

PSYCHOLOGIST TO TALK ABOUT DRUG ABUSE

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- Author/Byline: Jodi M. Whitaker Herald-Leader staff writer
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RICHMOND -- Dr. George Ross, a nationally recognized leader in the field of teen-age substance abuse, will speak on "Drugs, Alcohol and Our Youth" at 2:15 and 3:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Powell Building's Kenamer Room on the Eastern Kentucky University campus.

Ross is a licensed psychologist and certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and founding director of LIFE Inc. and Possibilities Unlimited Inc., both national substance abuse programs for teen-agers.

Ross' discussion will focus on the incidence of illegal drugs and alcohol abuse among young adults and the signs and symptoms of chemical dependency. He also will discuss the responsibility of schools for preventing, identifying and managing drug and alcohol abuse.

The talks, presented by the EKU Substance Abuse Committee, are free and open to the public.

UK The University of Kentucky Chorale, a 22-voice chamber choir, and UK New Voices, a 10-voice vocal ensemble, will perform a compilation of works in five Kentucky cities next week.

The first concert is 2 p.m. Sunday at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville. The ensembles will make stops in Hopkinsville on Monday, Owensboro Tuesday and Elizabethtown March 6. The tour concludes with a 7:30 performance March 7 at Frankfort's First Christian Church.

KSU

FRANKFORT -- A roundtable discussion on "The Crisis of the Black Male" will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in Kentucky State University's Academic Services Building auditorium as part of KSU's observance of Black History Month.

Scheduled panelists are Arthur Drayton, director of the African-American studies program at the University of Kansas; Don Anthony Woods, KSU professor of public affairs; Gashaw Lake, assistant professor of public affairs at KSU; and Alvin Seals, KSU associate professor of sociology.

The event, originally scheduled for Feb. 26, is free and open to the public.

Georgetown

GEORGETOWN -- Safe 6, a theater troupe of University of Kentucky students who perform skits on the challenges of college life in the 1990s, will perform at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Georgetown College's John L. Hill Chapel.

The performance is part of Georgetown College's "Georgetownians Leading Against Drunk Driving: Alcohol Awareness Week," Monday through March 8.

For information on the Safe 6 performance or other G.L.A.D.D. Week programs at Georgetown, call Mary Donley at (502) 863-8004.

The Georgetown Children's Theatre workshops will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays beginning this week. George McGee, associate professor of communication arts, is serving as director.

Each session will last six weeks and will include acting, mime, stage movement, costume design and stage lighting for children ages 10 to 15. The workshop is being offered through the city's department of parks and recreation.

For information, call (502) 863-7865.

Marjory Irvin will present a lecture/recital at 8 p.m. Thursday in Georgetown's John L. Hill Chapel.

The program, "Unsung: The Songs of Nadia Boulanger," will feature Irvin, a Danville resident who is professor emeritus of music at Lawrence University at Appleton, Wis., as pianist and lecturer.

Sheila Kearney Converse, a member of the music faculty at Centre College, also will be featured as mezzo-soprano.

Berea

BEREA -- The Berea College Theater Laboratory, under the direction of Bobby Singleton, a senior theater major at Berea, will perform Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9* at 8 p.m. today in the Jelkyl Drama Center.

Admission is \$1 for students and \$3 for the public.

For reservations, call the theater box office at (606) 986-9341, ext. 6358, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

BEREA -- Berea College is accepting applications for its Mellon Seminars, a free program for high school teachers.

Three seminars, "The Creative Process" with Dr. Dorothy Schnare; "European Integration, 1947-1992" with Abdul Rifai; and "Science Across the Curriculum" with Elizabeth Kleppinger; will be June 16-28 on the campus.

The program is open to high school teachers in Kentucky and the Southern Appalachian region. There is no charge for tuition, room, board or books, and a stipend of \$250 will be awarded to each participant.

Application forms and additional information can be obtained by calling Jackie Betts at (606) 986-9341, ext. 6507. Registration deadline is March 31.

Please send us news or feature ideas from Kentucky's colleges and universities. Deadline for briefs to be used in *Campus Notebook* is the Wednesday before the Wednesday of publication. Mail to *Campus Notebook*, Lexington Herald-Leader, 100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, Ky. 40508. For information, call Jodi Whitaker at (606) 231-3200.

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SHERIFF EARNS STAR FOR DRUG EDUCATION DARE OFFICER USES ROBOT, HUMOR TO TEACH YOUNGSTERS

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VERSAILLES -- Drug dealers, beware of two squirrels in Woodford County.

One is 5-foot-6, 150 pounds and 40 years old.

He packs a 9mm Smith and Wesson and drives a brown Jeep Cherokee with tinted windows.

His partner, a 4-foot robot, is mounted on a tricycle and carries a toy .38 special.

Woodford County Sheriff Loren "Squirrel" Carl and his robot partner, Squirrel Jr., ride across the county as well as the nation teaching children to stay drug free as part of Woodford County's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Inc., or DARE, program.

