

Milford man faces trial for beating

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Milford man who took exception to the term "hillbilly" could face up to 10 years in prison for doing great bodily harm less than murder.

Judge Marla Parker bound over Kevin Fortin, 26, on the charge instead of a charge of aggravated assault, a one-year misdemeanor, at a preliminary examination on March 15.

"I am going to bind you over as charged," Parker said. "There is enough evidence to show that this is clearly not a simple assault."

Fortin's attorney, Michael Rex, admitted his client beat up Stuart Rothstein at a car port outside of Rothstein's apartment at the 12th Estate Apartments on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m., but Rex argued Fortin never intended to run over Rothstein with his pickup truck.

Rothstein and his wife are divorcing. Fortin is the boyfriend of Rothstein's wife.

Assistant prosecutor Kirsten Nielsen argued that Fortin had intended to run over Rothstein, but stopped short — by about 2 feet.

"The pummeling of the face and the near running over of the victim were not two separate acts," Nielsen said. "He (Fortin) had the intent to run over the victim."

Rothstein, who is a sales representative, testified that he and his wife are going through a "bitter divorce," and that he told his wife he was concerned about the "hillbilly lifestyle" that she and her

■ 'There is enough evidence to show that this is clearly not a simple assault.'

Judge Marla Parker

boyfriend, Fortin, were living because it was bad for his 5-year-old son.

Rothstein testified that Fortin confronted him in the apartment complex parking lot, punched him three times and kicked him, breaking his nose in two places. Fortin said he'd be back "to finish the job" if Rothstein caused him any trouble and also said "I'm not no hillbilly," Rothstein testified.

Fortin then drove his pickup within two feet of Rothstein before stopping abruptly, Rothstein said.

Nielsen asked Rothstein, who said he was dazed from the blows, what he was thinking when Fortin drove toward him.

"I thought my life was over," Rothstein said.

Rex said there was nothing to stop his client from running over Rothstein, but he did not.

"There was no intent," Rex said. "This was a simple assault. There was no weapon."

Parker also warned Fortin that he was not to be present when Rothstein picks up his son for visits.

Fortin will be arraigned before Judge Richard Kuhn in 6th Circuit Court on March 30 at 1:30 p.m. He remains free on \$1,000 personal bond.

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

■ FIRES

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 3 extinguished a fire in the lounge area of the Village Oaks Apartments on Orchard Lake Road at about 7:30 p.m. March 14. An oily rag in a laundry basket filled with linens and rags spontaneously ignited, officials said, and the smoke detector had been disconnected.

■ THEFTS

A Yamaha trumpet worth \$360 was stolen from a residence on Tuck in Farmington Hills between March 12-16.

Items worth \$3,475 were stolen from a room at the Clarion Hotel on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills March 16. A sport bag worth \$25, a designer watch worth \$1,500, a designer silver pin worth \$600 and assorted 18 karat gold jewelry worth \$1,350 were stolen.

Tools and equipment valued at about \$3,000 were stolen from a 1989 red Chevy van parked on Whitlock in Farmington Hills between March 10-16. An air compressor, two air guns, hose, a miter board and saw blades were stolen.

Jewelry and other items valued at \$1,050 were stolen from an apartment in the Mulwood Apartments on Ravine Court in Farmington Hills March 16.

A JVC VCR worth \$300, 8mm Sony camcorder worth \$1,000, two mink stoles valued at \$600, a tennis bracelet worth \$600 and a cordless telephone worth \$39.95 were stolen from an apartment in the Mulwood Apartments on Woodridge Circle in Farmington Hills March 16.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Medical equipment valued at \$1,890 was stolen from an apartment on Farmington in Farmington Hills March 16.

Coins and cutlery worth \$1,500 were stolen from an apartment at the Greenhill Apartments on Greenhill in Farmington Hills between Jan. 1 and March 5.

Wooden cabinets worth \$855 were stolen from a residence on Aspen Drive in Farmington Hills between March 14-15.

Jewelry worth \$1,618 was stolen from an apartment at the Woodridge Apartments on Woodridge in Farmington Hills March 18. A man's tennis bracelet worth \$650, a gold ring worth \$350, a wedding band worth \$200, another gold ring worth \$300 and two gold bracelets worth \$118.

