

Tobias runs workshop

'Sexual slanguage' shows what's on teen minds

By PAT BORDMAN

A party in an empty palace. It's not the take-over of a foreign embassy nor the end of a childhood fairy tale. It's one club to the sexual behavior of adolescents, according to Jerry Tobias.

Tobias, 33, professor of education in human services at the University of Detroit and a lecturer at a recent human sexuality workshop offered by Wayne State University at its Angling Center in Southfield.

sexual activity," Tobias told 60 men and women who attended the workshop.

A party in an empty palace is one of those clubs. It's an example of sexual slang, according to Tobias.

It refers to a gathering of young people in the home of a friend whose parents have gone out for the evening. Because of the sumptuous nature of the area, the houses are referred to as palaces. "They are, some of them, palatial," Tobias said.

"THE PARENTS have left the house with a child they thoroughly trust," Tobias said. The child received permission to have a few friends over while the parents go out. But "the pyramid effect takes over. A party that started with a few friends, those few told a few more. Sometimes a mimeographed notice of the party circulates in school complete with a map to the house."

The result is a house full of uninvited guests. Parents return to find burn marks on sofas, wastebaskets filled with wine and beer bottles, and furniture including the beds in disarray.

Sexual slang is words or statements made by teens that imply sexual activity. "You know there is an interest in this type of thing when they coin their own language," Tobias said.

Another example of sexual slang is mobile party, where the party is moved to the back of a van and the van moves from one location to another.

There are other terms, too, such as streaking or mooning. But terminology isn't the only clue to sexual interest and activity. Tobias also sees dress and behavior as indicators.

"Bralessness and tight-fitting clothes, as well as shirts open to the navel and short, short shorts, all suggest interest in sexuality," he said.

"Behavior patterns give greater confirmation of the sexual society," Tobias said. "There is a fair amount of

indecent exposure, peeping toms and other forms of voyeurism."

People are more concerned and tell their children what to watch for, according to Tobias. As a result, more cases of suspicious behavior are being reported.

Transvestites, people who dress as members of the opposite sex, are occasionally seen at the police station. Tobias told the story of one young man brought to the station in a stock, stockings, high heels, jewelry, make-up and a wig.

He was involved in a car accident and because he was underage with no identification, his father had to be called. Tobias asked the young man if he wished to change clothes before his father arrived. He declined.

When the young man's father appeared at the station, he was speechless, Tobias said. "He was at a total loss and very embarrassed." Besides not wanting to change clothes before his father's arrival, the young man removed the wig and high heels as he and his father left the station.

Tobias said the son merely was looking for a way of getting his father's attention. "In dealing with these things, sometimes the act itself is the most significant thing because that's what we see. We have a youngster trying to function in society and his needs are not being met."

Blocked needs are the root of most anti-social behavior, Tobias said. "When their needs are blocked, they become anxious and they act it out in anti-social behavior. If the block can be removed, the behavior will disappear," he said.

His department tries to help youngsters by talking to them about the danger to themselves and their family if the anti-social behavior persists. They offer referrals to community agencies that provide assistance.

TOBIAS DOESN'T see much difference between the behavior of today's youth and that of their parents 20 or more years ago.

"Kids don't do much more today. They're still scared of getting sexually involved. We see 40 kids a month. If I see one or two sex complaints, that would be a lot."



JERRY TOBIAS

He also is a youth officer for Southfield Township.

It is here that he sees young people, 16 and younger, from the Township and from Bingham Farms, Franklin Village and Beverly Hills, for a variety of offenses, including sexually-related ones.

"We don't see a lot of sexual offenses, but there are clues that there is

Connie Lucas chosen 'Artist of the Month'

Connie Lucas, a resident of Canton and a member of Farmington Artists Club, has been chosen "Artist of the Month" for February.

Her one-woman show will be on exhibit throughout the month in Farmington Community Library, 2350 Liberty St., Farmington.

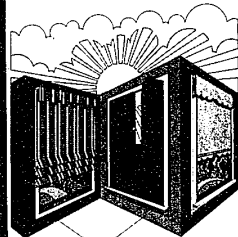
The artist's work has been accepted

in a host of juried shows and is represented in corporate as well as private collections. Some are in Farmington Art Rental Library.

Ms. Lucas currently serves as historian for Farmington Artists Club and has served as membership chairperson.

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