In May and June, the duo traveled to Anderson, Bourbon, Harrison and Scott counties to make presentations. Next month, they will speak to the Missouri Sheriffs Association on improving their program.

For his tenacious efforts, the Kentucky Association Conference of DARE officers recently named Carl its officer of the year. This month in Winston-Salem, N.C., he was recognized with 49 other state officers of the year.

While growing up in Little Texas in Fayette County, Carl learned about the ill effects of substance abuse at an early age.

"Because my father was an alcoholic, sometimes there was nothing to eat," said Carl, who moved to Versailles when he was 6. "Not having the things that other children had, the mental abuse and my father's anger was very hard to deal with."

He saw firsthand the crippling effects it had on his family and decided he was going to prevent other children from going through a drug or alcohol ordeal.

Carl credits his desire to help people to his mother and his Christian beliefs.

"My mother instilled in us the importance of attending church and belief in God," said Carl, who is a member of Woodford Christian Church and hasn't missed Sunday worship in 10 years.

"With my Christian upbringing and my home life as it was, it has shown me that children of all socioeconomic backgrounds need to be shown that alcohol and drugs are not the way to go."

Carl began helping children at age 9 with his older sister Decima Osborne while she worked for the Fayette County Parks Department.

Osborne remembers Carl's excitement at "helping me supervise the children in their box hockey and mills (marbles) tournaments."

His love for children has increased since those park experiences, said Osborne, who operates Jack and Jill Preschool and Kindergarten in Versailles.

"He just wants to help every child possible," she said. "He loves them, and he really takes it hard when he sees them hurting."

Carl, a 14-year veteran on the force, saw how teen-agers were being affected by drugs as a detective. In addition to being appointed to the governor's task forces on drugs and marijuana and the governor's Champions Against Drugs, he was co-founder of the Woodford County Drug Awareness Group in 1980.

He said he knew something had to be done to stop teen-agers from using drugs.

"Back then, all we would do was lock them up for a little while and then release them," Carl said. "I wanted to do something to teach kids high self-esteem and show them a positive outlook on life so they wouldn't have to identify with drugs."

Carl recalled helping a student who is now a success story.

"The parents of this teen-ager with a serious drug problem called me and wanted me to help their child get off drugs," he said. "The child and I became close friends, and I got him to get treatment at Possibilities Unlimited in Lexington. He graduated from the program, and the last thing I heard he was entering law school."

DARE better structured

Although his drug awareness group was effective, Carl founded the Woodford County DARE in January 1988 because it was a better structured program to demonstrate the consequences of using drugs, he said.

Each school year, Carl, a business administration graduate of Kentucky Business College in Lexington, and his trusty sidekick, Squirrel Jr., go into sixth-grade classes once a week for 17 weeks and teach students how to resist drugs.

Humor is the tool Carl uses to break the ice with his students. He does everything from giving students nicknames to wearing funny clothes during his presentations. He said these tactics made it easier for students to have fun while they were learning.

"It is better to get the kids involved and show them a fun way of learning rather than scare them into doing what's right," Carl said. "Everything we do in DARE is positive, and you can't teach positive high self-esteem by scaring someone into it. I have just as much fun as the kids do."

Susie Nally, a sixth-grade teacher at Simmons Elementary School, said teachers had to forgo traditional teaching methods when Carl entered the classroom.

"He changes the atmosphere totally," said Nally of Carl, who has taught DARE to her class for the last three years. "I am very structured as far as discipline and quietness goes, and Squirrel is loud and totally opposite."

Nally said at times she found herself trying to control the students with a stern look, and Carl would let her know that it is OK for the children to get excited.

Her students get most excited when they participate in the role-play sequence of the program, Nally said.

"Squirrel not only tells the students how to say no, he puts them in actual situations with other students so they will learn how to say no.

"Other times, he will out of the blue send a student out of the classroom and have the other students describe what he or she was wearing. This teaches them how to remember someone who offered them drugs," she said.

The black T-shirt with the fiery, red DARE letters across the front bonds students in their effort to be drug-free.

Carl teaches students that the shirt is a symbol of their elite status and that only DARE graduates can wear them.

"They get the shirt the second week of the program," said Carl, who was DARE instructor of the year in 1988 after completing his training seminar. "When the students wear the shirt, they are a part of 4.5 million people in the U.S. and five foreign countries that are drug-free, and only members in the program are privileged to wear the shirts."

If students get into trouble, Carl takes back the shirt, he said, because of its meaning. To wear the shirt, students must live up to the expectations and rules of the program, he said.

The shirt is also a motivating factor in the program, Carl said. Fourth and third graders can't wait until they are in the sixth grade so they can get the coveted T-shirt that has a squirrel on the back, symbolic of their friend, teacher and leader.

Origin of Squirrel

Carl got the name Squirrel from an experience in high school. He won't tell his students how he got the name until they graduate from the program.

This nickname stuck with him through high school and when he attended Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky State University, and now his sidekick has it.

