

SC Cancels 2 Voc Programs

Two vocational programs at Schoolcraft College have been canceled because of a lack of interest and declining job opportunities.

The Schoolcraft Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the machine tool curriculum and manufacturing technology curriculum. Applications in both programs declined from nine in 1970 to one in 1972.

"Due to a lack of student interest, we think the program should be discontinued," Robert Keene, dean of instruction, told the board.

The three instructors have been transferred to other vocational programs, he said. One will teach manufacturing courses needed for other programs and the other two are in the apprenticeship program.

The curriculum-instruction committee reviewed the two

programs and recommended their discontinuance.

Several trustees were critical of the advisory committees, which should have met at least annually to review each program. Since the committees, which are composed of representatives of industry, haven't met in recent years, the lack of interest and job opportunities wasn't apparent until recently.

"How often should the advisory committees meet?" trustee Leroy Bennett asked.

"They should meet a minimum of once annually," Dr. Keene said. "Advisory committees function pretty well in some areas and not in others."

"It seems to me that if you have curriculum going downhill and if you're not using advisory committees, then someone is not doing his own job," Bennett said.

What Harm Can Milligram Do?

Questions should be sent to the Community Commission on Drug Abuse, P.O. Box 48151, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

Q. Can 50 milligrams hurt you?

L.T. Livonia. A. This has to be one of the most mysterious questions we've been asked. Like 50 milligrams of WHAT? For example, 50 milligrams of strychnine (still found in street drugs) is enough to kill an average size family. The same amount of LSD could blow the collective minds of hundreds of people.

It should be explained that a milligram is a unit of weight and is equal (very approximately) to one-thirtieth thousandth of an ounce. For every drug, there is a specific dose, which should not be exceeded.

Please remember that with street drugs there is no guarantee as to what substance you are getting. (To the best of our knowledge, no street drug has

ever made the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.)

Likewise there is no guarantee as to the quantity of the drug you are getting. A dealer who says you're getting "fifty milligrams" couldn't tell a milligram from a monkey wrench.

Q. Is anything being done about quaaludes? I hear from my kids that this drug is prevalent in this area, and I understand that it can be dangerous.

E.W. Westland. A. Quaalude, just one of many trade names for the drug methaqualone, has become one of the biggest problems in drug abuse in the past year or so. As we explained in this column some time ago, about the only real thing this drug has going for it is that it is not covered by federal or state regulations for drugs of abuse.

This loophole will be plugged. And hopefully, very soon. The State Board of Pharmacy has convened a scientific panel empowered to put such drugs under control. They have voted to do so for Quaalude and other forms of methaqualone. The effective date should be in about two months.

In the meantime we have been left with a legacy of kids who have become dependent upon the drug. Treatment should ideally be done on an inpatient basis, but is awfully hard to come by. We have just not been able to develop easy cures in the short period of time during which abuse of this drug literally exploded.

We are mentioning this because there is a great tendency not to worry about becoming drug dependent because there's always a "cure." Not so. And certainly no one seriously involved with treatment of drug abuse is really completely satisfied with present "cures" — in those areas where they even exist.

Parents should realize that children encountering scholastic or social problems in school may be victims of undetected hearing losses, warn hearing experts.

Needs Checkup

Dial Hotline For Road Complaints

ONTARIO. If you have a complaint about roads in your community, call the new Oakland County Road Commission hotline at 1-522-3707.

Oakland County residents who don't live in the Pontiac telephone area can call toll free, says Fred Harris, of Farmington Township.

"All complaint calls are now channeled directly to the road commission's newly created office of public assistance. The calls will be handled personally."

Callers will have road commission policies and priorities explained to them and will have their complaints looked into on an individual basis.

Harris says the single source of contact will save residents the frustration of being shuffled from department to department. The office will follow up complaints and respond by phone or letter to the complaining, explaining what action has been taken.

Harris anticipates most complaints will concern potholes. "We provide maintenance on these streets at the same level we receive state returned gas-weight tax money for local roads."

"There's never enough money to do the necessary improvements and the road commission is limited by law as to what we can spend on local roads. Hopefully, we can respond to complaints and bring some meaningful relief where possible."

The road commission has greatly expanded its gravel patching program to provide relief for residents on local gravel roads, says Harris. The road commission plans to expand use of a safety device used on Big Beaver Road. The "Hi Dro Call Impact Attenuator" is a 4-ft. cluster with tubes designed to allow a controlled escape of fluid under impact, providing an effective cushion.

observer newspapers

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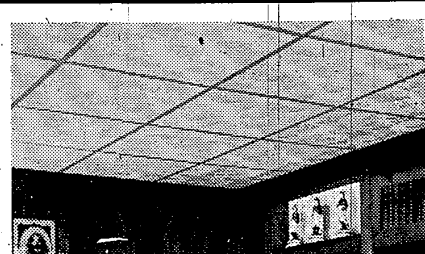
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