

## Michigan ROUNDUP

....The House has approved a bill that makes ethnic intimidation a felony. Persons convicted of bias-motivated crimes against minorities, homosexuals, and handicappers would be subject to two-year sentences, a \$2,000 fine, and suit filed by the right of the victim for triple the amount normally awarded for emotional damages. Eleven other states have passed similar legislation.

....Eleven bills to raise \$115 million for road and bridge improvements are being considered in House and Senate committees. Proposed fee hikes include driver's licenses, from \$7.50 to \$15; title applications and transfers, from \$2 to \$10; a 15 percent increase for commercial license plates; and a new \$5 car registration service fee. The increased fees were proposed as alternative ways to generate revenue for road and bridge repair following Governor Blanchard's refusal to approve a gasoline tax increase.

....The House unexpectedly defeated SB 135, which would have raised the speed limit to 65 mph on rural interstate freeways and stiffened penalties for violators. Debate centered on the increased fines and points. No new vote on the bill is planned. Senate Bill 163, also to raise the speed limit, is in conference committee, but work on it stalled in anticipation of passage of SB 135. With the failure of SB 135, what will happen next on the speed limit is uncertain.

....The Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) has issued a new set of policies to stop the spread of AIDS. These include giving courts the authority to isolate carriers who are unwilling to stop behavior that spreads the disease; carriers would be confined in a health care facility until they express a desire to stop activities that put others at risk. The MDPH also recommends that health care providers relay positive AIDS test results to a person known to have shared a needle or had sexual contact with the infected person. "Our job is to do what we can to interrupt the transmission of AIDS," said Jean Chabut, chief of the MDPH Center for Health Promotion, in the Grand Rapids Press.

....A U.S. General Accounting Office report released in September states that more than one-third of federally certified nursing homes in the nation repeatedly violated important resident care standards over a four-year period. The office examined compliance reports of 8,298 nursing homes. The report states that "repeated noncompliance with nursing home requirements is widespread," and recommends that Congress strengthen enforcement of federal standards.

....A recent Department of Education report cited in the Grand Rapids Press contends that a serious teacher shortage during the next several years is unlikely; a shortage of school administrators will be "the real crisis," according to C. Danford Austin, a department chief and author of the report. A survey of the retirement plans of public school teachers and administrators across the state reveals that 27 percent of the teachers and 60 percent of the administrators are likely to retire by 1991.