

Patterson gives vote of confidence to pathologist

As county officials commemorated the new Oakland County Medical Examiner's facility, executive L. Brooks Patterson gave a public vote of confidence to its principal pathologist.

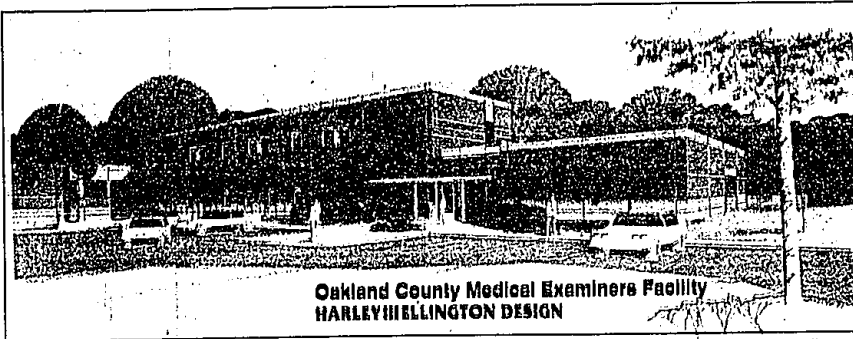
"It was a good opportunity to remind people Dr. (Ljubisa J.) Dragovic is highly esteemed and has my extreme confidence," Patterson said about the county medical examiner and chief forensic pathologist.

Patterson was one of several officials on hand Tuesday for the official ground breaking of the \$10 million medical examiner's facility located in the county complex at 1200 N. Telegraph.

The facility will have 38,000 square feet, compared with about 5,500 at the current office located behind the sheriff's department. The new facility — with five autopsy rooms — is expected to be completed in 1998.

But the building would be incomplete without Dragovic and his staff, said Patterson. "He (Dragovic) is one of the most highly regarded forensic pathologists in the country."

Dragovic has been criticized by attorney Geoffrey N. Fieger for classifying assisted suicides attended by his client, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, as "homicides" — a term the medical examiner uses to indicate the deceased had helped ending his or her life.



Oakland County Medical Examiner's Facility HARLEY ELLINGTON DESIGN

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER



New facilities: Digging in for the start of a new county medical examiner's building are: Steve Palermo (left), representing the LaSalle General Contractors; Ljubisa J. Dragovic, medical examiner; L. Brooks Patterson, county executive; Thomas J. Gordon, county director of human services; Charles Palmer, county commissioner; and David Lawrence, architect from Harley Ellington Design.

"Such criticism is so unfair," said Patterson. As of Wednesday, Fieger had no public comment about the executive's remarks.

Dragovic said he appreciates

the executive's words of confidence. But he and his staff are not particularly bothered by the

criticism. "We just do the best job we can," said the pathologist.

State college foundation begins yearly fund raising

The Michigan Colleges Foundation (MCF) will gather local business leaders on Sept. 23 and 24 to participate in its largest fund raising campaign of the year for independent member colleges, including: Adrian, Albion, Alma, Andrews, Aquinas, Calvin, Hillsdale, Hope, Kalamazoo, Madonna, Marygrove, Olivet, Siena Heights, and Spring Arbor.

The 1997 campaign will kick-off each day at 7:45 a.m. with a breakfast and short program at Standard Federal Bank in Troy. Then business leaders will team up with college presidents and development officers to solicit funds to meet the one million dollar campaign goal. Three hundred businesses will be contacted during the two days. MCF funds provide the colleges with operating support and more than 200 tuition scholarships every year.

The 1997 campaign is chaired by Bob Kramer, vice president for human resources, Ford Motor Company.

"As the father of a Kalamazoo College alumnae, I am personally familiar with the important role small, liberal arts colleges play in producing the leaders of tomorrow. The Michigan Colleges Foundation is a great way for businesses to make one investment that impacts 14 of these small colleges and the more than 30,000 students who attend them," said Kramer.

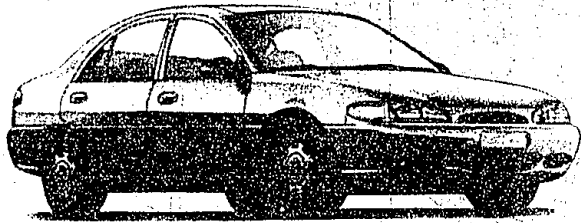
MCF was formed in 1949 to raise funds from business and industry to support independent, liberal arts colleges.

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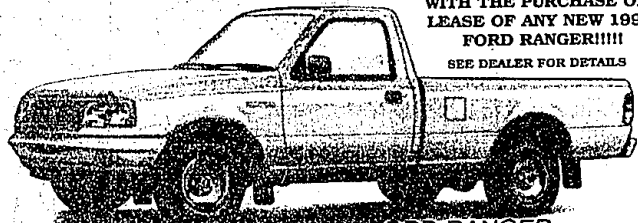
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