

## AIDS awareness a must in the '90's

By Flavia Testa

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a disease that everyone should be aware of in the 1990's. It has the potential to touch everyone in our society and everyone in a community. Last Thursday, a group of students from the OAC Business Administration class at Georgetown District High School organized an AIDS assembly for roughly 400 attending students. They invited, as guest speaker, former G.D.H.S. graduate, Dr. Leonard Landry. Landry is a general practitioner from Milton. He addressed the students, gave them some information about the disease and answered questions. The OAC students hoped to raise the awareness of AIDS among the student population. "It is becoming a bigger issue in the society", said Lindsey Smith, one of the organizing students.

Landry's seminar touched on the medical point of view, regarding AIDS. It gave the students a better look at how AIDS and the HIV virus affect our bodies and our lives. His talk was based on a survey the Business Administration handed out to students between the ages of 13 - 19. Some of the questions were: Do you know the differ-

ence between AIDS and the HIV virus? Where did you get the information about the disease? Surprisingly, the survey showed most responses came from the younger students (ages 13-15).

The seminar explained the difference between AIDS and the HIV virus, it explained some of the symptoms of AIDS, how you get it and how you can avoid it. It gave American and Canadian statistics about how many people have contracted AIDS. In Halton Region alone, it has been confirmed that 22 people, under the age of 25, are infected with the HIV virus. One hundred and thirty-six people have been confirmed since 1986.

The four major causes of AIDS are sexual intercourse, intravenous drug use, blood transfusions (although now rare) and at the time of birth. Landry stressed you get the virus by a direct exchange of bodily fluids; in other words, the sickness is not spread through air or water, or by sharing things (e.g., phone glass, toilet) with a person who has AIDS.

It seems that people are beginning to understand AIDS and that it can indeed affect them. The rate of rise has decreased in the homosexual population because they are

practising safer sex.

There are programs that have started in Ontario that promote safer sex practices so people do not spread AIDS. In Toronto, a program set up in 1989 started dispensing clean needles for I.V. drug users. The Ministry of Health spent \$800,000 a year to screen blood for blood transfusions.

Landry helped students understand the medical point of view about AIDS, and he provided a little more insight on this devastating disease.

Although a definite cure for AIDS and HIV virus has not yet been found, it is possible that one day a medical breakthrough will occur. Use condoms if you are having sexual intercourse, use clean needles if you have an addiction problem and most of all, get educated.

There has to be more awareness of the causes. People have to know the causes, the symptoms, the treatments and safety practices. This is something that every individual should know about since it has become part of our era.

## GDHS may cut classes

By Bryn Davies

The government's recently announced cutbacks to education are going to be felt at Georgetown District High School.

Last week the Ministry of Education informed us it was amending its formula for funding and staffing our schools.

School systems get grants based upon the number of full-time students in attendance. Until this year, a full-time student was one who took 151 minutes per semester (i.e. two classes per semester). Under the new definition, in order to be considered full-time, a student must be in three classes per semester (210 minutes).

Since there are many students who will now be counted as part-time instead of full-time, the school system will receive less government support.

It is certain the ration of classes to students will go down. Hence, there will be fewer classes than we originally planned for, and many classes will be larger than normal. Many more classes will be filled more quickly, leaving students with less flexibility to change or add courses later on. Some courses may have to be canceled.

This was explained to senior stu-

dents in an assembly on Friday, followed up by a letter to parents.

It was also explained that only full-time students will be eligible to participate in school teams and other forms of co-curricular activities.

According to many of our graduates, this may be a blessing in disguise. Universities strongly advise OAC students to take a three courses per semester in preparation for the extremely heavy workload of post-secondary education.

Students have been advised to select additional courses now before the school locks in its timetable for next year.

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Here is a woman who has lost her head, She's quiet now - because she's dead!

This explanatory verse often is seen on pubs carrying the name of "The Quiet Woman", a popular pub name which occurs in many parts of England. Doubtless, the sign caused many a man to smirk in centuries past, but the joke has long since lost its humour. It is believed to date back to the execution of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's second wife, in 1536.

Believe it or not, one of the best and most enjoyable means of studying England's history, local customs and topography, is to visit the village inn. The public house is an institution which has developed over many centuries, from the Saxon period when the word "inn" meant a public room. In Roman times, a cluster of ivy leaves or a grapevine was placed outside a house selling wine and later, a checker-board would indicate if there was a room for playing chess and other games. Since then, some of the momentous events in England's past have taken place within the walls of public houses and many famous and infamous people have frequented them. The diversity of pub names is great - The Live and Let Live, The Frog and Nightgown, The Green Man and French Horn, The Surprise, The Poacher's Pocket, The Gate Hangs High are just a few. Drop in for a pint and if you're lucky, someone may just be able to tell you how their pub got its name!

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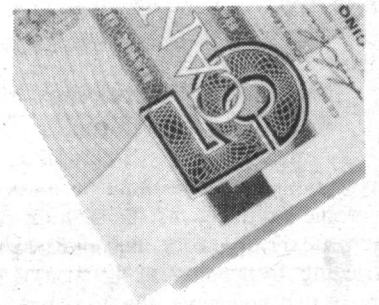
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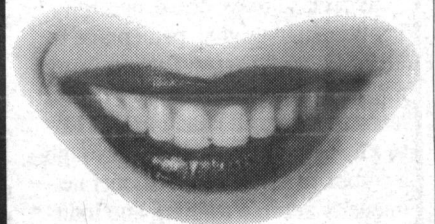
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