

Local volunteers carry out bicentennial spirit

By CAROLINE PRICE

Although much of the bicentennial fervor seems to be dying down as the year progresses, a number of special volunteer programs in the area are still faithfully carrying out the spirit of '76.

According to Dennis Sykes, director of the Michigan Program for Local Service, volunteer coordinators for each group are paid by the Michigan American Bicentennial Commission. The commission received a \$200,000 grant from ACTION, a federal agency for volunteer service, to pay for the coordinators throughout the state.

Local programs provide an assortment of functions and services. One PLS program is called the Referral and Resource Information Clearinghouse, sponsored by Birmingham's Common Ground.

The clearinghouse, under the auspices of bicentennial workers Virginia Ford and Patricia Rowe, provides information and referrals on just about any subject.

Emergency housing, pediatric and emotional counseling, alcohol and drug programs, runaway houses, suicide and pre-natal clinics or medical services—if the clearinghouse can't tell you about these subjects, it can refer you to someone who is able to help.

One of the newest services provided by the clearinghouse is a directory of places to get birth control information. The comprehensive list tells where all local requests for eligibility and the hours clinics are open.

The clearinghouse also has compiled information on area entertainment and recreation.

The phone number for all information is 645-8076. Volunteers staff the phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 7:11 p.m. Saturday through Thursday and from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday.

THE INTER-FAITH CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE has two PLS programs. One is the Oakland County Bicentennial

Court Watching Project which trains volunteers to observe and comment on proceedings at the county's criminal court. These observations will be evaluated by the entire group of volunteers and by a citizen's advisory committee. Recommendations are then made on how to improve the court system.

Throughout the court watching experience, volunteers will hear many speakers on various aspects of the court system. The most recent lecture season featured John Whitestone, chief probation officer for Oakland County. Whitestone discussed pre-sentence procedures, what influences the probation division is subject to, the effectiveness of this division, and how

much pre-sentencing recommendations affect the judge. He also answered court watcher's questions about the probation division. Yvonne Atkinson, project director, says meetings sponsored by the court watchers are open to the public. Persons interested in volunteering may call 645-3525.

THE OTHER HALF of Projects to Further Racial Justice in Courts and Housing focuses on informing minority groups about housing needs in the suburbs. Ann Wetlaufer, coordinator for the project, says a survey will soon be going out to organizations that have primarily minority members that will ask about minority perceptions on housing. Opinions on such subjects as multi-racial neighborhoods will be collected from survey responses.

"We hope to publish a housing cost analysis guide in the future," Ms. Wetlaufer says. The guide will be a color-coded map that includes information that might be of particular interest to minorities.

She adds, "Minorities are not as informed about the white suburbs as those who have lived there all their lives." Anyone who would like to get involved in the project can call Ms. Wetlaufer at 645-8777, or Judy Hepler (another housing volunteer) at 645-5944.

CAMP OAKLAND also boasts a PLS program. The Work Education Program hopes to give boys 14-18 years old who are wards of the court exposure to areas of vocational interest.

Ann Wright is coordinator for the project, which will feature field trips and workshops. One of the planned workshops will center on drug abuse. Field trips will take the boys to businesses in the area to observe different kinds of jobs.

According to Jim Wuerstberg, program director for the camp, the program is "designed for kids who will probably have a limited education."

"We want the boys to have a chance to observe feasible jobs," he adds. Anyone wanting to volunteer help for the project may call Ms. Wright at 678-3276.

Business study determines SBT

An in-depth survey of Michigan businesses will have a major role in determining the future of the state's new single business tax.

The survey is being conducted by the Governor's Task Force on the SBT and will provide the factual data for its recommendations on possible changes in the much-debated tax structure.

State Sen. Robert Davis (R-Gaylord), a member of the task force, said the survey would be mailed to a cross-section of Michigan business firms with a request that they be completed and returned.