■ BREAK-IN

A cellular telephone worth \$200

was stolen from a gold 1991 Dodge Dynasty parked in the rear lot of the Holiday Inn on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills between March 17-18. The right front window was smashed causing \$200 in damage.

■ FALSE PRETEXTS

The American Institute for Preventive Medicine on Northwest Highway paid out \$1,600 in bogus sales commissions between March and December of 1992. A former sales representative is a suspect.

■ ILLEGAL FIREARMS

A 16-year-old Farmington High School student told Farmington Hills Police he was confronted by another student with a pistol in the parking lot of Power Middle School on Rhonswood March 17.

The incident came during a fight and broke up shortly after the student with the gun and three of his companions had driven up in a red Pontiac 6000.

A Detroit man, 19, was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon March 18. Farmington Public Safety officers noticed the man approaching a vehicle stopped at a light on the corner of Orchard Lake and Grand River at 3 a.m. When the man spotted police, he fled on foot westbound along Grand River. He was apprehended after falling over a snowbank. Police found a .38 caliber semiautomatic pistol on the man. The individual fit a description issued by Redford Township police regarding an incident at Seven Mile and Inkster roads at 12:30 a.m.

Redford woman charged in robbery

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A 29-year-old Redford Township woman faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted of the armed robbery of the Dunkin' Donuts on Grand River in Farmington Hills at about 3 a.m. March 17.

Defender Marie Keeton stood mute at her arraignment before Judge Marla Parker in 47th District Court March 18. A plea of not guilty was entered for her, and her preliminary examination was set for March 29 at 8:30 a.m.

Witnesses to the robbery said a woman who held up the restaurant wore blue jeans, a blue baseball cap and a long brown coat and a turtleneck sweater. She tried to pull up the collar of the sweater to hide her face during the robbery, witnesses said.

The woman used what appeared to be a shotgun during the holdup, witnesses said. The woman was seen driving off in a dark colored Dodge Omni or Plymouth Horizon, witnesses said.

Upon hearing a description of the vehicle, Livonia Police pulled over a 1987 gray Plymouth Hori-

zon driven by Keeton at Seven Mile and Middlebelt. After discovering a gun, baseball cap and coat that matched the description and a wad of money, amounting to \$19.55, Livonia Police arrested Keeton and took her to the Farmington Hills station.


Judge Parker set bond for Keeton at \$10,000 cash. Keeton is in the Oakland County Jail.

Farmington Hills Police also report a robbery at the Marathon gas station on 14 Mile and Middlebelt on March 17 at about 8 p.m.

An 18-year-old attendant said a black man, 6-foot-7, 230-260 pounds wearing brown and tan pants and a winter coat used a gold-trimmed, chrome-plated pistol during the holdup to steal \$429. Police are still investigating.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said the rate of armed robberies in the city is the same as last year so far.

"We are even with last year," he said, adding that there were nine reported armed robberies as of Friday. "We are arresting people in connection with most of these robberies."



FREE SEMINAR

SELLING YOUR HOME?

Come to a Free Seminar on Home Selling

A panel of speakers, including syndicated real estate columnist Tom Ervin, will discuss the following and much more...

- What can be done to make sure your home sells for top dollar?
- How much is too much to ask for your home?
- How are the benefits of working with a REALTOR?
- How can you speed the sale of your home?
- How can you become informed about the homeselling process?
- Is seller-financing right for you?

Thursday, March 25, 1993 • 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Livonia West
17123 N. Laurel Park Drive
- Limited Seating -
Call 478-1700, ext. 241

Sponsored by:

WESTERN WAYNE OAKLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

A canned good donation is requested in lieu of any admission fee.
Food collected will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to those in need.

A TIME OF WONDER

Childhood is a time of wonder. Parenthood is a time of wonder, too. Wondering if baby will look like mom or dad. Wondering when baby will say those first words. Wondering when baby will take that first step.

Let's take the wonder out of making it the first birthday.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome—or SIDS—is responsible for nearly 40% of all deaths of infants in the U.S. between one month and one year of age. It's a solvable problem, but one that requires a great deal of understanding, support and medical research.

To learn more about SIDS—and ways you can help—call the SIDS Alliance at 1-800-221-SIDS or write to us at 10500 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 420, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

SIDS
Alliance

