

KIDS SAY KNOW'

Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - May 27, 1987

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- Caption: PHOTOThe International Council of Shopping Centers launched its national "Kids Say Know" to drugs campaign last week at Town and Country Shopping Center, 3812 E. Broad St. The event featured presentations from Susan Valentine, "Kids Say Know" state chairperson, Paul Coleman, Ohio Director of Recovery Services, and children from KIDSCOPE, a drug rehabilitation group. Several anti-drug group representatives answered questions and distributed educational literature. Festivities included a balloon launch. Attached to the balloons were messages from children encouraging the finder to "Say No To Drugs." NeighborNews photo by Gordon Kuster

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WINNER TAKES ALL - SURPRISE TAKES HIM

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- Column: Item One

That line that says you can't win if you don't enter doesn't apply to Jeff Yee.

He didn't enter the Soap Dish Date contest on cable TV's Video Hits 1 channel. But Yee won the grand prize, a trip to New York for a date with the cast of All My Children, just the same.

"I sent his name in without telling him," confessed his mother, Connie Yee. "So you can imagine how surprised he was when he got the call."

Jeff, a 28-year-old bachelor who sells new cars at Toyota Northeast, won a 3-day trip to New York, \$500 spending money, a date with VH-1 veejay Edie Tarbox and a \$500 gift certificate at Victoria's Secret.

Wonder what he's going to do with all that lace?

TAKE THE STEPS - Dan Wilson and Tony Michaels had some time to ponder whom they'd like to be stuck in an elevator with the other day.

"Donna Rice's name came up a lot," Wilson said.

The morning hosts of WBNS-AM and WBNS-FM were stranded between the 11th and 12th floors of the One Capitol South building before their shifts Tuesday. No one realized they were there until someone from the overnight crew called the lobby guards to see whether they had checked in.

Did they take the steps the next day?

"Naw, but we took separate elevators, just in case," Michaels said.

"Just proves what a lot of my friends tell me," Wilson said. "My elevator doesn't go all the way to the top."

PARTING GIFTS - Dale Butland and the In The Know team from Walnut Ridge High School share some common knowledge. But the kids know more than he does.

Butland, manager of Sen. John Glenn's office here, was among the officials at a ceremony Tuesday honoring the Walnut Ridgers for winning the National Academic Championship.

In his remarks, Butland mentioned that he, too, was a contestant on a show where instant recall separates winners from losers.

But there was a major difference between his performance on Jeopardy and the winning ways of Mike Dake, Mu-Chun Yin, Garrett Schwartz and Susan Wright.

"You won the national title," Butland said. "I went home with a lava lamp, a year's supply of pancake syrup and fake fingernails."

SKIP THE SLIDES - Now that he's back in town for the Ohio State Fair, Dick Celeste will take time to brief the locals on his summer travels.

The governor is speaking at a Metropolitan Club luncheon forum Friday in the Hyatt on Capitol Square. Topics include his presidential prospecting in Iowa and the National Guard recon mission to the jungles of Honduras.

BLACK EXPO - Comedian and social activist Dick Gregory is in town tonight to kick off the annual Columbus Black Expo.

Minority businessmen from throughout the state will gather Saturday for the trade show at Mt. Vernon Plaza. Gregory speaks at the community awards banquet in the Martin Luther King Center tonight. Details are on Page 4 D.

SOAP SUDS - Don't wash your car today.

Kidscope, the group that helps kids kick their drug problems, is trying to raise money for a sound system for family meetings.

They'll hold a car wash from 9 to 3 Saturday behind the McDonald's in the Berwick Shopping Center. Or you can arrange to make a donation at 231-KIDS.

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FEDERAL GRANTS TO HELP COUNTY COMBAT DRUGS

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Franklin County is getting more than \$500,000 in federal money for drug treatment and enforcement, with the largest share going to help juveniles.

The Franklin County commissioners are to act today to accept \$528,501 in grants made available through the federal Drug Enforcement, Education and Control Act, which Congress enacted a year ago.

"These are all new programs. We will be interested to see if any of them can make a dent in the drug problem," said Perry Palumbo, executive director of the Alliance for Cooperative Justice. The alliance reviewed the grant applications for the county.

The largest of six funded grants, \$175,669, is for a pilot project at Franklin County Juvenile Court for drug treatment for indigent juveniles.

THE MONEY will be used to send youngsters whose families cannot pay for drug treatment to residential programs at Maryhaven and at Shepherd Hill Hospital in Newark.

The program will include 30 days of in-patient care followed by 90 days in a "recovery residence" at Shepherd Hill, said R. Todd Shaw, juvenile court administrator.

The court has applied for other grants and eventually wants \$400,000 for the program, Shaw said.

At a cost of \$10,000 for the basic 30-day treatment for each juvenile, Shaw said the money would pay for 40 teen-agers who could not otherwise afford it. With the court's volume discount, the price includes the additional 90 days in what is called a "three-quarters-way house," Shaw said.

In recovery residences, juveniles cook and care for themselves, attend school and continue with treatment programs.

"THIS GIVES them a smoother transition, with a little more time of chemical-free living under their belts," Shaw said.

In the past, the only way the court could get drug treatment for indigent youth has been to make them wards of Franklin County Children Services and hope that agency paid for it, Shaw said.

Officials said other grants are:

\$68,854 for the Center for Alternatives to operate a drug treatment program for minority youths after release from incarceration by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

\$30,000, tentatively to be allocated for Kidscope, a local drug treatment program that uses recovering teens to help other youths kick their drug habits.

\$55,826 for the county prosecutor's office to assign Assistant Prosecutor Michael Burns exclusively to drug cases.

