

# County targets teen drinking

**BY PAT MURPHY**

How far should the county go to deter teenage drinking?

That seemingly innocuous question triggered heated debate among Oakland County commissioners last week, as they considered a federal grant for \$225,000 to hire three law enforcement officers for a county-wide alcohol education program aimed at teenagers.

The total cost for the program over three years will be \$327,094, with the county paying \$302,094, according to the resolution approved at Thursday's regular meeting of the county board.

Joan Rich, a spokesperson for MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) said the program would provide vital assistance in helping schools and communities deal with teenage drinking.

The board approved accepting the grant by an 18 to 6 vote, with details of how the program would operate to be reviewed by commissioners at a later date. Voting against the grant were commissioners Nancy Dingledy, R-Wisconsin, Sue Ann Douglas, R-Rochester, Donald W. Jensen, R-Birmingham, Ruth A. Johnson, Holly, John P. McCulloch, R-Royal Oak, and Shelley G. Taub, R-Bloomfield Hills.

Every commissioner said they recognize problems associated with teenage drinking. But few were willing to question the wisdom of the program and risk being soft or indifferent on an issue like alcohol use at the high school level.

"Teen drinking is like apple pie and motherhood," said commissioner Sue Ann Douglas, R-Rochester, who voted against the

**The program would provide vital assistance to communities dealing with teenage drinking.**

*Joan Rich  
MADD spokesperson*

grant. "But I don't think it's an efficient use of tax dollars. What happens if the federal government (in this case the U.S. Department of Justice) withdraws its support? Is the county obligated to pay the full cost?"

In Rochester schools, she said, we have four police liaison officers

working on the schools and dealing with problems like teen drinking. "If we have four officers in Rochester schools along, how will three be effective county wide?" Commissioner Shelley G. Taub, during the Republican caucus preceding the meeting, said the issue of teen drinking must be addressed with a coordinated program that involves parents.

"In West Bloomfield and Bloomfield township we already have alcohol education programs that involve parents and other elements of the community," she said.

Commissioner Charles E. Palmer, R-Clawson, however, said any effort to educate teenagers — and curb alcohol abuse — is worth trying. There are things to be worked out, he acknowledged, such as coordinating any new alcohol education program with existing efforts. "But it could make a difference," he insisted.

Commissioner Lawrence A. Obrecht, R-Lake Orion, said he voted for the grant because he and other commissioners will have approval over the program itself. "I want to see how the program will be implemented," he said.

# Sen. Dole to stump in Southfield

**BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER**

Presidential hopeful Bob Dole will bring his campaign to Oakland with a town forum meeting next week at the Southfield Radisson Plaza Hotel at the Town Center in Southfield, according to county commissioner Donn L. Wolf, R-Farmington Hills.

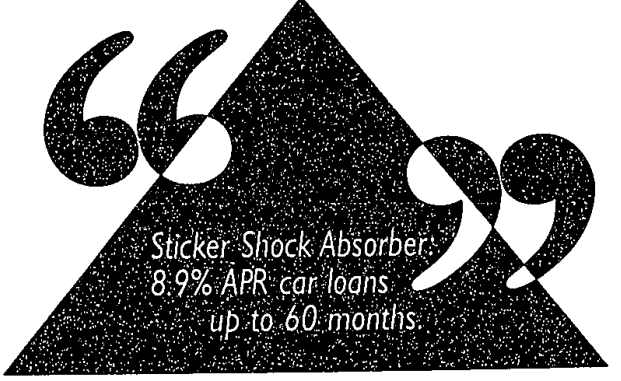
The senator from Kansas hopes to energize his campaign in Michigan with stops in Detroit, Southfield and Grand Rapids, said Wolf who is one of his staunchest admirers.

"As I understand, this is Dole's first stop in southeast Michigan," said Wolf. "The program in

Southfield will feature a town meeting forum with people being able to ask questions directly."

Dole will be getting something of a late start in Michigan, which observers say could be a key state in the 1996 presidential race. One of Dole's chief rivals, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm has already made one appearance in Troy and his wife, Wendy, appeared on his behalf in Bloomfield Township.

Gramm claims to have the support of many of Michigan's county chairmen, according to backers like Chuck Yob of Grand Rapids. But Dole has the support of some big-name Republicans, including county executive L. Brooks Patterson, U.S. Rep. Joe Knollen-



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