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# Pinto prosecutor faces lengthy battle

United Press International  
WINAMAC, Ind. — Michael A. Cosentino wants to return to his job, his family and his fishing boat when his pressure-packed role ends as prosecutor in the reckless homicide trial involving Ford Motor Co.'s Pinto automobile.

Cosentino, the 45-year-old Elkhart County prosecutor, may need some rest when his court battle against the powerful Detroit auto-

maker is over. Testimony began Monday in the trial of Ford. The highly complex case could drag on for weeks or months.

Ford was indicted by an Elkhart County grand jury on charges that certain models of its Pinto automobile were of faulty design. The charges resulted from a fiery accident involving a Pinto in which three young women were killed near Goshen, Ind. in 1978.

The battle between Cosentino and Ford has been called a David vs. Goliath confrontation — a small

town prosecutor vs. the powerful corporate attorneys.

Cosentino said that it's not easy taking on the case with only a \$20,000 budget from the Elkhart County commissioners.

"If it hadn't been for volunteers including a deputy prosecutor and two law school professors, I would have been over (budget) a long time ago," he said.

"Ford has the best of everything money can buy. I'm not saying they shouldn't do it, but it's just that every time I turn around I run into the top

legal people on legal briefs, opinions, everything," he said.

But despite lack of funds, Cosentino said that he is enjoying the chance to do trial work, something he doesn't do a lot of in his civil practice.

Whether he wins or loses, Cosentino says he has no ambitions to remain in the spotlight after a settlement in the landmark case.

"My ambitions are to return to Elkhart County, my good civil practice and (to) remain prosecutor," he said.

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# Despite years of warnings, asbestos use still prevalent

United Press International  
CHICAGO — Despite years of medical warnings, the fireproofing material asbestos is still widely used in America and could account for half a million deaths by the end of the century, a researcher warns.

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, says cancer and other diseases caused by asbestos since its introduction during World War II are only now beginning to show up.

Selikoff predicts that 20,000 asbestos-related deaths will occur each year by the end of the century unless there is a massive public health campaign to eliminate its use.

"In the period between World War II and the end of this century, well over half a million Americans will have died of asbestos-related

diseases," Selikoff said in this week's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

He said 700,000 tons of asbestos is still being used each year in the United States, chiefly in products such as cement pipe, brake linings, paper products and textiles.

Most recently, its use in home hair dryers touched off a public health scare that resulted in the manufacturers' voluntary recall of many of the dryers.

Research linking asbestos with cancer and other noncurable illnesses began surfacing more than a decade ago. Because it often takes 25 to 30 years from the time of asbestos exposure until the disease symptoms occur, Selikoff said Americans are already facing a major public health

threat.

Aside from "meager attempts to regulate new asbestos use and to monitor occupational exposure, virtually nothing is being done to remedy the public health failure and turn back the legacy of death from asbestos," he said.

Selikoff said an epidemic of asbestos-related diseases is a public health failure rather than a failure of the medical profession.

"We have made an unconscionable decision to accept some level of mortality as the price we must pay for usefulness," he said.

Selikoff said he does not believe there is any "safe" level of exposure to asbestos and the only way to eliminate its diseases is to eliminate the material.

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# Pizza splitting math too much for half Ohio State students

United Press International  
COLUMBUS — Almost any college student can figure out how to divide three pizzas among four people.

But on a mathematics placement test, half of Ohio State University's 8,000 freshmen couldn't figure it out mathematically.


OSU Provost Ann Reynolds says

two-thirds of the entering freshmen need some kind of remedial math.

"This is a national, pervasive and serious problem," Reynolds said.

Ohio State has developed an intensive program to upgrade the basic skills of incoming students, but it is a job that OSU officials clearly would like to see left to the high schools.

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