

# Suicide machine unethical, prosecutor says

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Two physicians — as well as prosecutor Richard Thompson himself — may testify today as the civil trial to bar the use of the Dr. Jack Kevorkian's suicide machine continues in Oakland Circuit Court.

The physicians will testify that Kevorkian, a retired Royal Oak pathologist, acted contrary to professional medical ethics and standards last June by helping a victim of advanced Alzheimer's disease to use his machine to end her life, according to Michael Modelski, the Oakland County assistant prosecutor.

Modelski contends the existing court order banning Kevorkian from

again using his suicide machine should be made permanent until the state legislature clarifies the criminality of assisting suicides.

Defense lawyer Geoffrey N. Fieger said he may call the prosecutor as a witness to show he "is attempting to impose his peculiar and warped views upon the citizens of Michigan" by continuing his civil action against Kevorkian.

There is no law prohibiting the use of Kevorkian's suicide machine, Fieger said. In the absence of legal precedent the prosecutor is acting on his own personal convictions and moral beliefs, he asserted.

Both men summarized their arguments Friday at the civil proceed-

**'He (Prosecutor Richard Thompson) is attempting to impose his peculiar and warped views upon the citizens of Michigan.'**

— Geoffrey N. Fieger  
Kevorkian's defense lawyer

ings started before Judge Alice L. Gilbert.

MODELSKI CONCEDES there is no existing state law making assisted suicides criminal — a point established when a district judge dis-

missed murder charges against Kevorkian on Dec. 13.

But the civil proceedings against Kevorkian are "entirely different" than the criminal charges that were dismissed, Modelski said.

## Wanting peace, Egypt fears war

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Egyptians are hoping for peace, but seem resigned to the inevitability of war in the Persian Gulf, according to a Catholic, Jew and Muslim who returned from Cairo Monday.

Professionals, ship keepers and teachers hope 11th hour diplomacy will avert hostilities, but they also

believe the United States and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein are on a collision course, said Marian Kuleto, Ezra Shaya and Mohamed Gazayerli.

The trio, a surgery team from Madison Community Hospital, spent about two weeks in Egypt teaching laparoscopic laser cholecystectomy, a revolutionary technique for removing gall bladders.

The technique is to gall bladder

surgery what arthroscopic surgery is to the repair of knee injuries.

The trip was hectic, with the trio removing nearly a dozen gall bladders, demonstrating the technique to eight physicians — mostly medical school faculty members — and four nurses.

THE MEDICAL community, as might be expected, was warm and hospitable, treating the trio with professional courtesy. "They were enthusiastic about the technique we demonstrated and about us as Americans," said Dr. Gazayerli, a surgeon who lives in Birmingham.

But we had a warm reception from all walks of life," said Gazayerli, 52, a Muslim who was born in Cairo and speaks Arabic.

Dr. Shaya, also a surgeon, agreed. "I grew up in Baghdad," said Shaya, who came to the United States in 1925. "Egypt reminded me of my boyhood. The people were friendly, even when they learned I am Jewish."

Shaya, 65, said he has some knowledge of the Koran, the sacred text of Islam, and is able to discuss it in Arabic, although with a distinctive Iraqi dialect. That made conversation easier, he said, and people were curious about his background.

Kuleto, a nurse from Royal Oak,

admitted being apprehensive. "When I walked into that hospital not knowing one word of Arabic, I didn't know what to expect. But the people were helpful and with the help of an Australian nurse who spoke English, I was able to communicate."

Many Egyptians consider Saddam Hussein to be a good leader who is genuinely concerned about Arabs and his country, Gazayerli said. If nothing else, Hussein's invasion of Kuwait has ousted a feudal monarchy and could result in a better life for the average citizen of Kuwait.

A number of Kuwaiti refugees were living in their hotel in Cairo, Gazayerli said. They lived in comfortable furnished suites and held frequent parties.

## 'Family affair' skiing offered

Independence Oaks County Park will host a "Family Affair Ski Tour" to acquaint area families with the fun of cross country skiing.

The tour — featuring lessons, demonstrations and a tour of the park's ski trails — is from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The cost is \$2 per person, or \$7 for a family of 4 or more. Participants can bring their own ski equipment or rent it at the park.

Families can take a 30-minute bike

equipment and safety and watch a ski-waxing demonstration.

Complimentary hot chocolate is available in addition to other refreshments being available at the concession stand.

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