

Voices rise to confront drug crisis

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - April 23, 1996

Author/Byline: Peggy Kreimer, Post staff reporter

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One principal suggested bringing drug-sniffing dogs into schools. Teachers called for more parental responsibility. A mother wept as she begged for help, sobbing, "I just learned my son is smoking marijuana."

There were more questions than answers as the Kenton County School Board turned its meeting Monday night into a brainstorming session on drug problems.

Those questions begin the process of finding out what else the district can do to address drug use, Superintendent Neil Stiegelmeyer said. He and the school board initiated the discussion after statistics showed that the number of student expulsions for possession of marijuana has remained stubbornly steady at 14 over the past couple of years.

Stiegelmeyer called for school councils to put student drug use and drug enforcement on their agendas, and said parents and teachers should initiate discussions if they are not on the agenda. He called for parents and teachers and staff members to come up with new ideas.

"We need to continue talking. We need to continue doing things. I want to make sure we don't give up on children," Stiegelmeyer said. A survey of students at the district's three high schools and three middle schools last year showed 28 percent had used marijuana in the past 12 months. Stiegelmeyer doesn't think Kenton County schools are different from other Northern Kentucky districts, other than being more willingly to talk about it.

A Monday's meeting, Dave Yeager, the district's director of pupil personnel, discussed some of the programs in place in Kenton County schools now, including DARE programs run by the police departments, some of which are in jeopardy because of police funding cuts. Awareness and support programs for students and programs to help students make wise decisions have had their share of success, but the schools cannot make the difference alone. "I've been doing this for 25 years," Yeager said. "Why does (the peer drug rehabilitation program) Kids Helping Kids work? Because it takes commitment from the family. We cannot be there 24 hours a day. To take a kid off drugs and alcohol, that's what it takes."

Scott High School Principal Fred Bassett said he sees a lax attitude about drugs that goes beyond school walls.

"The prevalent idea in this society, especially among kids, is that marijuana is no big deal," Bassett said.

"They don't see much difference between marijuana and alcohol. It's become a casual thing."

He said students realize that school searches for drugs do involve little more than checking pockets and socks.

"The kids are getting more savvy. They're carrying the drugs in their underwear," Bassett said.

Simon Kenton High School teacher Paula Sheldon said teachers are reluctant to confront students about drug suspicions for fear of retaliation.

"You turn in a student and the next thing you know your car gets vandalized," Mrs. Sheldon said.

In Kenton County schools, possession of illegal drugs means automatic expulsion. But expulsion hasn't worked. "They know what the consequences are. But they just don't care," said School Board Member Susan Cook.

Simon Kenton Principal Mike Tolliver said students who are expelled suffer no real consequences. Most of them go to an alternative school.

"Most of the kids who were expelled last year are back without losing anything in terms of time and credits," he said. "From their point of view there is no consequence other than inconvenience." Tolliver suggested a more visible approach to enforcement.

When his school had a rash of thefts in the cafeteria this year, he installed a closed-circuit monitor with a video screen where the kids could see what the cameras where seeing. "We've had no problems since. Maybe we need to do something more visible - maybe we need to bring in drug-sniffing dogs and have searches."

Mike Leising, of Woodland Middle School, said expulsion can help some students. This year, a former student approached Leising.

"We had busted him for possession of marijuana," he said.

"He came to Woodland and said, 'Thanks Mr. Leising for kicking me out of school.' He managed to get his credits and came back. And he pulled out his TMC ID."

The student told Leising that drugs are still around, but: "I'm just able to say 'no.' "

Text of fax box follows

Here's help Drug Free Schools' Linda Verst suggests avenues of help for parents:

Ask help from school counselors and staff. No response? Ask again and again. Learn about the signs of drug abuse. Talk to other parents about concerns. Seek help. Counseling with sliding fee scales are available from Comprehensive Care and Catholic Social Service. Attend Al-Anon meetings to share strategies with other parents.

- Memo: Text of fax box follows article
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Dream trip spices up St. Luke East benefit

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - May 15, 1996

• Author/Byline: Alice Kennelly Roberts

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"A Spice of Summer" is the theme of the fund-raising dinner and fashion show to be given by the St. Luke Hospital East Auxiliary at 6 p.m. May 17 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Covington. Highlights of the evening will include a drawing for a \$1,000 Apple Dream Vacation, a Chinese auction, and door prizes. Fashions will be by Casual Corner in the Florence Mall. Barbara Gateley is chairwoman of the event, assisted by Mary Grosenbach, Ann Cashman, Nan Simms, Becky Parker and Kitty Pilger.

