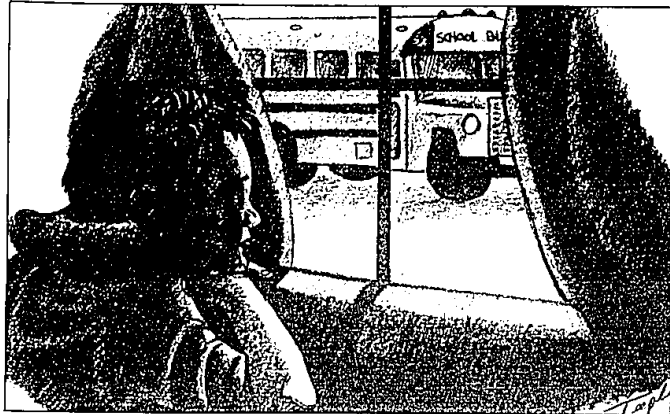


Schools monitor AIDS cases in county

By Casey Hane
Staff writer

As a state educational panel discusses medical, social and human implications of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), local school officials are taking a low-key approach.



Should children with AIDS be taken out of the regular school setting? That's a question that has stirred public debate.

Illustration by MARVIN TEEPLES

Education can help conquer fears about disease

By Mary Klemic
Staff writer

A total 15,000 cases of AIDS have been reported nationwide since the disease was first detected four years ago. And that number is increasing at such a rate that if it continues, by 1990 more persons will have died from AIDS than were killed in the Vietnam War, according to Dr. Donald Lawrence, medical director of the Wayne County Health Department.

"There are a lot of fears, misinformation and misconceptions, and sometimes the fear of AIDS is worse than

the disease itself," he said. "It's our belief that the best thing we can do is to educate people about what the facts are."

Such fiction includes the idea that AIDS can be transmitted through casual contact, such as shaking hands or sneezing. Also false is the idea that AIDS is transmitted through respiratory droplets, saliva, tears or sweat. Thomas Neblett of Farmington Hills, an independent consultant/lecturer, has spoken on the disease to public schools and clubs. One teacher told him she was concerned about catching AIDS when she came in contact with a

student's tears while comforting the child, he said. "I've run into that attitude quite a bit," said Neblett, who was director of microbiology at Henry Ford Hospital for 22 years. "Everyone's concerned. There's no cure for it. Everyone's scared."

IT HELPS to put the subject in perspective, Lawrence said. "The chances of getting AIDS are less than one in a million," he said. "That may or may not reassure a lot of people. The chance of getting struck by

lightning is one in 600,000. The chance of being killed in an auto accident is one in 5,000, or in a homicide, one in 10,000."

County health representatives are available to speak on the subject. Neblett and three other persons have formed American Health Information, a non-profit group that offers lectures, workshops and materials on health subjects.

Neblett has been trying to interest Oakland County school systems in his services, so far without success, he said.

Neblett is in the process of writing "Germ of Endearment," a book on sexually transmitted diseases. One chapter is about AIDS.

"I would like to see everyone have a basic knowledge," he said. "People need to have concern but not panic. Knowledge is power."

THE FEDERAL Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that most schoolchildren with AIDS should be allowed to attend school, but that each case be reviewed individually.

Exceptions are youngsters with be-

havior problems (who bite and scratch, for example), certain medical conditions or difficulties controlling body fluids.

The CDC offers the following guidelines for all ages to prevent AIDS:

- The disease is transmitted through semen and blood. Avoid sexual contact with high-risk persons (see below), more than one partner or persons having multiple partners.
- Persons in the high-risk groups shouldn't donate blood.
- Don't use or abuse intravenous drugs. Don't share needles or syringes.

chials, university-level medical personnel, parents, lawyers and others. "We have a good cross-representation," Jubb said. "The schools have to live with these, so we have local people and districts represented."

AIDS attacks the body's immune system, making it unable to fight the disease. Chronic infections affecting individuals with AIDS include a form of pneumonia, infections to the esophagus and mouth area, herpes infections, an infection similar to tuberculosis and a form of skin cancer, causing bruise-like lesions on the body.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48034.

BUILDERS HONORED

The Farmington area was well represented when the building industry honored its most outstanding performers at the Builders Association of Michigan (BASM) annual dinner Nov. 30 in Troy.

Joseph Slavik, a BASM past president and a builder for 39 years, was one of two Hall of Fame inductees. The Orchard Lake resident is owner of the Slavik Co. in Farmington Hills.

He is a lifetime national director of the National Association of Home Builders and past president of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit.

Louisa Fowler, president of the Accent Marketing Services and Accent Building Co., was honored as saleswoman of the year.

