

Man guilty of assault

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Hospital security and, subsequently, Southfield police were notified that someone who looked like Weiner had been spotted at Providence.

At 1:10 p.m. Weiner was apprehended by Deputy Gary McClure of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. McClure had been working traffic detail in the Northland area.

WEINER WAS nabbed at the Providence Medical Building, which is south of the main hospital.

"I don't know what he (Weiner) was doing" for the 32 minutes that elapsed between the accident report and Weiner's arrest, a half-mile away, said Southfield Deputy Police Chief John Hood. "I just don't know."

The victim testified she screamed and fought the man, who eventually began strangling her to keep her quiet.

Hills man hurt in Weiner's freedom bid

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Weiner was taken to the Southfield police detention facility. He was released at 2:30 p.m. to U.S. Marshals. As the car carrying Weiner left the police garage, Weiner sat slouched, with his hands shielding his face from numerous photographers.

Ralston, the man who was injured, reportedly had dropped two co-workers off at the Big Boy restaurant at 15750 J.L. Hudson Drive, across the street from the lot.

WEINER'S SUFFERED bruises to his right toe and knee when the stolen silver Astro van ran over his foot in the Big Boy parking lot, where Weiner and his brother, Howard, are believed to have met.

Ralston was treated and released late Thursday afternoon from Providence.

Weiner escaped from an office building at 6735 Telegraph, just south of Maple, in Bloomfield Township.

Weiner fled during a lunch break after a conference of federal prosecutors, FBI and IRS agents, and Weiner and his attorneys, David Zacks and Robert Harrison.

IN WHAT Zacks called a "lapse of a couple seconds," Weiner left the conference room. Rather than going to a room where federal marshals awaited him, Weiner slipped into attorney Michael Rex's nearby office. He grabbed the keys to Rex's minivan, and walked down several flights

of stairs to the building's garage, where he stole the van.

U.S. marshals had parked next to Rex's minivan.

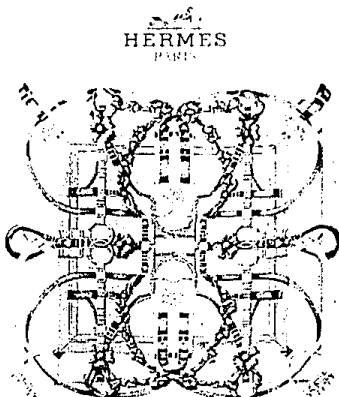
The meeting was arranged at Zacks' office, rather than the federal buildings downtown, to escape media scrutiny and because it was believed to be secure, Zacks said. Weiner knew the layout of the office well, he said.

"HE CERTAINLY knew what to do to get out of here," Zacks said. When he was discovered missing, "people were running around the office, looking for him in the bathroom"

closets, and elsewhere, he said.

Zacks and Harrison, who harshly criticized Weiner's escape, said they would file a brief in federal court this week seeking to be taken off the case.

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