Tickets are \$35 each. Raffle tickets for the Dream Vacation are \$1 each or six for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Northern Kentucky Cancer Treatment Center.

For reservations and tickets, call Barbara Gateley at 441-5733, or the Volunteer Department at St. Luke East at 572-3166. Jessica Weiss is public relations specialist for the hospital. Golf scramble The Northern Kentucky Unit of the American Cancer Society will have its third annual Golf Championship for Breast Cancer Awareness, with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. May 21 at Summit Hills Country Club in Crestview Hills. A scramble format will be used, with four players to a team.

Registration fee is \$100 per golfer or \$400 per foursome, which includes greens fees, cart, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and prizes.

A raffle grand prize is a round-trip and three nights in Nassau, Bahamas, compliments of Delta Dream Vacations and Uniglobe Medallion Travel.

Lisa Cooney, TV news anchor for Channel 5, is honorary chairwoman.

Alice Sparks is event chairwoman. All proceeds go to breast cancer research and public education programs of the American Cancer Society.

To register or get more information, call 331-8887. Sorority luncheon Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will have a luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. May 18 at Town and Country Restaurant. Janet Willig, president, will preside.ill be held.

A Founder's Day program will be presented, with a "Memorial Moment" and recognition for those with 100 percent attendance. Club trip The Garden Department of Ft. Thomas Woman's Club will have a bus trip to Huber Farm in Indiana, leaving at 9 a.m. May 23 from the front entrance of the clubhouse. Cost is \$18 without lunch. For reservations, call Kathy Norris at 781-2556. Mrs. William Horst is publicity chairwoman.

New officers

Covington Art Club will have its final meeting of the year with a luncheon at noon May 20 at the Riverview Quality Hotel, I-75 and Fifth Street, Covington.

A board meeting will precede at 11 a.m. Installation of new officers will be held.

Mrs. Mary E. Marxen will present an inspirational musical program. Reservations are being taken by Mrs. William Bradley. Luncheon The Town Club of Cincinnati will have a luncheon, beginning with cocktails at 11 a.m. on May 16 at club headquarters, 448 Carew Tower, Cincinnati.

Speaker will be Chris Noll of "Kids Helping Kids," a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Mrs. William Gottschlich is chairwoman of the day. Hostesses are Mrs. Edward Mazza, Mrs. William Ackerman, Ms. Sam Altman, and Ms. Elizabeth Mauer.

Informal modeling of fashions will be provided by Beverly Barr. Mrs. William J. Deupree Jr., is chairwoman of In-House Fashion Shows.

Joyce Howe is Town Club "Artist of the Month." Janice Flanagan is publicity chairwoman. Dinsmore dinner "A Tropical Evening" will be the theme of a black tie-optional event to be hosted by the Dinsmore Homestead Foundation at 7 p.m. May 17 at the Triple Crown Country Club in Richwood.

Dinner, dancing, and an auction will be featured.

Committee members include Mary Sue Rudicill, Ruth Seligman-Doering, Sherrie Lou Noel, Sarah Blanken, Cindy Moore, Irene Patrick, and Stacey Seltman. Sponsors include The Bank of Kentucky; Belleview Sand and Gravel; Carlisle Construction; The SSK Co., LLC;

Chas. Seligman Distribution Co.; The Kentucky Post; and Doctors Baird, Shearer, Ruetman, Schneider, Gieske, Prichard, Goderwis, VonderBrink, and Littrell. Tickets are \$50 per person. For reservations, call the Dinsmore Foundation at 586-6117.

- Caption: The ""Spice of Summer" committee includes from left, Mary Grosenbach, Ann Cashman, Becky Parker, Nan Simms and Barbara Gateley.
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Viva Italia

Cincinnati Post, The (OH) (Published as The Cincinnati Post) - June 6, 1996

Author/Byline: Compiled Connie Yeager

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• Section: Perspective Extra

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Newport celebrates fun Italian-style with its fifth annual Festa Italiana, which begins with opening ceremonies and an operatic tribute at 6 tonight and continues from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, noon to midnight Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday at Newport Shopping Center, U.S. 27 and Carothers Road, Newport. The festival features Italian cuisine, rides, entertainment and even a spaghetti-eating contest (2 p.m. Saturday). Admission is free (292-3666).

Musical options

Art Garfunkel headlines a LensCrafters Foundation benefit concert at 8 tonight in Aronoff Center for the Arts' Procter & Gamble Hall; balcony tickets are \$32 (241-7469).

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra moves into its summer digs at Riverbend Music Center with concerts conducted by Jesus Lopez-Cobos at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Friday's soloist is cellist Han Na Chang; pianist Alex Slobodyanik will be featured Saturday (\$24-\$28 pavilion, \$13 lawn; 381-3300).

