

Murphy won't challenge wording

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MURPHY, WHO suffered an apparent stroke Saturday, is recuperating at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and did not appear at the hearing.

The county corporation counsel, representing the executive, however, said Murphy doesn't plan any court challenge to the recall, although he disagrees with the allegations.

"Though the allegations are patently false," Murphy said in a statement released by corporation counsel Jack C. Hays, "I wholeheartedly subscribe to the democratic principle of the right to recall elected officials.

"I have confidence that reasonable and knowledgeable citizens will evaluate those false statements for what they are worth."

The last two paragraphs of Murphy's statement refers to specific allegations contained in the taxpayer-association's recall petitions.

"There is no commitment by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners obligating the taxpayers to a waste-to-energy unit at this time."

"The Oakland County Board of

'Though the allegations are patently false, I wholeheartedly subscribe to the democratic principle of the right to recall elected officials.'

— Daniel T. Murphy
County executive



Commissioners appropriated \$159,900 towards educating the citizens relative to the general solid waste problem."

In its petitions, the taxpayers association claims Murphy abused public trust by committing taxpayers to pay for the \$300 million solid

waste program with "bonds, fees and other tax increases without voter approval." The program includes a waste-to-energy incinerator in Auburn Hills.

THE RECALL PETITION also claims Murphy "led the plan to

misappropriate more than \$1 million" to pay an advertising agency to promote the solid waste program.

That's a reference to a contract with the Stone, August Baker Communication Co., a Troy public relations company, hired to promote the waste program.

The existing contract calls for the company to get \$159,900. But Vincenti claims the county has earmarked \$1 million for public relations and that much will eventually be expended.

The taxpayers association has 90 days from the date it first starts circulating the petitions to get 83,000 signatures, or the equivalent of 25 percent of the votes cast in Oakland County for governor in last November's election.

If that at least that number of signatures is obtained and certified, the county would schedule a recall election, possibly this summer.

Murphy was hospitalized and unavailable for comment following the hearing. Deputy County Executive Patrick M. Nowak, however, said Murphy would have no comment.

"He (Murphy) believes the allegations are blatantly false," Nowak said. "But he won't try to oppose the recall or challenge it in court. He's confident the people will see through it."

Group urges ban on nuclear testing

By Wayne Paal
staff writer

Their ranks extend to former professors and former soldiers, housewives and doctors, and they're concerned about peace.

Despite gloom, they believe the nuclear threat isn't over. In fact, they believe the nuclear threat will increase dramatically — unless the U.S. signs onto a treaty banning nuclear weapons testing.

That's why members of numerous area peace organizations are trying to raise awareness of the multi-nation nuclear test ban conference which began Monday and is scheduled through Jan. 18 at the United Nations, New York.

Monday, they held a pro-treaty rally in front of the McNamara Building in Detroit. Similar events were held in other cities. Recently, several area peace advocates spoke to the Observer & Eccentric editorial board.

"OUR POSITION is that the fate of one of us is the fate of all of us," said Jane Bingham of Bloomfield Hills, a member of the local UN Association.

The rally was designed to drum up grassroots support for the test ban conference. Groups supporting the conference include American Baptist Churches, USA, Gray Panthers, Greenpeace, the National Lawyers Guild, Pax Christi USA, SANE FREEZE and the Unitarian Universalist Peace Network, among others.

Thus far, the Bush Administration has opposed the conference. The president's opposition, along with that of Great Britain, places the treaty in jeopardy, group members said.

Making matters worse, they said, the conference has received little media publicity.

"People don't even know about it," Bingham said.

But group members say signing the treaty is the best guarantee of a future free from the threat of nuclear war.

If ratified, the new treaty would broaden provisions of the atmospheric test ban treaty of 1963, signed by the world's nuclear powers. Group members believe it would also ease reratification of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty,

signed five years later by non-nuclear nations.

"The danger is that if we renege (on the test ban) then, when the (next non-proliferation) conference comes up in 1995, other nations will say, 'You didn't respond, so we won't renew,'" said Stan Connelly, of Birmingham, a retired major general and a member of the Center for Defense Information.

Earlier this year, non-nuclear nations failed to come to agreement at a non-proliferation treaty review conference held in Geneva with lack of a comprehensive test ban a major sticking point. Those nations, however, will try again at the January conference.

The proposed treaty would ban underground and underwater testing, both acceptable under the current treaty.

Some group members believe the U.S. is more concerned with maintaining its first-strike capability, particularly in a time of escalating tension in the Persian Gulf.

"WE ARE concerned that one of the reasons given for a potential military strike is the development of nuclear weapons in Iraq," said Dr. Morris Davidson of West Bloomfield, a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility. "It seems highly unlikely Saddam Hussein, whatever his brutality, would be willing to bring on the kind of nuclear response using that weapon would engender."

Added Connelly: "I think it (Iraq's potential nuclear weapon) is a non-issue."

More of an issue, group members believe, is nuclear waste disposal.

"There are many problems to address with the shipping and storing of nuclear waste," said Jean Prokopow of West Bloomfield, a member of Women Against Nuclear Destruction.

The U.S. and U.S.S.R. are engaged in ongoing negotiations that could cut each nation's nuclear arsenal by up to 50 percent, group members said. The pending START treaty will do little to stop other nations from acquiring nuclear weapons.

"This is an issue that isn't going to go away," Bingham said. "We can't pretend it doesn't exist."

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The 1991 Wolverine Classic gymnastics event will be Jan. 12-13 at the University of Michigan's Keen Arena, at the corner of State and Hoover, Ann Arbor.

Gymnastic all-stars will perform 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday. Preliminary team competition will occur 1:45-4:50 p.m. and 5:45-8:50 p.m.

Sunday's events include team finals 4-6:30 p.m. and all-star finals 7:45-9:10 p.m.

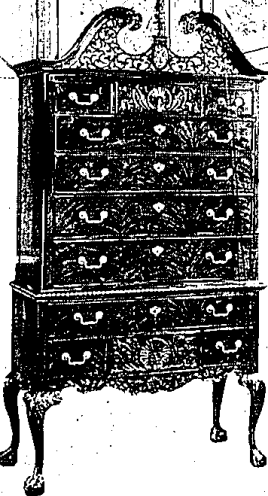
The event is sponsored by the U-M and Gym America. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.

A 50-cents-per-ticket discount is available at Gym America, 4611 Platt, Pittsfield Township.

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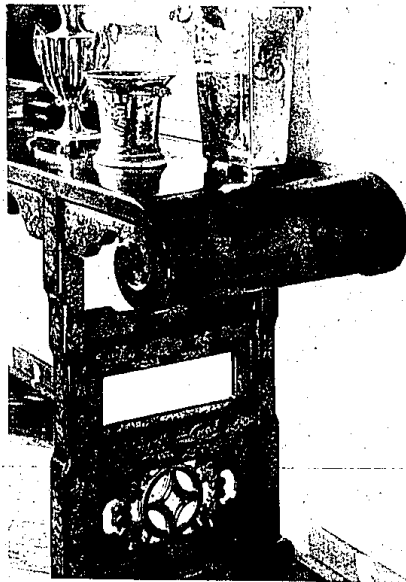
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