

# AIDS

## Anonymous Hills man sues

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

An unidentified Farmington Hills man is seeking \$10 million in damages from a Novi excavating company that allegedly fired him when officials found out he has AIDS.

The suit, against Mario Sinacola & Sons Excavating, was filed Oct. 10 on behalf of the defendant, identified as John Doe, said Ferndale attorney David Piontowsky.

The 35-year-old man, who asked to remain anonymous because he is seeking other work, claims in the suit he was fired from his \$47,000-a-year job after he told Michael Sinacola he was suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"He told his employer about that. As soon as they found out, they terminated him," Piontowsky said. Though negotiations were attempted, the Sinacola family refused to

rehire the defendant, the attorney added.

IN THE three-count suit, the man is claiming discrimination against the handicapped, infliction of emotional distress and breach of contract against the company, Piontowsky said.

Company attorney Robert Solner was unavailable for comment.

The suit claims the defendant began working for the excavating company in May 1971 and worked on and off through 1979. In 1981, the man was transferred to the company's operations in Texas until he was off for three weeks in March 1986 with pneumonia, Piontowsky said.

When the man returned to work in mid-April, he told a company secretary he was diagnosed as having AIDS. Two days later, on April 25, the man was fired after telling Michael Sinacola of his condition, Pion-

towsky said.

"A COUPLE of things in this case make it very interesting," the attorney said.

Through the years of his employment, the man developed a close relationship with the Sinacola family. At one time, one of the owners' sons and the defendant were roommates.

"Let me make it clear it was not a sexual relationship. It was just a very close family-like relationship. When he needed their help and support when he found out he had this disease, it was like they pulled the rug out from under him," Piontowsky said.

The man, who worked for the Sinacola company as a purchasing agent, shop foreman and dispatcher, still appears in good shape as would any other construction worker in his 30s, Piontowsky said.

## C'ville mediator appointed

Charles G. Jamerson of the Michigan Department of Labor's Bureau of Employee Relations has been named as mediator in teacher contract talks with the Clarenceville School District.

Talks will resume around Nov. 1, superintendent Michael Shiber said Friday. He said he was notified by mail Thursday.

A mediator serves as an objective third party in negotiations, only making suggestions, not binding decisions.

Clarenceville includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

CLARENCEVILLE TEACHERS have been working without a contract since Sept. 1. Negotiations were put on hold until the district's enrollment was determined in the annual fourth Friday count, taken Sept. 26. The Michigan Education Association filed a request for a mediator Oct. 10.

Dave Stafford, MEA representative for Clarenceville, has said it wasn't unusual to call in a mediator. Salary, fringe benefits and class size are the main areas of the contract dispute.

Shiber is optimistic that an agreement will be reached soon.

"We have the potential to settle

this contract immediately," he said Friday. "The MEA brought in the mediator. They felt we were at an impasse."

TALKS ARE usually postponed in Clarenceville until after the student count because the district's total budget depends on the enrollment,

officials said. The Sept. 26 figures showed 1,963 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Contracts for non-certified employees will be settled after the teachers' agreement is reached. The district is negotiating with unions representing custodial and maintenance workers and secretaries.

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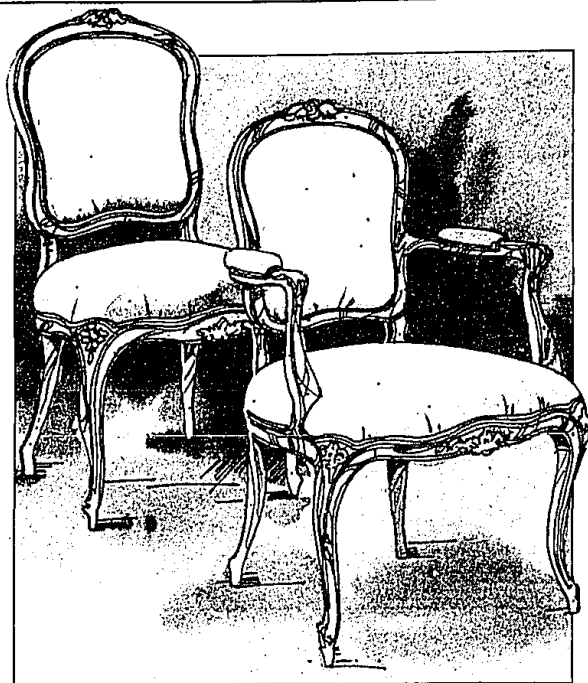
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