

ELMWOOD PARK PARENTS URGED TO JOIN WAR AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

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- Author/Byline: By Sabrina Eaton, Correspondent, The Record
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Joe, a reformed user of angel dust, marijuana, and cocaine, told a mostly elderly audience last night of a desperation for drugs so intense that it once drove him to snorting cocaine during a high school class.

At a meeting of the Elmwood Park Homeowners Association, the 19-year-old Paterson native along with two state lawmakers and two drug experts called for increased parental vigilance and strengthened laws to punish those who buy and sell narcotics.

But Robert Ross, president of the 200-member homeowners group, said he was disappointed that teen-agers and younger parents with children in the school system did not attend the meeting.

"Most of the people that are here tonight have grandchildren in the school system," Ross said. "We've got to go to the PTA's and the schools to make the young people more aware of the drug problem. "

Joe, a former Don Bosco High School student, told the group of 40 homeowners of the chances he took with drugs in school.

"I once snorted cocaine in class when the lights were down and the teacher was standing right next to me," he said.

Appearing with Joe were Dr. Miller Newton, president of the "KIDS of Bergen County" drug rehabilitation program; Carol Loscalzo of the Bergen County Department of Family Guidance; state Sen. Frank X. Graves Jr., D-35th District; and Assemblyman John Girgenti, D-Hawthorne.

Ross said the homeowners association will hold more meetings to discuss a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program to supplement school and police programs to fight substance abuse.

The association would like to bring more speakers and drug counselors to the schools and PTA's, Ross said, but is having trouble finding affordable insurance to cover a variety show being put together in hopes of raising about \$8,000 for the project.

"Our goal is to do something for the kids," Ross said. "They are driving into New York to buy drugs, and beer-drinking is bad in town. "

Don Ingrasselino, a school trustee and a borough detective, said police and the schools conduct their own drug- and alcohol-education programs for students. Ingrasselino added that police also make presentations to adult groups on request.

"Basically, the police department's philosophy is to make kids in the lower grades aware of what drugs are, what they do to your body, who does them, and why," he said. "We hope it makes them aware enough of the dangers of drugs that they won't try them. "

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OUR NEIGHBORS

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Its been 50 years since the first class was graduated from St. Anastasia School in Teaneck. An alumni reunion party will be Saturday, Nov. 29, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the school. All graduates over age 21 and their teachers are invited to attend.

For a reservation form, send name and address, plus year of graduation, to St. Anastasia School, 1135 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, N.J. Mark the envelope to the attention of the alumni committee.

Hackensack's Holy Trinity Parish invites everyone to celebrate its 125th anniversary at a dinner-dance Friday at the Sheraton Heights Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights. Main speaker will be the Rev. Gene Hajewski, pastor of St. Henry's Parish in Bayonne. Those wishing reservations may call Ann Ercolino at 487-4354 or Jim McCarthy, 837-2137.

The president of KIDS of Bergen County has received an honor from the American Board of Medical Psychotherapists.

Dr. Miller Newton was named a fellow and diplomate of the organization, which seeks to identify qualified personnel through credentialing procedures, training programs, and other criteria.

KIDS of Bergen County, based in Hackensack, treats adolescents who have abused drugs or are suffering from eating disorders or other behavioral problems.

Check out the woven baskets, hand-loomed scarves, jewelry, and glass articles on display and for sale at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey until Nov. 2.

The Art Center, located at 250 Center St., New Milford, has been providing art instruction to adults, teens, and children for almost 30 years. Monthly exhibits of paintings, sculptures, crafts, photographs, and international handwork are shown in the newly designed gallery.

For information about classes and exhibits, call 599-2992.

There was plenty of music and food at the sixth annual UNICO senior citizens picnic recently held in Palisades Park.

More than 400 people turned out for the event, which was held at the town's swimming pool pavilion.

It was a team effort, led by cochairmen Patrick Roma, Anthony Candelmo, and Vincent Albanese. All three are members of UNICO, an Italian-American service organization. Also helping out were local Boy Scouts and the town recreation committee.

What are the necessary inoculations for children? The information is only a phone call away, thanks to Christ Hospital's TEL-MED tape library.

Just dial 963-5500 and ask for tape number 239, and you'll find out what's required.

More than 300 health information tapes are available. Topics include aging, birth control, pregnancy, various diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, and dental and eye care.

The free community service is sponsored by the hospital's volunteer services department. It is available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A grueling 245-mile bicycle race recently was won by Peter Illovsky of Leonia.

Thousands of spectators lined the Atlantic City boardwalk as the Czech-born racer won the three-day competition. The event began in High Point State Park and concluded in Atlantic City.

Palisades Park resident Hewitt Thayer captured the first day's individual race, from Newark to Trenton.

The race was organized by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

A film that shows blind people in training and on the job is available from the Lions International on a free, loan basis to community groups, corporations, clubs, and schools.

Sight-impaired people are shown working in such job fields as law, education, computers, and areas of telephone service.

The Lions have been active in helping the blind find meaningful jobs. They also have helped push for new technology to give the sight-impaired greater independence. One such device is a Kruzweil Reading Machine, which uses a small computer-controlled camera to translate lines of print into synthetic spoken words.

Lions clubs have supported such training centers as the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind and the Raleigh (N.C.) Clinic for the Blind.

For information, call the Modern Talking Picture Service's toll-free number, 1-800-237-8913.

Hackensack Medical Center is helping children fight cancer.

In the spring, the hospital will open the largest pediatric cancer care service in New Jersey. The program will include radiation therapy, surgery, an intensive care unit, a hospice program, and parent and sibling support groups.

Directing the program will be Michael Harris, MD, who is now chief of pediatric hematology-oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Michael Weiner, MD, associate chief.

Both physicians are considered national leaders in the field of childhood cancer. They have done extensive research and established treatment programs in collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

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