Classic pop crooner Johnny Mathis brings his mellow vocal cords to Riverbend Music Center for an 8 p.m. show Sunday (\$27.25 pavilion, \$15 lawn; 232-6220).

The Cincinnati Zoo's PNC Bank Jazzoo Concert Series kicks into gear with the funky sounds of Montell Jordan and Zapp & Roger at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Coors Pavilion (\$17 adults, \$5 kids; 749-4949).

Auto exotica

The Concours d'Elegance, a showcase of antique, exotic and luxury automobiles, rolls into a new site, Ault Park, for its 19th annual show. The show, a benefit for the Arthritis Foundation, boasts more than 200 collector cars, from a 1934 Cadillac V16 convertible to a 1949 Alfa Romeo 308C that raced in the Indianapolis 500 in 1949. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; admission is \$10 adults, \$5 kids.

A corollary event on Saturday, the Countryside Tour and Garden Party, will include a car tour from Mariemont Square to the former Kroger Estate in Indian Hill, where a catered dinner and automotive art auction will be held (\$75; 271-4545).

Regatta time

About 20 colleges will participate in the 1996 National Collegiate Rowing Championship, from 8 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. Saturday at East Fork State Park's Harsha Lake, Ohio 125, Bantam. The 15th annual regatta boasts men's and women's crews, along with the U.S. Rowing Youth Invitational of Greater Cincinnati high-school rowing crews.

Preliminary heats will be run from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday (admission free). General-admission tickets for Saturday's events are \$10 adults, \$5 children under 10; for \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for kids, you get access to the finish line and food vendors (321-5449).

Sports scene

The 12th annual Little Miami Scenic River Challenge, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, combines a river jaunt with a litter cleanup project that has removed more than 300 tons of debris from the Little Miami River over the past 11 years. Volunteers will be provided with canoes, safety equipment, shuttle service and refreshments; participants will include Morgan's Canoe (932-7658), Bruce's Loveland Canoe (683-4611), Scenic River Excursions (831-5552) and Little Miami Excursions (831-0888).

River Downs, 6301 Kellogg Ave., hosts the second annual Shur-Good Celebrity Stakes Race as part of its evening racing card between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, with such riders as WLW's Mike McConnell and WWNK-FM's Jim Scott. Post times are 1 and 6 p.m. today and Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday through Monday (232-8000).

The Hamilton County Park District's Sports and Fish Fest, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Miami Whitewater Forest, will feature fishing clinics, casting contests for kids, a boat show and fishing equipment booths. Admission is free with a park vehicle permit (521-PARK).

The 17th annual Little Miami Triathlon Series spring event will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday at Morgan's Canoe Livery, Ohio 350,

Waynesville. The event includes six miles of canoeing, six miles of running and 19 miles of bicycling; entry fee is \$75 per two-person team (932-7658).

The fourth annual Humana River Hop, 9 a.m. Sunday, will offer 5- and 10-kilometer runs and a 5-kilometer fitness walk from the Cincinnati Public Landing. Race-day registration is \$10; proceeds benefit Kids Helping Kids (333-6799).

The "Thank Goodness It's Thursday!" 5-mile run and fitness walk, which benefits Tender Mercies, will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Lunken Airport Playfield (\$10 race-day registration, \$20 with T-shirt; 474-1399).

World premiere

The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati closes out its season with yet another world premiere, "Cars, Dogs, Money and the Moon," a musical by Cincinnati composer David Kisor. The production, a "patchwork quilt" of urban Appalachian vignettes, will run through June 23 at the ETC Theatre, 1127 Vine St. Over-the-Rhine. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday (\$20 adults, \$15 seniors, students; 421-3555).

- Caption: Photo (3)
- Memo: Where to go, what to know
- Record: CNP060600019380230
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Three elected to board

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William P. Butler, S. Kay Geiger and Anne M. Zaring have been elected to the Board of Directors of The National Conference of Christians and Jews. Butler, of Lakeside Park, is president and CEO of Corporex Companies, Inc., which he founded in 1965 as the W.P. Butler Company. He is currently on the board of the Covington Business Council, the Tri-County Economic Development (Tri-Ed) and "Quest," the Northern Kentucky Vision Task Force. Butler was founder of Covington Pride, an organization of people dedicated to the improvement of Covington. He also has been involved with Kids Helping Kids, Rewood School and Rehabilitation Center and Welcome House.

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Singles serve and socialize

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Author/Byline: Al Andry

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The Warren County United Way has discovered an interesting way to get more volunteers on line - invite singles to socialize while they work.