The idea for Squirrel Jr. was conceived at a sheriff's convention in Hawaii in 1989. Carl saw a Big Bird robot and wanted a squirrel for his program. He secured \$5,300 in contributions from the Woodford County Jaycees, United Bank and Trust of Versailles and Lee's Famous Recipe of Versailles for the gray-headed robot.

Carl said the robot, which he can program to talk, was not only a learning aid in DARE, but it also helped in other abuse cases.

"Once we had a child that was abused by the parent," he said. "The child was afraid to talk to adults but was willing to talk to the squirrel."

Although he spends a lot of time helping other children, the husband and father of two daughters doesn't forsake his family.

His wife of two years, Kelly, said the first year of their marriage was difficult for her and their children, Mandy, 10 and Hope, 5, because of Carl's busy schedule. But she learned a way to combat the problem.

"Worrying about his safety and his not being at home were the biggest problems," said Kelly, a pricing coordinator with Kroger Co.

"To help ease the problems, we go with him and try to stay involved with his activities as much as we can. And when I can't be with him, I just like for him to call in so we know he is safe."

Carl said he didn't think of himself as a champion of society. "I feel its an honor and privilege to serve as sheriff of Woodford County, and I love

helping students stay drug-free," he said. "I feel it is everyone's duty to help make someone else's life a little better. I cherish the moments when I can help someone."

- Caption: Color Herald-Leader/Jennifer Podis Sheriff Loren "Squirrel" Carl and his robotic squirrel sidekick visited Glenda's Day Care in Versailles to teach a group of children about the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Inc., or DARE, program and the dangers of drugs. Color Seshka Ethington, 5, of Midway followed Sheriff Carl's lesson in her DARE coloring book.

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KENTUCKY WRAP-UP - GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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FRANKFORT - The director of the state Water Patrol has resigned and taken the position of assistant director of the agency, a job covered by the state Merit System.

Charles Browning of Lebanon was appointed to the merit job on June 7, which means his six-month probation will end a few days before a new administration takes office. He resigned as director on June 6, according to personnel records.

Unlike non-merit political appointees, workers in the Merit System can be dismissed only for cause.

Browning said there was "no particular reason" for his moving to the assistant director's job. He said it had nothing to do with getting into the Merit System. Browning, 52, remains in charge of the agency. He is receiving the same salary, \$40,908 per year, according to personnel records.

Browning went to work for the state in 1986 as a non-merit principal assistant in the Department of Natural Resources while Martha Layne Collins was governor. He was previously a part-owner and manager of a liquor store in Lebanon.

He was appointed director of the Water Patrol, also a non-merit position, in 1988 shortly after Gov. Wallace Wilkinson took office. As director of the agency - which enforces laws and promotes safety on Kentucky lakes and waterways - he supervised about 50 employees.

Browning contributed \$2,700 to the unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign of Martha Wilkinson, wife of the governor.

Police, court news

OWENSBORO - The Kentucky Prosecutors Conference has selected Harlan County Attorney Alan Wagers as 1991 Kentucky County Attorney of the Year.

Phil Miller of the state attorney general's office said the award stemmed from Wagers' "outstanding performance on child support collection, as well as the general performance of his office."

Miller cited the better than 100 percent increase in child support payments collected in Harlan County, from about \$173,000 in 1988 to more than \$349,000 in 1990. Wagers said his office has collected close to \$1 million in support payments since 1988.

ALBANY - WANY in Albany was off the air Tuesday after burglars made off overnight with most of the radio station's operating equipment.

Taken were microphones, records, turntables, consoles and cart machines.

Police said the radio station's transmitters weren't bothered because of their size.

In a note left behind, the burglars claimed responsibility for a similar break-in at WSBI radio last month. WSBI is licensed in Static, Tenn., but has offices and studios in Albany.

Phyllis Butler, one of the owners of WANY, said the station will be back on the air as soon as replacement equipment can be found. She said it might take several days.

Elsewhere in the commonwealth

LEXINGTON - Possibilities Unlimited, a drug treatment program, will close Sept. 14 for financial reasons, said its founder and executive director.

George Ross said Monday that declining enrollments and the expense of underwriting clients who cannot afford to pay caused a financial crunch that the facility could not overcome.

The disciplined, family-style program, which has operated in Lexington for eight years, will complete services to the 23 clients it now has, Ross said. Several options, including moving to Louisville, will be examined.

Possibilities Unlimited has many supporters. The program has served more than 426 clients and offered evaluations to more than 1,500 families.

But several Possibilities Unlimited clients filed charges against Ross in 1985, contending that he kept them in the program against their will. Some program employees also were charged.

Ross was found innocent in Fayette District Court, and charges against the workers were dropped.

PADUCAH - Ron Jerrell, who worked as an AIDS activist at the local, state and national level, died at his parent's home near here Saturday. He was 26.

Jerrell had been executive director of Kentuckiana People With AIDS Coalition since it was founded in 1989. He was president of the National Association of People with AIDS in the spring and summer of 1990 and continued to serve on that organization's board of directors.

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