

## Sponsor a student on civil rights tour

Sponsors are still needed for Freedom Tour IV, organized by the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.

This year's tour will leave Detroit July 18 for 15 days, with 28 students from 18 different high schools in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Groves High School student Alice Brooks, 16, and Whitney Lakin, 13, a Detroit Country Day student from West Bloomfield are part of the group, which will relive the history of the civil rights movement in the United States on the tour.

Stops include Little Rock, Ark.; Jackson, Miss.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Montgomery, Ala.; visiting with Hispanic community leaders in San Antonio, Texas; visiting a Native American reservation in Mississippi; and attending the Youth Non-Violence Program at the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, Ga.

"The tour's purpose is to educate, develop a commitment to racial justice, build leadership and create awareness of the current challenges

of the civil rights movement," said Freedom Tour IV co-chairman John P. Breitmeyer, vice president of Health Alliance Plan, one of the tour's corporate sponsors.

Each student raises \$100 and is asked to find a \$500 sponsoring organization, with the balance of the tour's cost funded by MCHR through grants and numerous donations from organizations, religious communities, labor unions and individuals.

The students received training and attended a retreat together before their departure. When they return, they will share their experience with their sponsoring groups, the media, corporations, schools, churches, temples, clubs, labor unions and others.

For more information about the tour, or how to sponsor a student please call 831-0258 by June 30 at the human rights coalition, an interfaith, multiracial network of individuals and civic, business, labor, religious and humanitarian groups working for peace and justice.

## More bigotry?

### Ethnic leaders put faith in state law

By WAYNE PEAL  
STAFF WRITER

Area ethnic leaders agree bigotry and bigotry will still face punishment, even in the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down one state's anti-hate crime law.

But they worry there could be more of them to punish.

The high court Monday unanimously struck down a Minnesota law banning cross burnings, display of Nazi symbols and similar provocative actions.

"It tells us the Supreme Court favors one person's right to free speech over another's right to live in dignity and without fear," said Bill Nahers, president of the South

#### JUSTICE

Oakland chapter of the NAACP.

While disappointed, ethnic leaders take solace Michigan's own 1989 ethnic intimidation law remains on the books.

"Anybody who burns a cross on anybody else's lawn in Michigan is still going to go to jail," said Richard Lobenthal, director of the Anti Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Still, they fear the high court ruling sends the wrong message.

"It's a disappointment," said Sam Yoon of the Chaldean Federation of America. "It's going to make it more difficult for all minority groups."

David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, chief sponsor of Michigan's law, said it is substantially different from its voided Minnesota counterpart.

There was some pressure at the time to adopt a law with provisions very much like those in the Minnesota law," Honigman said. "But my feeling was that they were unconstitutional."

Michigan's law is directed at actions specifically directed at others, Honigman said.

"It's the difference between symbolism and action," he said. "You can burn a cross on your own lawn, but if you do it on someone else's, without their permission, it's a crime."

Honigman said he believed the high court correctly struck down the more restrictive law.

"It's regrettable, but it's still better than having the government step in to regulate speech," he said. For minorities, the balance between free speech and personal attack carries heavy irony.

Minority viewpoints have often been the target of attack, most recently during the Gulf War.

"It's a very fine line," said Terry Ahwal of the the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Commission. "If you call me a name, that's your business. But if you call me a name and point a knife at me you should be punished."

## County tough on ethnic intimidation

Though Michigan's ethnic intimidation law has been on the books for three years, it isn't universally enforced.

In Oakland County, there have been 16 convictions in 15 cases — with four more cases pending trial.

In Wayne County, with nearly double the population, there have

been three cases.

Oakland prosecutor Richard Thompson believes his county has been fairly aggressive in pursuing ethnic intimidation cases.

"Our cases generally involve physical contact or destruction of property," he said.

They also most frequently in-

volve white-on-black incidents.

By design, Wayne County has been less aggressive in bringing ethnic intimidation charges.

"Our philosophy is why go for two years (for ethnic intimidation) when you can go for four years for assault," said the Wayne prosecutor's chief of operations Richard

Padzielski.

Michigan's ethnic intimidation statute is essentially a supplemental law, with charges most commonly brought alongside those for other crimes.

Area ethnic leaders credit the law with reducing some racially motivated incidents.

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Friday, June 26 3:00-10:00 pm

Saturday, June 27 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Sunday, June 28 11:00 am-9:00 pm

Jazz musicians will perform in the Gazebo as artists from the Midwest display their works in the outdoors. Also demonstrations by working artists and crafts people, jazz workshops, town hall and fine museum tours, entertainment in the 1854 Revue Hall and food booths

**GAZEBO CONCERTS**

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

June 24 South Oakland Concert Band - Colonial Life and Drum

July 8

**\*KIDS DAY\***

Civic Center Front Lawn (Evergreen at 10% Mile)

Saturday, June 27 10:00 am-6:00 pm

- \* Come 'N Get It Canine Frisbee Disc Contest - 10:00 am
- \* Mud Mania II - 11:00 am-2:00 pm (7-14 years)
- \* Gladiators Course - 11:00 am-2:00 pm (7-11 years)
- \* Midstate Veterinary Hospital Pet Show - 12:30 pm (16 years or younger)
- \* Flying Aces Professional Frisbee Team - demonstration and clinic - 2:00 pm
- \* World Jr. Frisbee Disc Contest - 4:00 pm (15 years and younger)
- \* Other activities include games, flag jumping, turtle racing, petting farm, pony rides, entertainment, Moonwalk, dunk tank, Michigan Humane Society petting zoo, mini's cap decorating, photos with Officer McGuffey, ASW Great Great Bear, carnival rides.

Phun Place a special play area for kids 1-5 years old

**\*SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY\***

Civic Center Front Lawn (Evergreen at 10% Mile)

Thursday, July 2 7:00-11:00 pm

Southfield Symphony with guest soloist Jennifer Roberts and narrator Byron MacGregor. Also an American flag parachute drop and town entertainment prior to the fireworks display which begins at 10:10 pm

**\*PLUS\***

- \* The Nostalgia Ball - Thursday, June 25 7:30 pm Civic Center Pavilion
- \* 3rd Annual Mini Grand Prix for Adults - Saturday, June 27, Noon, Prudential Town Center
- \* Wild Video Dance Party (for Southfield Teens) - Saturday, June 27, 7:00-11:00 pm, Civic Center Arena
- \* An Affair to Remember\* (black tie optional) - Saturday, June 27, 8:00 pm-Midnight, The Burgh Church
- \* Neighborhood Day - Sunday, June 28, 1:00-5:00 pm, The Burgh
- \* Movie "Guys & Dolls" - Tuesday, June 30, 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm, Northland Theater
- \* Southfield Polish Bash - Saturday, July 4, 1:00-7:00 pm

**EVENTS ARE FREE**

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