

'Dr. Death' arrested in Michigan



DETROIT (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian was arrested after he assisted in a suicide Sunday for the first time since the practice was outlawed in Michigan in February, his attorney said.

A 54-year-old man committed suicide in Kevorkian's presence at a real estate office by breathing carbon monoxide through a mask, said Kevorkian's attorney Geoffrey Fieger.

Ron Mansur, who suffered from lung and bone cancer, was the 16th person to die with Kevorkian's help, Fieger said.

Kevorkian was arrested on an open charge and released into his attorney's custody, Fieger said.

"There's no way they can find any jury that will convict him. It's not a crime to be present when someone commits suicide," Fieger said.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor George Ward said Kevorkian would be prosecuted under the new law against assisted suicide if homicide investigators decided to seek charges.

"Dr. Kevorkian proceeds at his own risk or own peril in Wayne County," Ward told WWJ-AM radio.

Kevorkian had said he would wait until a constitutional challenge to the state law banning assisted suicide was decided before helping another person to die.

Fieger did not know why Kevorkian went ahead with Mansur's suicide, but the judge hearing the case had been expected to rule by last Friday.

"Knowing Jack, he cares about suffering people

and believes suffering people have the right to decide their own destinies," Fieger said.

In a departure from earlier suicides, none of Kevorkian's assistants were present, Fieger said.

Before Sunday, Kevorkian had assisted in 15 suicides since June 1990. The last two occurred Feb. 18. A week later, Gov. John Engler signed legislation making it a felony punishable by up to four years in prison to assist in a suicide.

Kevorkian, 64, a retired pathologist, was charged with murder in his first three assisted suicides. But charges were dropped because Michigan had no law against the practice.

Fieger said he did not know how long Kevorkian had been counseling Mansur, or whether Kevorkian had supplied the gas and apparatus used in his death.

The suicide was reported to the medical examiner's office before Kevorkian left, investigator Allen Brandeau said.

Kevorkian and Fieger left the building about two hours later and went to police headquarters to be questioned by homicide investigators.

Telephone numbers for Mansur and his mother were unpublished.

Monica Arnold, who bought her home from Ford Mansur Co. where Mansur died, said he had been working there with his mother for about one-and-a-half years. She knew he was sick, but "I never thought he'd do anything like this."

California suspended Kevorkian's license April 27, meaning he cannot practice anywhere in the United States. His license to practice in Michigan was suspended in 1991.

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'Kojak' cop says killer another man

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — An ex-New York police detective who inspired the *Kojak* television series says a man he arrested in 1963 committed some of the infamous "Boston Strangler" killings the previous summer.

"I don't know if we can prove it, but morally, I know that I'm right," said Thomas Cavanagh, who has assembled retired detectives to research the case.

Cavanagh, 79, said he believes Charles E. Terry, who died in 1981, committed four to six of the Boston stranglings. He said Boston authorities may have been reluctant to admit that New York police solved their biggest case.

Albert DeSalvo confessed to the 13 Boston strangulations and died in prison in the 1970s. His lawyer, famed defense expert F. Lee Bailey, said police had the right man.

Bailey characterized frequent speculation otherwise as attention-seeking efforts exploiting one of the nation's most sensational crime sprees. "As time goes by, it becomes easier to stir the pot," he said last week.

John Donovan, former Boston chief homicide detective who consulted with Cavanagh in 1963, agreed with Bailey.

Actor joins migrant march

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Actor Martin Sheen on Saturday joined the last stage of a 100-mile march organized by migrant workers seeking better working conditions and union representation.

About 50 Mexican and Puerto Rican workers walked all or part of the trek from Philadelphia to the state Capitol in Harrisburg to call attention to their union organizing on Pennsylvania's mushroom farms. They also are supporting a package of workers' rights bills pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Workers carried U.S., Mexican and Puerto Rican flags, and large pictures of the late Cesar Chavez, whose United Farmworkers Union waged boycotts in efforts to win better pay and conditions for farm workers.

Sheen, who was born Ramon Estevez, said he led a caddy strike when he was 12.

"I've been working since I was nine years old," he said during a rally at the Capitol. "I know what it means to work for living. I know what it means to have an Hispanic name. It was taken away from me by a gringo society. This is part of my effort to get it back, my identity."

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