

## AIDS EDUCATION IN THE LEEDS AND GRENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Aids Education is Mandatory

Earlier this year the Ministry of Education made AIDS education a compulsory part of school board curricula.

It is a health issue of global proportions which is creating fear and increasing devastation in modern society. AIDS has not yet reached epidemic proportions in Canada but that potential exists.

As of September 1987, there are 1233 cases of AIDS reported, with 254 or 21% of cases in the age range of 20-29, and 552 or 45% of cases in the age range of 30-39. Four hundred and forty-nine of the 1,233 are found in Ontario. For that reason Sean Conway, the former Minister of Education, said in his statement to school boards,

"We must give young people the information and skills required to make responsible decisions about health matters so that they can avoid being infected by the virus that causes AIDS. If we act now, if we teach our children to make responsible decisions, we will save lives."

AIDS education will be presented in this Board as an important part of the teaching of sexuality in the total Health and Values Education programs. As part of Values Education and decision making it will be introduced cautiously and with sensitivity, depending upon the level of maturity in each class.

Let there be no mistake, we must teach about AIDS. The 'how' is at our discretion.

Education about AIDS will begin at Grade 7 and 8 and be part of various programs to the O.A.C. level (formerly Grade 13).

#### Grades 7 and 8

AIDS Education will be incorporated primarily into Health Education in the following sections of that curriculum:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Family Life
- Social Relationships
- Feelings and Values
- Individuality

The material in the Aids Education program

will be selectively presented in keeping with the other issues in the above topics. Emphasis will be placed upon personal relationships, feelings about and respect for self and others, and moral and personal decision making. The principal and staff will ultimately determine the appropriate levels of the AIDS education program in his/her school.

#### Grades 9 - O.A.C.

AIDS education in the secondary schools has been part of the Health and Physical Education program for several years. It will be presented at all levels in the context of social relationships, feelings and values, and moral and personal decision making.

#### Role of Health Unit

The Health Unit is charged to deal with public health matters and does an excellent job. Their clinical and impartial approach to some very sensitive health issues may cause concern among some members of the community.

The nurses see the whole spectrum of society and are prepared to address health issues which we (society) mostly ignore or hope will go away.

We, in education, need the Health Unit nurses to:

1. provide medical and clinical expertise,
2. provide updated statistics on health issues such as AIDS and other health-related problems,
3. become a familiar contact for students who wish to discuss concerns about AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and health concerns, and
4. be available for consultation in case of a specific AIDS case.

#### Concerns About Cards and Condoms

In recent press reports, issues were raised about students being handed out potentially offensive cards and given condoms. To address some of the misinformation created, the following statements are made:

1. AIDS education will be taught from Grade 7 to O.A.C. levels and will follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.

2. The Health Unit will be involved in the teaching of AIDS because of their expertise.
3. The Principal and teachers will decide what content is appropriate for their respective grade levels and community.
4. All teachers in Grades 7 and 8, who are involved, will receive in-service training before teaching about AIDS.
5. The Counties School Committee will receive a preview of what is contained in the curriculum to be taught.
6. The cards, as mentioned in the media, were never approved by the Executive Council of the Board or intended to be used in the schools.
7. Condoms will not be distributed to the students by this Board but may form part of a lesson on methods of prevention.

It should be stated clearly that in the AIDS education program, personal values and decision making are predominant because in the end "abstinence from sexual relations" is the only sure prevention of the AIDS disease.

## Partners in Success To Be offered again in 1988

Calling all farm Couples! PARTNERS IN SUCCESS - weekend seminars for farm couples are again being sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Four seminars (three English and one French) will be held during February at various locations across Ontario. Aside from the opportunity to get away from work and family responsibilities for a mini-vacation, this weekend program offers a couple the opportunity to gain new perspectives into their own personal situations. Workshops will be offered in communications, goal setting, confidence building and dealing with change. The entire weekend package, including meals and two nights' accomodation, is yours for only \$175.00 per couple. For further details and to obtain an application form, contact your nearest office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

STUDIO PORTRAITS  
WEDDINGS  
INSTANT PASSPORT & IDENTIFICATION PHOTOS



**Miller Photography and Framing**  
Elgin, Ontario, K0G-1E0  
(623)359-5323

CUSTOM DO-IT-YOURSELF  
AND  
READY-MADE FRAMES



**PAUL'S BARBER SHOP**  
Main Street, Elgin

Indoor Yard Sale  
New & Used Articles

Come In & Browse  
Open Daily-8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.,  
Fri. Night till 9 p.m.  
Closed Sundays

**A & J HENNESSY**  
INCOME TAX and BOOKKEEPING SERVICE  
\* Personal \* Farm \* Business

Full Tax Audit Representation  
Customized Computerized Bookkeeping  
"SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS;  
PEOPLE ARE OUR CONCERN"

In Carleton Place Res.: 257-5733  
R.R. 2, Portland 283-6728

JANE MONAGHAN, B.A., LL.B.  
Barrister and Solicitor

P.O. BOX 190  
ELGIN, ONTARIO  
K0G 1E0

TELEPHONE  
(613) 359-5108

COMING SOON  
"MOSTLY MYSTERIES"

Used Books  
Bought & Sold

D. McManus  
272-2183