

Stopping AIDS

Group visits Oakland as part of educational tour

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Don't be complacent when you read that Oakland County, with 1 million residents, has reported only 24 cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

"Anyone sexually active can get AIDS. It's just a matter of time before executives bring it home from prostitutes they pick up along Woodward and Eight Mile. I used to live there. I've seen 'em go into motels," Richard Villaire said.

Villaire and Craig Covey are with MOHR (Michigan Organization for Human Rights), a statewide group that helps homosexual men and lesbian women. They spoke during a county-sponsored conference in Pontiac.

LAST WEEK they were saying that AIDS isn't confined solely to male homosexuals.

Villaire and Covey are touring

Michigan cities on a \$27,000 state grant with a general informational program for the public and press. Their meeting with public and press in the county health division auditorium was followed by an unadvertised, explicit one for high-risk groups on safe sexual techniques. One of the latter was held at Oakland University.

MOHR is visiting such outstate college towns as East Lansing and Kalamazoo, along with west shore spots such as Traverse City, which attract tourists from Chicago.

SINCE AIDS was recognized in 1981, there have been nearly 21,000 reported cases in the U.S., 161 in Michigan and 24 in Oakland County, according to Joel Blostein, county epidemiologist.

The number of reported cases doubles every year.

Homosexual and bisexual males

'It's just a matter of time before executives bring it home from prostitutes they pick up along Woodward and Eight Mile.'

— Richard Villaire, Michigan Organization for Human Rights

account for 73 percent of the cases; intravenous drug users, 17 percent; blood transfusions, 2 percent; heterosexual persons, 1 percent; and unknown or "other" 7 percent.

Of the homo/bisexual men with AIDS, 12 percent were also intravenous drug users, Blostein said.

AIDS LEAVES the patient vulnerable to cancer, pneumonia and other diseases, though many carriers show no symptoms, Blostein said.

The AIDS retrovirus is transmitted by semen, by dirty needles, in the womb and by blood, as well as by urine and feces.

(The American Red Cross now is confident its tests will discover all contaminated donated blood. High-risk groups are asked not to donate.) AIDS can't be transmitted by normal social contacts, sneezing, donating blood or swimming pools.

This led to Villaire's prediction that AIDS will be introduced into suburbia through contact with prostitutes, who are also known as drug users.

COVEY, EXECUTIVE director of MOHR, added: "If we all practiced safer sexual practices and lived healthier lives, it would be ended in four years. I agree with (conservative evangelist) Pat Robertson on that."

"We disagree on what to do about it. He would put them all on a desert island."

Covey said there's as much chance high-risk groups will give up sex as there is that all smokers will quit overnight.

"People in high-risk categories are afraid to deal with it," said Covey, scoffing at Republican legislative bills to require testing of various groups such as people arrested for prostitution.

Blostein gave this advice for preventing AIDS:

Don't have sex with people who have AIDS.

Don't have sex with many people or with people who have multiple partners.

Don't abuse intravenous drugs.

Don't have sex with drug abusers.

Expect slowdowns on Oakland roads

Drivers in Oakland County will notice some slowdowns this summer for construction work on 41 miles of roads in 16 communities.

"We regret the inconvenience, but it will be temporary," said John Gnaul Jr., chairman of the Road Commission. Traffic will be limited to a single lane, and motorists are advised to seek alternate routes.

The projects are being conducted under a single \$4 million contract with Holloway Construction Co., Wixom. Holloway announced this schedule for southern Oakland roads:

• South Lyon and Lyon Township — Pontiac Trail from the C&O Railroad to 11 Mile — through June 13.

• Novi, South Lyon and Lyon Township — 10 Mile from Stryker to Novi Road — through June 30.

• Commerce — Wixom Road, from Pontiac Trail to Gengary — July 1-8.

• Wixom — Pontiac Trail from Beck to Wixom — July 7-11.

• Commerce, Walled Lake — Pontiac Trail from Haggerty to South Commerce — July 14-18.

• West Bloomfield — Richardson from Haggerty to Green Lake — July 21-24.

• Bloomfield Township — Franklin from Long Lake to Maple — July 23-29.

• Troy, Rochester Hills — South Blvd. from Adams to Livermore — July 28 to Aug. 4.

County roads forum topic

A road discussion forum for businesses and individuals will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 16, by the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

It will be held in the circular commissioners' auditorium at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

The moderator will be Don Fox,

president of Perry Drug Stores Inc.

The topic will be the hiring boom in Oakland County and its effect on roads in the next 10 years.

The chamber said discussion will be on what needs to be done to move traffic and how the projects are to be financed.