A licensed real estate broker since 1967, the Livonia resident has accounted for \$6 million in home sales this year, mostly in the Farmington and Lake Orion areas.

He is a member of the Western Oakland County Board of Realtors and served as 1985 chairman of the Building Association Sales and Marketing Council.

NEW IN TOWN

Gift Baskets featuring the best of Michigan's gourmet and artisan products. That's the specialty of the Basket Boutique, 30106 Fox Grove, Farmington Hills. The telephone number is 628-9929.

The four-month-old boutique is operated by Pat Hill, Pat Mattson and Marsha Specycky. The three women offer baskets of all sizes and prices for all occasions.

The handwoven wicker holiday baskets contain a combination of seasonal gift items and year-round treats wrapped in holiday ribbon. The products accent Michigan.

Best of Michigan baskets, also wrapped in ribbon, are filled with a variety of foods and crafts and colorful information that help play up Michigan.

Custom orders with a Michigan theme are accepted. Among the Michigan products spotlighted are DeKlamp's Wooden Shoes Ornament, Gwen Frolic's Black-Print Note Cards, Downey's Kettle-Cooked Potato Chips, Cadillac Coffee Co.'s Columbian Blend Coffee, and "I Love Michigan" Coffee Mug. A Michigan-shaped cookie cutter and the Michigan Cooking cookbook.

WINS GOLD AWARD

Chris Brown, new vehicle salesman for Town and Country Dodge, Farmington, earned the Gold Award, the highest level of achievement in Dodge's Sales Professionals Club.

The Farmington Hills resident earned the recognition for individual performance in selling Dodge vehicles. Specially designed incentives and awards are

provided for product knowledge and sales achievement at three performance levels — Bronze, Silver and Gold. Membership in each level is determined by points earned for sales of new cars and trucks.

The program continues throughout the 1986 model sales year. The top 50 Dodge retail sales personnel will win a free trip to a three-day national sales conference.

TOPS IN SALES

Robert Newman, district manager in Farmington Hills for the Franklin Life Insurance Co., Springfield, Ill., qualified for one of the company's top sales awards.

Newman qualified for membership in Franklin's \$2/100 Million Club, comprising a select group of company associates who sell \$2 million of life insurance protection within 100 consecutive calendar days.

A feature story concerning Newman's life industry achievements is scheduled to be published in Franklin's "Field," the company's national magazine.

HEALTH CARE COSTS

While the rise in health care has slowed, it's estimated the total national health expenditures will be as high as \$1 trillion in 1993.

According to an Small Business Administration (SBA) report, small businesses have initiated several measures to contain health care costs. Some small firms have increased their employees' share of costs.

Others are controlling costs by joining coalitions that can serve as mechanisms for small firms to urge policymakers, insurers and health care providers to keep costs down. Coalitions can also help employers obtain and share information.

Some small firms join an association, a local chamber of commerce or a multiple employer trust to pool health risks and thereby cut costs by spreading risks and administrative costs.

For example, the Council of Smaller Enterprises in Cleveland guarantees members a per employee health insurance rate that's less than the available market rate. The council said the rate differential can be expected to increase in an employer's second and third year of membership.

GAINS SCHOLARSHIP

Three Farmington Hills residents — Susan Clements, Olivia Scott and Edwin Griffin — each have won a Wesley Berry Flowers 40th Anniversary Scholarship.

The awards were the result of performance in a professional floral design course, conducted by the Professional Florists' Institute.

HE'S PROMOTED

Ruth Chittick was promoted to cold drink division manager of the Ferndale Distribution Center at Coca-Cola Bottlers of Detroit.

The Farmington Hills resident is responsible for all cold drink functions at the four Coke distribution centers, the placing and serving of vending equipment, and pre-mix sales and special events for the company's six-county marketing area. She previously worked for the Pepsi Cola Bottling Group.

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FITNESS AND TENNIS EQUIPMENT

Stock up on fitness equipment. You'll find bicycles, rowers, total gyms, weight sets, weight benches and more. Reg. \$149.95 to \$785, sale \$93.97 to \$471. Fitness equipment is at all metro Detroit stores plus Ann Arbor, but not all styles are at all stores. Quantities are limited.

ALL racquetball rackets and accessories are 40% off, too. Reg. 3.95 to \$4.95, sale 2.37 to \$3.17. All tennis rackets will take a temporary price drop. Reg. \$50 to \$265, sale \$36 to \$150. Not all styles are in all stores, and quantities are limited. Tennis and racquetball rackets only at Northland, Eastland, Summit Plaza, Westland, Oakland and Southland.

1000 units in Sporting Goods. Sale ends January 2.

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