

ADA offers aid to all alcoholics

By JACKIE KLEIN

There is no typical alcoholic. He may be a 15-year-old quivering through a six-pack of beer for hours. She may be a sheltered housewife, drinking empty whiskey bottles in hidden corners. He may be an executive getting a divorce broker.

That is the assessment of Fern Fuller, program director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center, ADA, in Royal Oak. The center is considered by Oakland County judges, including Judge David J. W. as a safe and a second chance for offenders who appear in court on alcohol-related charges.

In place of fines and jail terms in many instances, a self-treatment fee is substituted in alcohol and drug abuse cases and offenders undertake their own rehabilitation at ADA.

NOT ALL of our clients are referred by courts, Fuller explained. Some are self-placed and others come to us through different sources.

ADA provides treatment, individual and group counseling and information for persons who have had control over their drinking. The center also offers a half-way house for men and women 18 years of age and older. There is always a waiting list, Fuller said.

A large number of alcoholics don't want to be referred to federal hospitals, as is required. Oakland County has two alcohol treatment centers and there is a waiting list for these facilities to take care of offenders. Fuller said a waiting period of two to three months is not unusual in emergency cases.

PERSONS WITH alcohol or drug abuse problems are screened at ADA and are either sent to another facility or a treatment program is set up for them at the center. In some cases, social service agencies pick up the tab for room and board.

The average treatment period for non-residents is three months. It may take longer for those who live at the center and need more intensive therapy. Medical insurance covers part of the program which may include marriage, family and vocational counseling as well as individual evaluation and treatment.

In the chronic and acute stages of alcoholism, tolerance for the "hard stuff" is substantially reduced. These drinkers get bombed on a lot less than before, Fuller said.

The myth that must be dispelled is alcoholism and skid row burn are synonymous. The so-called "guys in the gutters" account only three to five per cent of all problem drinkers.

PROFESSIONALS and businessmen rate high on the drinking-driving scale while housewives are more apt to be kitchen alcoholics, Fuller maintained. It has been established that alcohol is a disease and alcoholism is a disease, Fuller said. The problem drinker may have an unknown factor in his blood chemistry that lowers his tolerance for alcohol. Enzymes might have also entered into the dismal picture.

Why do people from all walks of life start drinking too much? Each may have a different set of emotional or social problems. Maybe they tried to get high or they wanted to relax and rationalized liquor would replace a tranquilizer.

Actually, alcohol is a depressant, a mood-changing drug and anesthetic that numbs the brain temporarily and makes you think you've gotten rid of all of your troubles.

THREE OUNCES of beer or four ounces of wine are equivalent to one shot of booze, Fuller contended, and they're all intoxicants. If you need a drink to be sociable, you're not a social drinker, he maintained.

The husband comes home after a hard day in that jungle out there and gulps a martini at 5 p.m. to relax, he said. He thinks that martini is a lot safer than Valium but he's only fooling himself if he can't stop at one cocktail. Society is permeated with booze and pills.

For the alcoholic, life is unmanageable. His personal and social life is dominated by liquor and it becomes a physical need. Then come the blackouts, increased tolerance at first, then the decreased tolerance and loss of control.

The heavy drinker is thinking about all kinds of things when he isn't drinking it and he's preoccupied with liquor and wants to be when ever it's being served. He is in the chronic stage.

IN THE acute phase the alcoholic makes a bid for his family and job problems. He's experiencing physical and physical deterioration. He may be aggressive and hostile and the disease can only get progressively worse, Fuller said.



Touring Group

Local students participating in this summer's Musical Youth International tour are: (Front row) Sandy Williams, Sandy Pinder, Jane Kinsey, Linda Love and Sue Elbrinkman. (Second row) Paul Barber, band director, Fern Barber, Marsha Freeman, Melody Dodson,

Sally Lee, Ann Simanck and Ted Still, choir director. (Third row) Tom Nostesine, Julian Gordon, Paul Becker, Paul Amori, and Scott Smith. (Fourth row) Tom Williamson, Bob Ferguson, Tom Gerschick, Dave Mitchell, Steve Markovich and Any Ellsworth.

High school musicians entertain British Isles

Two conductors from Farmington high schools provided the drawing card for this year's Musical Youth International tour.

Twenty-one local musicians and vocalists joined Paul Barber of Harrison High and George Still of North Farmington High School on a 22-day concert tour of the British Isles making stops in Canada and Michigan on the return trip.

