More colleges offer alcohol-free rooms

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Efforts begun in Oakland County to provide college students with an alcohol-free living environment are gaining momentum. Some of the gaining momentum. Some or one state's 15 public institutions now say

ern Michigan and Grand Valley State universities will for the first time offer all students an opportuni-ty to select roommates who do not use alcohol by checking off that op-tion on the bousing application. Eastern Michigan University offi-cials say they are in the process of compulsing.

complying. Michigan Technological Universi-

Ralph Richard parks manager

Richard, parks unit are honored

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission received and Recreation Commission received metalent and the County Parks and Recreation and Internative Recreation and Innovative programming from the Michigan Recreation and Park Asociation at Its state conference in Grand Rapids. Recognized with the "fellowship award" was Ralph Richard, manager of Oakland parks, for his contributions to the profession and volunteer time promoting the field and coaching youth sports.

caaching youth sports.

A MEMBER OF the MRPA for 21 years, Richard has been its president and treasurer. Richard also has been director of parks and recreation for the city of Southfield and Waterford Township.

Raymond Delasko, supervisor of Independence Oaks Park in Clarkston, carned the MRPA's maintenance leadership award. A 11-year employee of Oakland parks, Delasko was cited for maintaining high standard of park operations.

A new program called "Scooter" was recognized for providing customer service and information to guests in Oakland's county parks.

The "Scooter" moniker resided by the control of the cont

in golf carts.

in golf carts.

THE STAFFEIIS provided information such as brochures, calendars and flyers; assisted park visitors with special needs or requests, and consistent the second process of the second pro

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ty and Lake Superior State will extend the option only to those students who are 21 or over.
"Although 1 am glad to see some progress being made, it appears that it is minimal," said U.S. District Judge Hernard Friedman. The West Bloomfield resident was a driving force in the movement as a 48th District Court judge. EFFORTS ARE aimed at compli-EFFORTS ARE almed at compliance by all 15 public universities and the 40 or so private colleges and universities in Michigan, according to Rep. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Last year Honigman introduced a bill that would have required colleges to offer students the option of a non-drinking roommate the way they now offer the option of a non-smoking roommate.

they now offer the option of a non-monking roommate.

The bill, which drew support but died in committee, was prompted by a group from Oakland County, led by Judge Friedman.

Following a hearing before the flouse Colleges and Universities Committee, the schools were given time to comply before the legislation was taken further.

When Hosteman first latraduced.

When Honigman first introduced

the bill, he said school response was like 'a dinesaur.' The majority of administrators were not responsive. "We basically got nowhere at first without enormous pressure, which is remarkable when you consider all that has to be done (to comply) in provide a box to check off on the preference form," Honlyman said.

THE ISSUE is more complex than that, according to Dr. Glean Stevens of the Council of College Presidents, which represents the state's 15 public schools. On the contractual agreement with students. What contractual agreement with students. What controls can the university reasonably implement to enforce such a contract" Stevens said.

He and members of the council prefer the issue not be legislated because, he said, compliance is best left up to individual school administrations.

STILL, HONIGMAN'S proposed bill "helped us focus on the Issue. It is an extremely serious Issue, and the university community is hardly indifferent to it," Stevens said. Eastern Michigan University in

Ypsilanti is in the process of compliance, according to officials there. "The university fully supports the alcohol-free room concept and currently is talking steps to place a question assessing a student's alcohol used perfectnees on the questionnaire sent to students who apply for housing placement," said Deborah McNish, associate director of housing.

McNish, associate director of nous-ing.
"Part of the problem is enforce-ment — the fact that college stu-dents continue to test their own val-nes," McNish said.
Also, parents often complete pref-erence forms for students and unwit-tingly state their offspring neither smokes nor drinks when, in fact, the students do both, according to McNish.

HOUSING OFFICIALS at Oak-land University are familiar with the problem, according to Suzanne Bante, assistance director of the school's on-campus housing. OU students fill out a personal profile that includes check-offs for non-drinkers and non-smokers. Of the two issues, however, snok-ing poses the most trouble. "Where people lie the most (on

preference forms) is about smoking." Bante sald.

OU has provided "non-drinker" options in roommates for two years.

"From time to time we have alcohol problems but it's really not much of an issue," Bante said.

LITTLE HAS been heard from the big two — the University of Michigan and Michigan State University — which house the greatest numbers of students.

Late last year, after a shooting and a traffic fatality involving an in-toxicated student, MSU was reported to be considering banning liquor on

to be considering banning liquor on campus.

There is no deadline on public col-lege and universities complying to Honigman's proposal, Stevens sald. It is likely all its will do so by next school year, he said.

Honigman said he expects most private institutions will also comply and intends to make such comply-ance of the property of the compli-ance of the property of the compliance of the property of the prope

months.

But he said those institutions offering the option only to students 21 and over aren't in compliance because it appears that that option isn't open to those under 21.

One registration fee hikes OU funds

Oakland University is consolidating its five-part student fee system into a single registration fee. The move was approved by the Board of Trustees. It will be effective for the spring term. It will help simplify a new, computerized student record system now being implemented by the university.

OU officials said all university-mandated fees (enrollment fee, health center fee, athletic fee, transportation fee, and Oaktand Center fee) will be levied as a single registration fee of 483 per student. It will raise revenue \$250,000.

The new fee is the same that has been charged an undergraduate tak-

ing more than two classes. Some 6,600 of OU's 12,254 students were in that category last fall.

OU officials say that generally full-time students will be unaffected by the change. Most part-time un-dergraduates will pay an additional \$20 per semester. Part-time gradu-

ate students will pay an additional \$22 per semester.
OU officials said uniform charges will aid the implementation of a new records system to be put in place by spring of 1990. The new system will be easier to administer, easier for students to calculate costs, and will provide greater budget flexibility.

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