

North woods adventure an encounter with nature

By CAROL HASKIN

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—The wind may blow and the snow may fall, but neither can stop 58 intrepid students from Labser and Andover high schools from enjoying their week long sojourn in the north woods.

Through Saturday, the students are backpacking around the shoreline in Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario, as part of their course work in a class called "Man in Nature."

The trip is not just for fun, explained Dennis Hurley who teaches the class, but is part of the total course. In the class, students examine certain human values, and the relationship of man to nature from biblical times to the present through history, art and literature.

As one facet of the course, the trip serves not only to define the student's own relationship with and apprecia-

tion of nature, but also to demonstrate that the way to change things is through group effort.

THE STUDENTS are divided into small groups. These groups are responsible for making the major decisions during the outing and for solving problems that might turn up.

"It's rugged," Hurley said, "and the students have to depend on each other in the situations they encounter."

For any emergencies that might occur, however, a professional staff from Camp Tamarack has been hired to serve as guides. This is the first time the students have been accompanied by professional campers in the six years the program has been running.

Hurley conducts two trips each year, one for the fall semester classes and one in the spring semester. He makes a special trip to the camping site before each trip to make sure it fits the needs of his class.

"I look for a place with isolation, but one that people can be gotten out of easily in case of emergency."

IN PAST years the group has been to the Porcupine Mountains, Algonquin Park, in Ontario, Isle Royale and the Smokies.

The program is not meant to discriminate between the Jack Londons and Jane Austens in the group.

There is some physical challenge to students and faculty," said Don Hollums, outdoor education consultant in the Bloomfield Hills Schools. "But this is not designed to be a grueling physical confrontation."

During the course of the trip, students keep group and individual journals. Group journal entries record how the students relate to one another within the group and describe the land as they see it. The individual journals provide an outlet for personal reflection.

HURLEY SAID he finds the outdoor experience has two major effects on the students. First, they get a better realization of man's place in nature and secondly they learn man can most successfully relate to nature by working in his social group.

Another by-product of the experience is the many fast friendships formed between people who have never been friends before.

But one of the most important insights the students gain from the experience is the one into themselves.

"Many students in the Smokies felt that, physically they wouldn't be able to do it," Hollum said. But after three days they found they had more inner strength than they had thought."

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Court upholds Bishop in claim of immunity

By MICHAEL OGOREK

State Sen. Donald E. Bishop's claim of immunity from testifying in a civil suit was upheld by the state Court of Appeals on Tuesday.

Bishop (R-Rochester) was subpoenaed to testify in a civil suit filed against the Michigan State Police by the Michigan Association for Consumer Protection, a Detroit area consumer group.

Bishop refused to testify on the basis of a provision in the 1963 state Constitution that says legislators are "privileged from civil arrest and civil process" during legislative sessions.

The Appeals Court agreed with Bishop's position and overturned an earlier Wayne County Circuit court ruling.

The consumer group had filed a class action suit against the state police calling for the elimination of a subversive activities investigation unit. The state police were asked by State Rep. Bill S. Huffman (D-Madison Heights) to check on the consumer group after he read a news letter by the group that condemned Bishop's stand on a consumer bill.

HUFFMAN said he asked for the investigation because he had never heard of the group or any of its activities. He said he asked the state police whether the group was legitimate.

The police replied that it was registered as a nonprofit corporation.

"I never heard of them, I never heard of anything they did," Huffman said. "They were putting out some very scurrilous literature," he said.

Huffman said he did not talk to Bishop about his investigation request.

Bishop said, "The first I KNEW about this investigation came when I received a copy of the representative's letter to the state police requesting the probe.

"I did not understand why I had received the copy until my staff reminded me I had received and discarded the consumer pamphlet without reading it."

BISHOP SAID his refusal had nothing to do with the merits of either the police unit or the consumer group.

"The issue here is whether legislators are going to spend the session working for their constituents or testifying in courts across the state when aspiring interest groups are seeking publicity or trying to get bills passed into law," Bishop said.

Bishop said he would have complied with the request to testify if the legislature had not been in session when the request was made the legislature was out on recess.

Bishop said that if the legislature would have an earlier final adjournment such a question would not arise.

He said he did not think the legislators should be immune from civil process all year, but only during legislative session. The legislature now adjourns for only a short time after the Christmas holidays, therefore making it difficult to subpoena any legislator because of the five day privileged time before and after sessions.

Monday last day to register

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP—Monday (Oct. 7) is the voter registration deadline for the Nov. 5 general elections. The township office, 1850 Thirteen Mile Road, will be open for registration from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., as required by state law.

The township, which includes the villages of Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms, has more than 10,000 registered voters and 10 voting precincts, according to the clerk's office.

Absentee ballot applications may be picked up at the township office, or will be mailed out upon request.

Township officials running unopposed for reelection are Theodore J. Sura, supervisor; Eleanor McGee, clerk; and Ellen M. Reed, treasurer.

SEEKING THE two open trustee posts are Leon Lytle of Beverly Hills and Martha A. Nichols of Franklin. Local village officials are elected in March.

Southfield Township voters cast ballots in the 46th District Court in Southfield, the 19th U.S. Congressional District, the 16th State Senatorial District, the 66th State House of Representative District, and the 15th and 22nd Oakland County commissioners districts.



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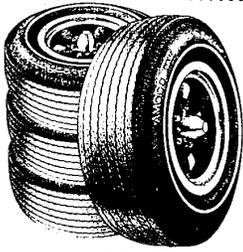
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