In the 22 days the 22 Farmington Harrison and North Farmington musicians performed their voices with 42 other high school students from around the state on an itinerary that took them to concert halls in London, Leeds, Scotland, Haverfordwest, Brecon, Toronto, Canada and the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor.

They departed June 26 and returned Aug. 1.

They traveled through London, spent two weeks in Wales, voyaged over to Scotland, then back to England and returned to North America and a preview performance in Canada.

While singing in Michigan, the group presented concerts at Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Belle Isle in Detroit.

In all, 35 concerts in less than 35 days for the students from Farmington high schools.

friends with their foreign audiences and had the opportunity to see how others live.

This year's group contained the most members ever from the Farmington area in Musical Youth International's 18 year history.

The tour group is a chartered People to People Youth Chapter which visits a different foreign country each year to experience interchange of living at the personal level.

Each year one hundred students are selected from state high schools in the Great Lakes area to organize a concert band and chorus.

In the past the group has traveled through most European nations including Hungary and the Mediterranean area. Its 1973 tour included Venezuela, Belize and Mexico.

This year's tour was a bi-cultural American salute to the British Isles and Canada.

Under the direction of Barber the instrumentalists performed along with the choir under the direction of Still in various repertoires and choruses.

Still has been a teacher at North Farmington since 1969, prior to being choir director of the Keuka College Training Chorus for two years.

Last year he was an adjunct lecturer in choral music at the University of Michigan and is presently the director of the Madrigal Club of Detroit and the Dearborn Choral Arts Society.

He recently received the honor of being elected to conduct the 1978 Michigan All-State Honors Choir.

Barber has taught in the Farmington system since 1968. In 1970, he was named director of instrumental music at Harrison. There he directs the symphony band or orchestra concert band, marching band and stage band.

He was awarded the distinguished service award by the Farmington area Javices.

in 1971 because of his work with the Farmington Community Concert Band, now totaling 75 musicians.

He has served two terms on the board of directors of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

Nutter gets nod

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"While we would enjoy a female or minority candidates, that's not our primary consideration. We are looking at qualifications," Schulman said.

"The reason we aren't going outside the district is because of the time it would take. While we had all summer to find a new assistant superintendent, we have only until school starts to find a new principal."

BUT THE BOARD voted against Schulman's recommendation and will post the opening outside the district in a 4-3 vote, with Trustees William Gravas, Gary Lichtman and Mervyn Ross dissenting. The board chose to send the principal posting to major state university placement offices.

Instead of the 10-day selection period expected by Schulman, placement offices will take more than 30 days.

Nurse appointed to Harper staff

Nancy Cahill, R.N., of Farmington Hills, has joined the nurse staff of Harper Hospital in the Detroit Medical Center. She attended Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and Michigan State University. She received her nursing diploma in June from Harper Hospital School of Nursing.

Before becoming an R.N., she was a nurse aide at Redford Community Hospital and a nurse assistant at Harper.

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Sailors need each other

Coast Guard officials are putting with growing concern, to reports from a number of people who have experienced boating accidents.

Cdr. Robert Workman, chief of the 9th Coast Guard District Boating Safety Division, cited a number of cases of swamped or otherwise distressed boats, who were passed up or ignored by several pleasure craft prior to being rescued.

The problem is especially likely to arise in such bodies of water as Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and large inland lakes in the area.

Cdr. Workman offered several reasons in speculating on a boater's inaction when sighting casualties. Where recognized distress signals were used, boater ignorance may have been at fault.

However, among many boaters a great fear problem is a deep-seated fear of getting involved, perhaps reinforced by the number of rumors floating around about persons who helped and were later sued.

To reassure boaters in this regard, the commander called attention to a largely unknown provision of federal law.

The "Good Samaritan Clause" of the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 states that any person who "gratuitously and in good faith renders assistance at the scene of a vessel collision, accident or other casualty without objection of any person assisting shall not be held for any civil damages as a result."

Among the forms of aid mentioned are providing towing, salvage or emergency medical assistance.

The only stipulations involved are that the boater exercise the care any reasonably prudent man would give the circumstances and that he act without objection from those being assisted.

The Code of the Sea makes it a boatman's duty to help a mariner in distress. Cdr. Workman stated, Federal regulations protect him when he's fulfilling that responsibility.

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