\$54,683 for probation officials in Franklin County Municipal Court for intensive supervision of adult drug offenders.

\$143,469 for a local drug enforcement task force being organized by local law enforcement agencies.

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MARIJUANA - A '60'S CONTROVERSY IS REKINDLED IN THE '80S

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Among cultural icons of the 1960s - pot, peaceniks and Peter, Paul and Mary - only pot is not passe. Marijuana use is as widespread as ever, according to national and local sources, but it has been overshadowed by more dangerous drugs such as cocaine and crack.

When Douglas Ginsburg, President Reagan's would-be nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, said he had tried pot, the announcement renewed the marijuana debate.

"It's still out there, still highly abused by the entire population," said James Dempsey, narcotics supervisor of the Columbus Division of Police. "We're finding it frequently. It knows no socioeconomic boundaries."

Richard Schnurr, executive director of Talbot Hall-Saint Anthony Medical Center, said, "It's still the most popular drug among adolescents. And it's still dangerous."

AT KIDSCOPE, a local drug rehabilitation unit for teen-agers, marijuana abuse is the most common problem, said Ron Ward, program director. Yet in the popular mind, marijuana seemingly has been dismissed as a harmless sedative, a substitute for the after-work martini.

"In the late 1960s and 1970s, marijuana was revolutionary. Now, it's more the norm," Ward said. "It's not regarded as that big of a deal, contrary to what we know about its medical effects."

Ginsburg's statement was followed by similar admissions from presidential aspirants former Gov. Bruce Babbitt and Sen. Albert Gore Jr. These revelations should not have come as a surprise, according to a 1985 survey by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, which reported that at least 62 million Americans have tried marijuana once.

Sam Wenger, a Columbus alcohol and drug counselor, said, "We have to stop making this an issue for teens. It's a social problem that affects every layer of society. It's time for us to stop being surprised at who is using drugs."

Marijuana is "probably the second-leading drug problem today," behind alcohol, Wenger said. "It is way underestimated regarding its effect on an individual's welfare."

Just what is that effect? Most people know marijuana produces an altered mental state referred to as a "high," but beyond that, opinions differ. Local drug counselors say marijuana use is severely debilitating to young people, that it may lead to harder drugs. Yet physicians counter that occasional marijuana use has no detrimental effects on the body or the mind.

This may explain the confused and perhaps even hypocritical response to the recent admissions of marijuana use by public officials.

"It's certainly not as damaging as alcohol. I'm not sure we can make a strong medical case against it," said Dr. Tom Pepper, medical director for alcoholism and drug dependency at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

"SOME PEOPLE can enhance the quality of their life with an occasional marijuana cigarette. I suspect Ginsburg fell into this category."

Pepper is deeply concerned, however, about the emotional damage wrought by regular marijuana use, especially among young people. Pepper sees some young people who are smoking eight to 10 marijuana cigarettes or "joints" a day. "Their ability to develop emotionally is significantly arrested. They become emotionally stuck, get locked in time.

"It numbs the pain of daily life and creates a lack of spontaneity and effervescence in the personality."

Dr. Charles Chesanow, Talbot Hall's medical director, agreed that only prolonged marijuana use has been proved harmful.

Does occasional use cause negative effects? "Virtually none," Chesanow said.

CHRONIC USERS, however, whom Chesanow identified as those who smoke daily or several times a week for more than a year, may face these problems:

Pre-cancerous lesion formation on lung tissue.

Impairment of the immune system.

Lowered hormonal levels.

Alteration of blood cell functions, which affects resistance to infection.

Aggravation of schizophrenia, if the latter is already present.

Lack of ambition; affects motivational center of brain.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS also have been studied in pregnant women who use marijuana, Chesnow said. While the results are "unclear," he said, pregnant women shouldn't take chances.

Marijuana is a mild hallucinogen, the doctor added, and its impact on the brain can include one or more of the following:

Distorted perception.

Giddy, happy feeling.

Sedate, sleepy feeling.

Paranoia.

Cravings.

Sleep disturbances.

LOCAL COUNSELORS said they didn't need Ginsburg's admission to convince them that marijuana use has been, and continues to be, pervasive. "In the '70s, the people smoking dope were the hippies, the freaks," Ward said. "Now it's the people wearing preppie clothes. Here at Kidscope we have National Honor Society members, cheerleaders, kids on ball teams. We're not talking about juvenile delinquents anymore."

Among adult users, Wenger said, "A lot of them are very bright, productive people. But there's no question in my mind, it lessens their productivity."

Street prices of marijuana are rising, counselors said. An ounce of marijuana sells for about \$125 on the streets of Columbus, they said. A single marijuana cigarette is \$2 to \$3.

Because pot-smoking in the '80s is no longer the exotic, rebellious act it was in the '60s, a peculiar hypocrisy has bloomed, Schnurr said. "Parents who have used marijuana as a recreational drug now have kids who are using it. The parents take it for granted."

Reagan's defense of Ginsburg, Wenger said, "once again sends out the message that we talk against drug abuse with a wink and a nod."

In fact, the president's entire drug-abuse campaign is unrealistic, Schnurr said. "Kids are deluged with drugs in this society. This 'Just Say No' is ridiculous. More than saying 'No,' you have to build up a defense system against it, another culture."

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KICKING OFF KIWANIS SALE

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- Caption: PHOTONorthwest Kiwanis former President Robert F. Hill, left, and newspaper sale Chairman Mike Albanese accept the sale's first donation from former Gov. James Rhodes, right. Each fall, the Kiwanis sells advertisements and publishes a holiday newspaper. Money from door-to-door sales of the paper supports community programs such as **Kidscope**, Bear Camp and scholarships. The newspaper sale continues through Dec. 16.
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