

CAMPUS ON L.I. GETS BIRTH-CURB GROUP

Information Circulated by
Students at Hofstra

By NATALIE JAFFE

A group of Hofstra University students have formed an organization—believed to be the first on an American campus—to circulate birth-control information.

Its temporary chairman, Douglas Wilcox, said last week that the club would hold two meetings a month with “qualified” speakers and films explaining contraceptive techniques and the dangers of overpopulation.

“We’re not going to teach morals,” the sophomore said,

“they should already know that.”

According to the Planned Parenthood Federation, the Hofstra group, called the Parents’ Aid Club, is the first such group to be established on a college campus as a regular extracurricular activity with the blessings of the administration and the student council.

“I think it’s a good thing for them to do,” Dean of Students Randall Hoffman said. “Students need this kind of information and don’t ordinarily get it—either at home or from us.”

The club was formed by about 15 students who have worked as volunteers for the Parents’ Aid Society, which was founded several years ago by William Baird to disseminate birth control information and devices without charge in poor neighborhoods.

Mr. Baird was cleared in November of charges that he violated a state law against the dissemination of such informa-

tion. The law was repealed in the last session of the Legislature, and Mr. Baird opened a clinic in Hempstead, L.I., where the students worked.

“Working with Baird,” Mr. Wilcox said, “we saw what the population explosion really means — how it keeps people in poverty. And then I began to think how ignorant the Hofstra kids are, too—just locker room conversations.”

Mr. Wilcox, 19 years old, comes from Port Jefferson Station, L. I., and lives in a fraternity house near Hofstra’s 12,000-student campus in Hempstead. He said the club had three purposes in mind.

One, he said, is to bring to the attention of students the various methods of contraception — “their advisability, relative reliability and how to get them.”

Mr. Wilcox said he concluded this information would be welcome because “just look at the

number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies among college girls.

“I don’t mean there’s anything special here,” he hastened to add.

The second purpose would be to encourage students to join in educational campaigns such as Mr. Baird’s, “going from door to door in poor sections, telling people about birth control,” Mr. Wilcox said.

Third, he said, “I’d like to show the college that we’re interested in this problem. If we do—and Baird has gotten capacity crowds here the times he’s talked—maybe the college would consider putting an elective course on family problems in the curriculum.”

Dean Hoffmann emphasized that the Parents’ Aid Club was not an affiliate of Mr. Baird’s and has no official relation with the Parents’ Aid Society. Mr. Baird is a Hofstra university, he said, and the club will be an independent campus group.