

OU offers students substance-free dorm

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Federal Judge Bernard Friedman commends Oakland University for establishing a substance-free dormitory and wishes other universities — specifically Michigan State and the state's private institutions — would follow suit.

Oakland University actually surpassed our expectations," Friedman said this week, after learning that OU will convert Anibal House into a drug-free, alcohol-free dormitory this fall.

The conversion was approved by the OU board of trustees last week at a cost of about \$30,000.

"We ask universities to allow students to choose a roommate who doesn't drink," Friedman said. "Making an entire dorm substance-free is a positive step."

Friedman, a resident of West Bloomfield, is a leader of a group of Oakland County parents advocating substance-free living quarters at all state and private colleges.

STUDENTS SHOULD have the option, the group insists, of selecting living arrangements in which alcohol, drugs or tobacco are not used.

The group had success in 1989, but did not achieve one of its goals — legislation to compel universities and colleges to offer substance-free living quarters to all students. Still 13 of 15 public colleges allowed students to choose a roommate who didn't drink. And more than 1,500 students at OU, Eastern and U-M opted for that choice.

"Some colleges — specifically the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan — were cooperative and began offering substance-free rooming voluntarily," said Friedman. "But others have stubbornly resisted."

OU's conversion of Anibal House to a substance-free dormitory is an extension of its commitment to healthy lifestyles, explained David E. Herman, dean of students.

Students who choose to live there will be required to sign contracts they will abstain from alcohol, drugs

and tobacco at the dormitory.

The dorm, which holds about 85 students, will also house weight and aerobic facilities and health assessment programs affiliated with the OU School of Nursing and Health Enhancement Institute.

STUDENTS WHO LIVE in other dormitories or off-campus will also be able to participate in health assessment and wellness programs, he said. All students are exposed to alcohol and drug education programs, Herman continued.

They also have access to an alcohol assessment program to determine if individual students are problem drinkers or potential problem drinkers.

The overall goal, said Herman, is to encourage students to develop healthy lifestyles and habits that will carry over into other aspects of their lives.

Anibal House is named after Benjamin H. Anibal, the late chief engineer for Pontiac Motors who retired in 1947.

Anti-tax rally Headlee proposal strips assessments

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The latest Richard Headlee petition drive is aimed at reducing rising property assessments.

"It was written by taxpayers for taxpayers," Headlee, 59, told an anti-assessment rally on the State Capitol steps last week.

Headlee is chairman of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co.,

1982 Republican candidate for governor and chairman of the 1978 drive that led to the Headlee amendment to the state constitution.

"This thing is going like wild-fire," added Bill McMaster, who heads a public relations firm in Bloomfield Township and is co-chair of Taxpayers United for Assessment Cuts.

UNLIKE THE 1978 state consti-

tutional amendment that bears Headlee's name, the new effort is targeted at three changes in state law.

Taxpayers United wants to roll back double-digit valuations with local assessors, using a controversial state manual, have imposed on homes for property tax purposes particularly in the growth suburbs of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland and western Wayne counties.

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