Wednesday, members of United Way's Singles Group helped disabled residents of Brookside in Mason to participate in a summer festival.

The singles helped with games and refreshments. "This was our late summer Singles Group event," said Karen Rossi, director of United Way's Voluntary Action Center.

The Singles Group is recruiting new members. "It is easy to participate and be an episodic volunteer," Ms. Rossi said. "Volunteers can participate in as many of the events as they have time for without giving up much personal time. Yet they also are doing something that helps their community. You see the people you help smiling, laughing and having a good time."

The Singles Group helped with the United Way Christmas Party for Needy Children last winter, then this past spring organized a bowling and pizza outing with unmatched kids in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program.

"The Singles Group is new for United Way," Ms. Rossi said. "The purpose is not just to socialize but to benefit the community. It allows us to have fun while helping others."

To volunteer, call Ms. Rossi at 932-3987.

In other Warren County United Way news, six companies are organizing pacesetter campaigns for this year's drive.

The companies are Mound Steel in Springboro, Temple Inland Food Service in Carlisle, Cinmar in Lebanon, Otterbein-Lebanon, Macy's Credit Services and Entex Information Services, both of Mason.

In the pacesetter program, gifts and pledges are collected from the companies' employees and from the companies themselves before the general campaign gets under way Sept. 4. The campaign benefits 28 non-profit agencies.

Five members of Boy Scout Troop 6 at the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church have been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award a Scout can receive.

Less than 2 percent of all Scouts achieve the honor, but Troop 6 has exceeded that national average by have 11 of its members receive the honor over the past two years.

The newest Eagle Scouts are: Esly Caldwell, son of Dr. Esly and Judy Caldwell of Walnut Hills. Ian McCabe, son of Greg and Sandy McCabe of Norwood. Richard Cissell, son of Joe and Ruth Cissell of Norwood. Tony Quallen, son of Peggy and Don Quallen of Newtown. Matt Schneider, son of Jerry and Anne Schneider of Pleasant Ridge.

Every Eagle Scout must perform a major service project for the community. Projects of these five scouts benefited the church, the Kids Helping Kids program, a local cemetery and a local public park.

Troop 6 is one of the oldest continuously chartered Scout troops in the United States. It was chartered May 15, 1915, only five years after Scouting came to the United States from England.

River Blade 96, an event to raise money for Little Miami Inc.'s conservation efforts, will be held Sept. 28 along the Little Miami Scenic Trail in Loveland.

The 105-mile-long Little Miami is a national and state scenic river.

River Blade 96 is sponsored by the Cincinnati Blade Brigade who expects about 200 skaters to participate. Registration is \$17 per person until Sept. 6 and \$20 after that. Registration pamphlets can be picked up at in-line skating stores throughout Greater Cincinnati. They can also be obtained by calling 351-6400.

Skaters will choose routes from 10 to 26 miles.

The Cincinnati Blade Brigade is Cincinnati's original in-line skate club and offers clinics, regular get-togethers and recreational skating for beginning and intermediate skaters, a spokesperson said.

Do you have a people item for this Neighbors column? Please call Al Andry at 352-2758 or write to him c/o The Cincinnati Post, 125 E. Court St., Cincinnati Ohio 45202.

- Memo: People
- Record: CNP081500068930191
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New U.S. crusade: Keep girls healthy

Cincinnati Post, The (OH) (Published as The Cincinnati Post) - November 21, 1996

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The government is launching a new campaign to warn girls in their early teens about the dangers of drinking, drugs and premarital sex.

"We must reach our young girls early, tap into the strength they have as children and help them sustain it through their teen-age years," Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said in remarks prepared for delivery today to the American Public Health Association.

The campaign, which will feature Hollywood celebrities and sports stars, will combine anti-drug and anti-smoking ads with messages encouraging girls ages 9 to 14 to devote themselves to school, sports and the arts. Officials said the \$750,000 for the campaign will come from the agency's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

In addition to public-service announcements, posters will go up in schools and shopping malls.

Penny Walker, executive director of Greater Cincinnati's Kids Helping Kids, which also features programs to aid teen-age girls, said she was glad to see the federal campaign target both drug use and premartial sex.

"Certainly these girls that use drugs tend to get into promiscuous behavior," said Ms. Walker. "There used to be social norms ... that has broken down over time. We need to do what we can to at least counteract some of these negative messages."

Text of fax box follows:

Why target girls?

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said a health effort for girls is needed because girls "are bombarded with media images that tell them that being unnaturally thin - actually gaunt - is sexy or healthy."

Memo: Text of fax box follows article

Dateline: WASHINGTON

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