

U-M drug survey gets mixed reaction in schools

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

University of Michigan researchers are waving warning flags because a new survey they conducted says eighth-graders did more drugs in 1992 than 1991.

And local drug educators have varying reactions. The annual survey, conducted since 1976 and paid for by the federal government, polls kids nationwide in eighth, 10th and 12th grades on their use of legal and illegal drugs.

The researchers are sounding the alarm because the 1992 results show a small increase in the number of eighth-graders who say they've used recreational drugs.

The largest increase for use of an illegal substance within a 30-day period is in eighth-graders who say they've smoked marijuana. In the 1991 survey, 3.2 percent said they smoked reefer in the

past month. That figure rose to 3.7 percent in the 1992 survey. Increased eighth-grade use of other drugs also rose in the survey, but by no more than 1.2 percent in any one case.

The most popular drug in all cases (eighth, 10th and 12th grades) is still alcohol, overwhelmingly. A little more than 26 percent of eighth-graders said they drank alcohol at least once in the past month, up 1 percent from 1991.

Smoking on rise

Cigarette smoking also increased, with 15.5 percent of eighth-graders saying they smoked at least one cigarette in the last month, up from 14.3 percent the year before.

Researchers are particularly concerned about inhalants, stuff like airplane glue and gasoline which can be smelled to get high.

Eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders all reported higher use of inhalants than any other category besides cigarettes and alcohol. 4.7 percent of eighth-graders said they used inhalants at least once in the last month, along with 2.7 percent of 10th-graders and 2.3 percent of 12th-graders.

In Rochester schools, where substance abuse programs have been eliminated in middle and elementary schools, a Western Michigan University study on drug use was conducted in 1991, said Betty Crowder, health and substance abuse coordinator.

That survey suggested that Rochester students were above the national average in drug use. No survey was conducted this year or last.

Crowder said it's "scary" to see the use of LSD and inhalants rise as the U-M survey says to indicate, but "the drugs that affect

our kids are alcohol and tobacco."

U-M researchers report, however, that alcohol use has declined among high school seniors since 1979, when 88.1 percent of those polled said they drank some alcohol within a one-year period. In the latest survey, 76.8 percent answered yes to that question.

In fact, the use of all drugs, legal and illegal, has dropped since the U-M survey began measuring them, with the exception of inhalants.

Dave Lohrmann, the director of

curriculum for Troy schools, said surveys conducted by his school district in 1987 and 1991 showed declines in student use of almost everything.

Could be a blip

Lohrmann said he respects the U-M study, but the increases in eighth-grade drug use is "real miniscule" and could easily be "a blip" in an overall decline.

"The vast majority of students are not using cigarettes, cocaine, inhalants (and other stuff) at all"

he said. "Illicit drug use has declined significantly."

Don Cowan, the director of student services in Farmington schools, said his district is still waiting for results from a Western Michigan University survey recently completed in Farmington schools.

He expects it will show that Farmington kids use about the same amount of drugs as kids nationally. "I don't think there's any reason to feel we're any different."

Free career counseling at OCC

Oakland Community College has scheduled a series of free "transition seminars" beginning in May.

The five-session seminars are supported to offer support, direction, educational guidance and

career planning advice to people thinking about their futures.

The seminars are offered at four OCC campuses:

- Auburn Hills: beginning 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 17.
- Highland Lake: beginning

9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19.

■ Orchard Ridge: beginning 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 19.

■ Royal Oak: beginning 9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19.

Call Michelle Casanova to register at 340-6802.

Orchard Mall Home & Garden Show

Friday, April 23 - May 2


- Heat 'n Sweep of Plymouth
- Duraclean By Maryann
- T.J. Ceramic Tile Sales
- Mirror Magic
- Jimmies Rustics
- Master Sprinkler

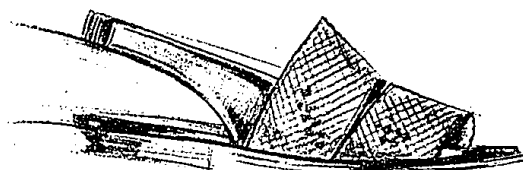
- NBD Bank, N.A.
- Cabinet Magic
- Acoustic Technologies Spas
- Wilcox Bros. Irrigation
- Patio Enclosures, Inc.
- Painting By Mort




WEST BLOOMFIELD • MICHIGAN
Westfield Mall • North of Maple
851-7727

Monday - Wednesday 10-6, Thursday & Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 12-5

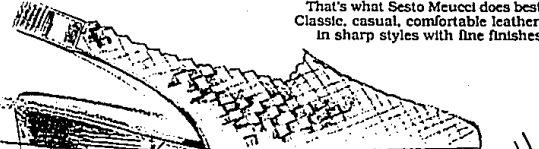


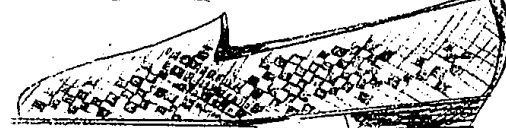


Weaving what feels good!



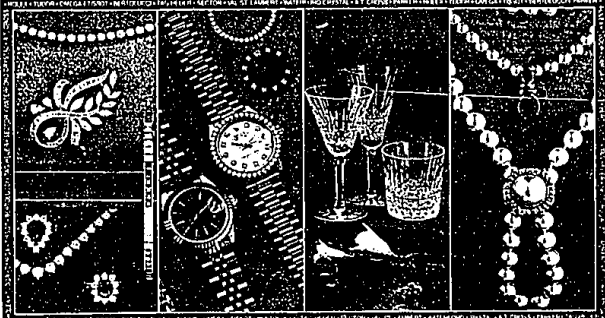
That's what Sesto Meucci does best. Classic, casual, comfortable leathers in sharp styles with fine finishes.





Sizes 4 to 12 in the easy going collection.

SOMERSET COLLECTION (637-3050) also ST. LOUIS, ATLANTA, DALLAS, HOUSTON, SAN ANTONIO.



In our 68th year, Greenstone's continues the tradition of quality with an outstanding collection of

FOR THE FINEST IN GIFT GIVING

fine jewelry, Rolex, Omega and other select watches, an extensive in-stock selection of Waterford Crystal, and Superb Cultured Pearls: As always, we also feature:

- Expert Watch and Jewelry Repair
- Redesign and Insurance Appraisals.
- G.I.A. Certified diamond grading.
- Bridal Registry
- Corporate Gift Programs

GREENSTONE'S
CREATORS OF FINE JEWELRY SINCE 1925.

528 North Woodward • Birmingham, MI • 4 Blocks north of Maple • 313-642-2650

Stiffel

Spring SAVINGS



Traditional, Elegant. Especially appropriate in lending a graceful touch to any season. Affordably available at Brose, we care about your home.

Prices start at **\$99⁹⁵** While supplies last.

A Stiffel lamp. The heart of a well-loved room.

Lighting Fixtures For Every Decor • Wiring Supplies and Light Bulbs

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD
LYONNA, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211