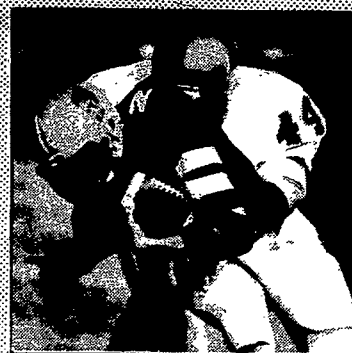




Love for life

This week's Courier-Journal features the annual Respect Life supplement marking Respect Life Sunday, October 4. The supplement begins after page 10.



Short on surprises

With the exception of the grid game between Notre Dame and Chenango Forks, things went pretty much as expected in high school football last weekend. See page 16.

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Coalition to oppose UR investment plan

By Teresa A. Parsons

Staff and board members of the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry, along with groups of students, union members, and peace-and-justice advocates, have formed a coalition to oppose the University of Rochester's recent decision to begin investing in companies that do business in South Africa.

The Ad Hoc Coalition Against Investment in Apartheid, introduced at a press conference on the university's campus Friday, Sept. 25, condemned the university's action as "offensive to the community as a whole" and "damaging to the university's relationship with the black community in particular."

In addition to the Genesee Valley office, members of the coalition include: the university's Black Student Union, the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Rochester Committee for Justice in Southern Africa, Metroact, and the All People's Congress.

They oppose the university's policy because South Africa's white-run government continues to resist world-wide pressure to abandon its policy of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

"So far, we have agreed to ask the (university) trustees for a meeting," said Kenneth T. Maher, Genesee Valley justice and peace director. "We hope to persuade the Board of Trustees to change its decision. As Catholics, we believe in the conversion process, not violent revolution."

The controversy stems from university officials' decision last year to redirect investment policy. Previously, the university's endowment fund was managed largely by the university's own investment office, and was concentrated in high-technology firms that were generally too small to have any dealings in South Africa.

In an effort to compensate for diminishing investment income, the university hired several outside management firms. Those firms, in turn, diversified the university's holdings and invested in multinational companies, some of which do business in South Africa.

In May, 1987, the university's Board of Trustees adopted four investment guidelines recommended by a group of students, faculty members, alumni and trustees who are known as the Committee on Investing and Ethical Considerations. The guidelines stated that the university would: invest only in domestic corporations that were making progress or making good progress according to ratings developed by the Rev. Leon Sullivan to measure companies' attempts to move away from apartheid; analyze restrictions on investments in foreign securities in 1987/88; join the consortium of college and university endowments organized to address the South Africa issue; consider other actions in regard to South Africa "which are in keeping with the university's primary mission and beyond actions relating to its investment holdings."

Since then, however, the Rev. Sullivan has abandoned his support for his rating system, known as the Sullivan Principles, and has called for withdrawal of corporate investments in South Africa.

University President G. Dennis O'Brien and the Board of Trustees have also since asked the ethics committee to resume its deliberations "with great urgency," and to organize "broad community discussion" of the investment issue.

O'Brien has also called for a formal period of assessment, during which purchases of South-Africa-related stocks would be halted. The university's trustees are scheduled to consider his proposal at a meeting on Friday, October 2.



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal
University of Rochester sophomore Earl Lewis leads other demonstrators in a chant protesting the university's investments in South Africa. About 300 demonstrators gathered outside Wilson Commons Saturday, Sept. 26, for a rally sponsored by the Black Student Union.

Catholic schools confront AIDS-related issues, requirements

By Teresa A. Parsons

Diocesan officials gratefully report that to date no Catholic elementary or secondary school administrator has had to grapple with the difficult issues raised by a student or teacher who has Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Nevertheless, the new school year has brought with it reminders that the disease continues to spread beyond the boundaries of what had been considered "high-risk" groups. The reminders come in the form of new AIDS education requirements passed by the New York State Board of Regents, and a new diocesan policy regarding students who have AIDS or carry the HTLV-III virus that causes AIDS.

As of Friday, September 18, all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools in New York state were formally required to begin offering students AIDS education as part of their regular health curriculum.

The requirements approved by the state Board of Regents stipulate that schools must provide students in kindergarten through grade 12 with accurate information about AIDS that is age-appropriate and consistent with community values, and that such education must stress

abstinence as the "most appropriate and effective premarital protection."

Although the requirement for AIDS instruction was effective immediately, Joseph W. McFigue, executive secretary of the New York State Council of Catholic School Administrators, speculated that schools would be allowed "appropriate lead time" to develop such a curriculum.

In fact, at their September 18 meeting, the Regents also considered a proposed AIDS-education curriculum which has been in the development stage for months. Contrary to what some initial reports indicated, however, the Regents have not mandated a specific curriculum for use in all New York state schools, according to McFigue.

"(The Regents) never had any intention of mandating an AIDS curriculum," he explained. "They are simply developing a resource for schools ... and no action has been taken on those guidelines except to send them back for further revision." A final draft of the guidelines is expected in October.

To date, few diocesan schools have moved to include AIDS education in their curricula. But for more than six months, the diocesan Di-

vision of Education has been sounding out a system-wide policy regarding the admission to Catholic schools of students with AIDS or AIDS-related complex, or those who carry the HTLV-III virus.

The policy's final version, which was distributed to principals and teachers shortly before school began this year, states simply that each case will be treated individually by the diocesan superintendent of schools, Brother Brian M. Walsh, CFC.

Brother Walsh stressed that the diocesan policy was pro-active rather than reactive. "It was a situation where we knew we needed a policy in place, because the disease is becoming more commonplace all the time," he said.

Rochester's new policy on students is a modified version of a similar policy developed by the Diocese of Albany's Board of Education. Albany's policy states that decisions in regard to either teachers or students with AIDS will be made on a case-by-case basis by the diocesan officials, including the board of education. During the 1986/87 school year, education officials there shared the results of their study and the policy with the members of a state-wide federation of Catholic school

principals.

Early last year, Brother Walsh began to solicit opinion on the Albany policy from the diocesan Board of Education, principals' associations, education division staff, and staff of the Division of Social Ministry, as well as several sex-education consultants.

Principals, in turn, were asked to consult parents and teachers on the issue. In April, members of the principals' federation approved a revised version of Albany's policy.

Rochester's Diocesan Board of Education, unlike Albany's, will not participate in deciding cases of individual students. Instead, the board voted its approval of the policy in general at their June meeting.

Board members did question whether the policy should, like Albany's, address the issues raised by the possibility of a teacher contracting AIDS. That aspect is one on which the division of Education and a subcommittee of the Diocesan Personnel Commission are currently working as part of an overall revision of diocesan personnel policies.

"The board was very pleased with the policy," said Joan Countryman, board president. **Continued on Page 3**