

Don't blame mosquito for hangover

By CAROL HASKIN

Did you wake up with a stiff neck, headache, slightly muddled senses, numbness and an inability to speak or move normally?

According to Oakland County Health Department Official Edward O'Rourke, the cause of these symptoms is more likely to be a rough weekend than a mosquito.

"Newspapers are getting hot on this encephalitis business, and it isn't warranted," O'Rourke complained of the sudden notoriety the St. Louis strain of mosquito-borne encephalitis has gained in recent weeks.

"Michigan is the safest state for humans as far as mosquito-borne diseases are concerned," O'Rourke said. While cases of St. Louis encephalitis have surfaced in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, he said there has never been a case of mosquito-borne encephalitis in Michigan that he can remember.

THE CASES REPORTED from Huron Hospital, O'Rourke said, did not originate from mosquito bites but were the secondary effect of a virus. He explained that a person with mumps or measles can develop encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain tissue, as a result of the primary disease.

In 1974 there were 19 cases of encephalitis in Oakland County and this year there are likely to be some too, but none of them mosquito-borne, O'Rourke said.

Dr. Bernard Bercu, Bloomfield Township resident and appointed chief of the division of medicine at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, said although the hospital has had cases that could be St. Louis encephalitis, test results which could support the diagnosis have not yet been received.

WHILE PREVIOUS reports have listed a stiff neck as the first tip-off as to a possible encephalitis case, Bercu said most people get a very mild form of the disease with symptoms limited to a slight fever and a headache.

"Most of us would feel like we have the flu," he said. "In general only very young children and the elderly prove to have severe symptoms."

All stiff neck cases eventually wind up in the hospital, Bercu said, although there is no specific treatment for encephalitis. Only the symptoms can be treated.

Despite media coverage of the disease, Bercu said St. Joseph's has had no flood of patients complaining of the symptoms.

"It's been a very slight scare," he said. "We haven't really seen any panic. No one is excited or worried."

LUCKILY THE mosquitoes in Mich-

igan are healthy because this year the state is filled with them.

"It's been a bumper crop year for mosquitoes as we predicted it would be," O'Rourke said.

He attributed the huge "mosquito" population to snow staying on the ground a long time in the spring, followed by warm, wet weather. The rain at the end of August rounded out a perfect season for mosquito breeding.

The people in Oakland County will have to endure the buzzes and bites because the county will not spray unless the bugs become a public health problem, which is not likely.

"It's a nuisance, that's all it is," O'Rourke said. "And I mean a nuisance."

Hearing Monday

Detroit threatens parks authority

By TIM RICHARD

Suburbanites seem happy with the Huron-Clinton metroparks, but Detroiters have complaints about access to the nine units in the five-county system.

Those contrasting themes emerged last week as a State House of Representatives special committee conducted an investigation into the structure and operations of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) with a public hearing for suburban Wayne County in Westland.

The lawmakers will hold their final hearing in a series of four Monday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Oakland County Commissioners auditorium in Pontiac. The panel is chaired by Rep. Warren Goemaere (R-Roseville) and includes Rep. W.V. (Sandy) Brotherton (R-Farmington).

ONE ISSUE is House Bill 4167 introduced by Rep. Morris Hood (D-Detroit) to restructure the HCMA board. At present, the board has five members, one appointed by each of the county boards of commissioners.

along with two appointed by the governor.

Hood's bill would give the City of Detroit three members, suburban Wayne County two, Oakland County three, and Washtenaw and Livingston counties one each, for a total of 12.

Hood's bill would also require HCMA to develop at least one metropark within Detroit's city limits.

On this point, David Laidlaw, executive director of HCMA, said his agency had made two specific proposals to operate major parts of Detroit's Belle Isle, but Mayor Coleman Young's administration had rejected both, insisting instead that HCMA turn over part of its revenues to Detroit. The HCMA board refused that alternative as a matter of policy.

IN DEFENSE of HCMA's operations, William Kreger, board chairman, told the committee HCMA board and staff members corresponded and talked to thousands of persons; sent naturalists to speak in 300 schools during the last year; worked with local cities and townships; and responded to all inquiries and complaints from the governor and legislature.

Diabetes Foundation plans general meeting

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation will hold a public meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 25) at Frost Middle School, Nine Mile and Scotia in Oak Park.

The program will include a talk by Dr. Piero Foa, head of diabetic research at Detroit Sinai Hospital. He will report on his latest progress in research and answer questions.

The foundation, headquartered in Troy, has announced awards of \$656,790 to diabetes research for fiscal year 1975-76, bringing its cumulative research support to more than \$1 million in two years.

The Michigan chapter contributed \$75,000. Funding will go to 19 research projects and six postdoctoral fellowships. Three other projects have been approved and will be funded if the foundation raises sufficient funds before the end of the fiscal year.

The Michigan chapter also reported collection of \$18,000 in its first "Dollars for Diabetes" March in May.

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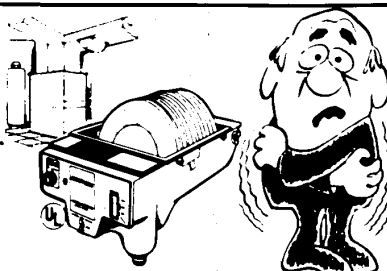
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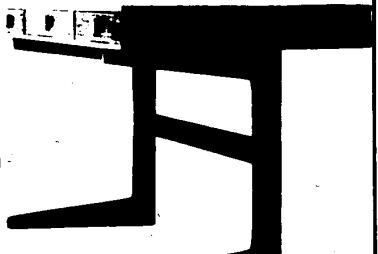
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