p.m. at Oakland.

Tickets are \$5, \$3 of which can be applied to the purchase of Hanes merchandise. Call 223-2404 or pick them up in Hudson's Hosiery.

**hudson's**

### YOUR NEW... McCULLOCH CHAIN SAW DEALER

**WHITE'S**  
SALES AND SERVICE  
7777 SHELTON RD.  
CANTON, MICHIGAN 48348-5287

Your New Headquarters for the  
World's Finest Chain Saws  
All with Chain Brake

### SPECIAL

SUPER PRO 40  
CHAIN SAW

ONLY  
\$168.88



COME IN FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION  
OF McCULLOCH CHAIN BRAKE

### JOIN US IN THE SUN ... TWO GREAT VACATION BUYS!

**ARUBA ... NOVEMBER 4-11, 1977**

- JET TRAVEL VIA CAPITOL AIRWAYS FROM DETROIT
- ARUBA & U.S. DEPARTURE TAX
- TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE HANDLING
- SEVEN NIGHTS AT HOTEL OF YOUR CHOICE
- HOTEL TAX AND SERVICE CHARGES
- DISCOUNT SHOPPING COUPON BOOK
- FREE USE OF HOTEL FACILITIES
- WELCOME RUM SWIZZLE
- ESCORTED

FROM \$369.00 PER PERSON

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

ONLY

\$249.00

PER PERSON

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

CALL NOW ...

**RESERVE EARLY!!**

**OLYMPIA**  
travel bureau

3588 West Maple Road  
Birmingham, Michigan 48010  
(313) 645-5050

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
CITY, STATE ..... PHONE .....  
SEND MORE INFO ON:  
☐ ARUBA ☐ LAS VEGAS ☐ BOTH



**LAS VEGAS**  
**FOR CHRISTMAS**

**DECEMBER 26-29, 1977**

- JET TRAVEL VIA UNITED AIRLINES FROM DETROIT
- THREE NIGHTS AT FRONTIER HOTEL
- HOTEL TAX & BAGGAGE HANDLING
- TRANSFERS BETWEEN AIRPORT/HOTEL
- WELCOME CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL
- COMPLIMENTARY COUPONS FOR USE ALL OVER LAS VEGAS
- ADVANCE SHOW RESERVATION SERVICE

## FALL ANTIQUE SHOW

Coordinated by Jeanne Fishman

**SEPTEMBER 26**

thru **OCTOBER 1**



UPPER & LOWER LEVELS

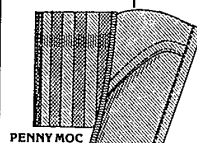
DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS & REPAIR SERVICES

Appraising  
Chair Caning & rushing  
Cut Glass & Crystal repair  
Furniture Stripping  
Leaded Artglass repair  
Restoration  
Silver Plating & repair  
Splint-Seat Weaving

### SOMERSET MALL

Where the Unusual is the Usual!  
BIG BEAVER ROAD AT COOLIDGE, TROY  
Shop: Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9  
Other days 10-6, closed Sundays & Holidays

## Phillips Shoes



PENNY MOC

### "PENNY MOC"

Casual comfort built into this distinctively crafted fall loafer. In black, navy or amber kid.

**\$32.00**

S N M W  
7 11 6 11 4 11 5 11

### "STRASA"

Crafted in the softest kidskin then set on a wedge and crepe sole. In navy, camel, black, amber, or white smooth leather.

**\$32.00**

S N M W  
7 11 6 11 4 11 5 11



**COBBLES**

All colors not at all stores

STRASA

NORTHLAND • EASTLAND • WESTLAND • SOUTHLAND • 1254 WASHINGTON BLVD.  
• ANN ARBOR • FLINT • TOLDEO

ALSO AVAILABLE AT PHILLIPS RED CROSS STORES IN FAIRLANE, LAKESIDE AND TWELVE OAKS.