County needs rec equipment

Oakland County is seeking donations of recreational equipment for a Children's Village shelter for abused and neglected children.

Persons with equipment donations may call recreation specialist Greg Alessi, 858-1135.

Network offers AIDS help

Help for people with AIDS, at risk of AIDS or who want to learn more about it is available from Wellness Networks Inc., a private non-profit group headquartered in Royal Oak.

Spokeswoman Marilyn Bergt said the group offers three kinds of services to those who contact it at 876-3582.

1. Education — a speakers bureau including medical and clergy people.

It has published pamphlets for dentists, funeral directors and families living with the sick.

2. Referral — doctors, dentists, counselors and clergy.

3. Support services — weekly and bi-weekly meetings for parents, friends and lovers of AIDS patients; hospital visitations; and other direct help.

OCC to screen for chef classes

Oakland Community College will screen applicants for its special apprenticeship program for chefs 9-12 Saturday, in Tirrell Hall on the Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696, Farmington Hills.

The program provides a total of 6,000 hours of on-the-job training. Those who complete it will be recommended for a certificate of apprenticeship as a journeyman chef. Participants also will take OCC courses toward an associate degree in applied science.

Information about the program is available from Chef Kevin Enright, OCC apprentice coordinator, at 471-7779. The program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Labor Department, the American Culinary Federation and the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association.

To be admitted to the screening procedure, applicants must bring:

• A certified check for \$60 payable to the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association. It will be refunded if the applicant isn't accepted.

• A handwritten essay of 150 words on "Why I Desire a Career in Culinary Arts."

• A high school diploma.

• A resume, a record of documented work experience and references.

• Transcripts of post-high school education, if applicable.

3 workshops set to explain job hazards

Three identical workshops on Michigan's new "Right to Know" law on hazardous materials in the workplace will be conducted by campuses of Oakland Community College in the next month.

The state net supplements a federal law and went into effect May 27. It requires that workers in non-manufacturing settings receive information on any chemical dangers in the workplace.

The workshops are hosted by OCC's Business and Professional Institute, coordinated by Barbara Wegner (840-1534). She should be contacted immediately for reservations. Fee is \$50.

Workshops are scheduled:

• June 13 — Royal Oak Campus, 739 S. Washington.

• June 27 — Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696, Farmington Hills.

• July 11 — Royal Oak.

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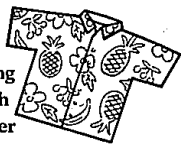
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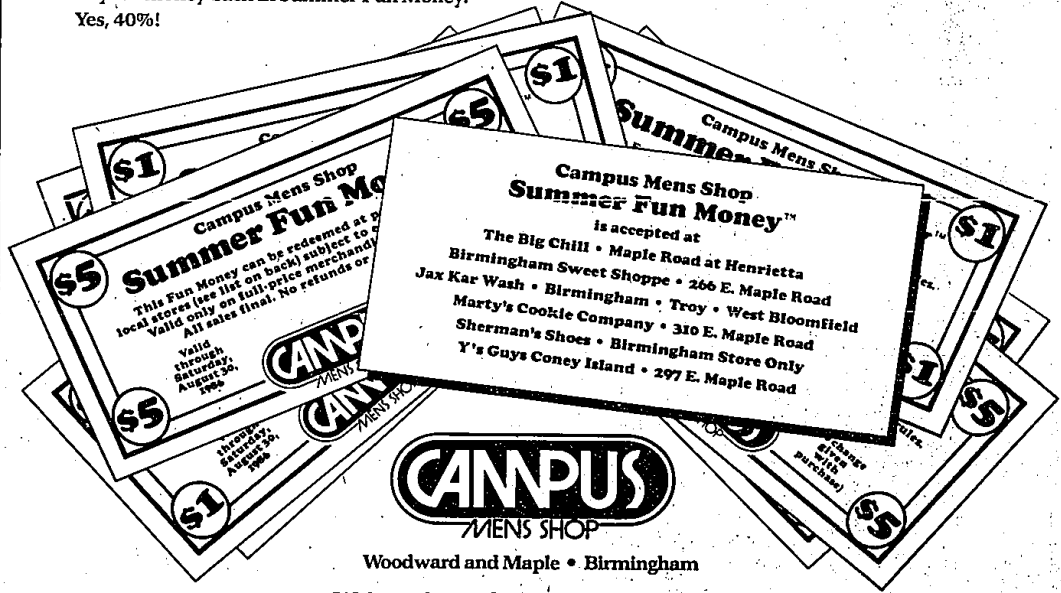
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