

OCC group to study social issues

The Womencenter of Oakland County Community College will sponsor "Action Alert: Saving the 30s" Thursday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The project will explore the impact of political and social issues for the 1980s. Including the Family Protection Bill, the Human Life Amendment, Nuclear Power and Environmental protection, women's rights and the ERA, American foreign policy in Latin America, and registration and the draft.

Keynote speaker will be Lynn Silverberg of Michigan's Voice of Reason.

Endorsers of the event include: Henry Ford Community

College Focus on Women program; WCOCC - Focus on Women program; Latin America Task Force; MEA Women's Caucus; National Lawyers Guild; Mich. Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, North Oakland Now; Oakland County NOW; Oakland Crisis Center for Rape and Sexual Abuse, Planned Parenthood - Detroit Chapter; Summit Medical Center; Voice of Reason, Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center; Women's Survival Center of Oakland Company; YWCA - North Oakland Board; Domestic Violence Shelter; Pontiac; Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center and Mothering Art.

All activities are free and open to the public.

Hospital to study

Can 'dowager's hump' be cured?

The thin, aging woman, short in stature and unable to stand straight because of her curved back, is a rather common sight.

In fact, up to one-third of all post-menopausal, white women may encounter the bone disease osteoporosis, which causes the elderly woman to be in pain, to stoop from her "dowager's hump," and to progressively get shorter as her spine continues to fracture.

Henry Ford Hospital has announced its receipt of an almost \$1 million grant to study the use of a drug - sodium fluoride - in slowing down the progression of the bone-thinning disease, which "New England Journal of Medicine" calls "the most common bone disease."

Osteoporosis is estimated to cost society a billion dollars annually in treatment, hospitalization and job loss.

HFH will enroll 200 white, post-menopausal women with osteoporosis in a five-year study to test the safety and effectiveness of sodium fluoride in preventing continued fractures in patients. Patients selected for the study will have sustained at least one fracture. (Most common are those of the wrist, hip and spine.)

The study is being funded by a \$900,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. A parallel NIH study is being conducted at the Mayo Clinic.

According to Dr. Michael Kleerekoper, principal investigator in the HFH

Patients will be followed for four years and the results compared. It is speculated that sodium fluoride may stimulate bone formation and thus slow down progression of the bone thinning as the patient ages.

study, half the 200 patients will receive sodium fluoride along with Vitamin D and calcium supplements, and half will get only the Vitamin D and calcium treatment.

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"Patients referred to us as candidates for the study will be carefully screened," Dr. Kleerekoper explained. "And every patient, whether she is chosen to receive the sodium fluoride or the look-alike placebo capsule, will receive the best care known to date."

"Many drugs have been tried in the past, but this study of sodium fluoride is the biggest study and it is sponsored by the federal government," he said.

Many women who suffer from osteoporosis may not be aware of their disease or that its progress could be prevented in some instances. Fractures of

the bones in the spine are the most common and have symptoms such as sharp, sudden pain or constant back pain; progressive stooping; and a gradual decrease in height or "shrinking." These symptoms are caused by a crumbling of the vertebrae bones in the spine.

Dr. Kleerekoper listed some of the factors which may predispose women to the disease. They include family history of osteoporosis, inadequate calcium intake, being thinner than normal or underweight, smoking and premature menopause.

Women who suspect they may have the disease should contact their local physician for an examination, Dr. Kleerekoper explained. The HFH study will involve patients who have been diagnosed as having osteoporosis and who are referred to the program by a physician.

The program is being conducted in HFH's Division of Bone and Mineral Metabolism.

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- ### class reunions
- The Observer & Eccentric will be happy to help locate classmates for school reunions. Submit announcements to Margaret Miller, Observer & Eccentric, 29251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. If telephone numbers are listed, they must be accompanied by full names.
- **DETROIT HOLY REDEEMER 1966**
 Holy Redeemer High School class of 1966 will hold a dinner dance reunion Oct. 3 in St. Sarkis Hall, Dearborn. Those who have not been contacted about the event may call Marianne Donnelly Carolan, 261-0266.
 - **DETROIT ST. CECILIA**
 A reunion is planned Oct. 10 for graduates of St. Cecilia High School in the years 1936 to 1946. For information and reservations, call Margaret Williams, 553-4215.
 - **HIGHLAND PARK 1946**
 Highland Park High School's graduates of 1946 will gather for a 35-year reunion Oct. 10 in the Berkeley American Legion Hall. Information is available from Gail Gerow, 545-4764.
 - **DEARBORN HEIGHTS ROBCHAUD**
 Robichaud High School's class of 1961 will hold a 20-year reunion Oct. 17. Those interested in attending may call Carol (Mollanen) Nalepa, 728-8136, or Diane (Curtis) Glatter, 582-1089.
 - **LIVONIA STEVENSON 1971**
 A 10-year reunion is being planned Nov. 27 for the class of 1971, and those interested in attending are asked to call Debbie Swabach, 534-8775, as soon as possible.
 - **OAK PARK 1961**
 Oak Park High School's class of 1961 will have a 20-year reunion Nov. 28 and reservations are needed by Sept. 15. Call Janice Hoffman Yourorsky, 398-7285, Dodie Pasman Harris, 553-4166, or Carole Baskin Hampson, 542-8726.

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