The task force survey constitutes the first carefully coordinated statewide attempt to ascertain the exact repercussions of the SBT at all levels of business.

Sen. Davis said he expects to publish the task force recommendations by the end of September. He said that would allow for corrective legislation to act on the fall.

"It's important that we come to sensible conclusions, but that we do so quickly," said Davis. "I remain convinced that the SBT as presently written is having a harmful effect on business and jobs in Michigan. I view the work of the task force as determining what changes need to be made in the SBT not if, changes need to be made."

Davis earlier surveyed some 100 businesses in his 75th Senate District. That informal study indicated a heavy adverse impact on small businesses, particularly in tourist and other personal service industries," he said.

Based on those results, a public hearing and contacts with business people around the state, Davis has become the leading advocate of immediate changes in the SBT.

If the apparent increased burden on many small businesses can't be lightened rapidly, Davis contended, the new tax formula would be repealed while the program is thoroughly reviewed.

"I realize that we need a detailed statewide evaluation to measure the total impact of the SBT," said Davis. "The survey should allow the task force to make intelligent recommendations based on precise data on the extent and the distribution of the impact of the tax."

The study is being conducted by a Michigan polling organization, Market Opinion Research. They have constructed a scientific sample of 1,000 companies representative of the various types and sizes of businesses in Michigan. Two hundred firms in each of 20 standard industrial categories will be added for financial and tax data designed to demonstrate the impact of the SBT. All financial data pertaining to the individual companies surveyed will remain confidential.

In addition to the hard factual information, the task force is asking businessmen to respond with subjective evaluation of the impact of the new tax program.

Survey examines workers' interest in education

Two major industrial unions and The University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D) have agreed to conduct a joint survey of union members in the Detroit area as to their interest in courses at the university level.

Members of the UAW and the United Steel Workers will coordinate survey activity with UM-D's Office of Individualized Learning in sampling union members' interest in higher education, including specific types of courses desired, location and time of class offerings and the methods and techniques of delivery.

"We are very pleased with the interest and reception from the two unions," said Lee Katz, UM-D's associate dean for academic development. "Their expressions of interest are a significant step toward making UM-D Dearborn a more urban campus, a university which has moved beyond the walls of its physical plant."

Assisting UM-D officials with the survey, which will be conducted during the next year, will be such officials as Vice Rector, education director for the UAW's Region 1A and Harry E. Lester, 28th district representative of the United Steel Workers. The two union officials are members of a new ad-hoc planning committee for UM-D Outreach.

Bruno and Lester spoke enthusiastically

of UM-D's interests in reaching out to a new group of students. The union officials said it is interesting and refreshing to see universities such as UM-D "wake-up" to the needs of working people.

Increased leisure time, earlier retirement and workers' concerns for other than material things in life, are leading many union members to consider college-level courses.

Emanuel Hertzler, director of the office of individualized learning, emphasized that the program would take a non-traditional approach to higher education.

The union members will indicate to the university what kinds of courses would be of interest, instead of the other way around. The time and location of classes would be arranged to fit a worker's schedule, added Hertzler.

New methods of technology such as television, cassette tapes, and the computer may either supplement or replace the traditional classroom-lecture style approach to education, he said.

"There is no magic in being in a classroom," said Hertzler. "Modern technology can provide the learning system for education to those who cannot come to a university campus on a regular basis."

Hertzler also contends that the traditional arbitrary university schedule of semesters is not necessary. "There is no reason why a student can't start and stop his or her learning at a pace decided by the individual."

Birth film shown

A color and sound film demonstrating the Lamaze-Pavlov method of childbirth will be shown in two Detroit locations under the sponsorship of the Oakland County Public Education Association.

It will be shown at 8 p.m. Aug. 30 in classroom C, Holy Cross Hospital, 477 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. At 8 p.m., Sept. 3, the film can be seen in Grand Northwood Hospital Auditorium, 12750 Myers, Detroit.

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