

Farmington Observer

Successor to the Farmington Enterprise

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opinion

oral quarrel

Parents' example should deter drug, alcohol abuse, readers say

This week's Oral Quarrel asked readers to list ways that parents can deter their children from abusing alcohol and drugs. Four responses were deleted because they contained obscene language.

Following are the answers:

By setting a perfect example for their children. Alcohol and drug use should be non-existent. Children should be encouraged to treat their bodies with respect. Alcohol use leading to drunk driving and drug use of any sort is illegal. We easily discourage other illegal activities, why not these as well? I am personally appalled of the poor quality of parents living in our community. I have attended R-rated movies where pre-teen and younger children have been dropped off by parents. These movies as well as TV glamourize drinking.

The best deterrence is education. Something all too many parents are incapable of or unwilling to do. Instead, most rely on scare tactics which only serve to aggra-

vate the problem. With the widespread of drugs by the adult community, such as alcohol and valium, parents must first gain credibility on the subject in the eyes of their children and by example teach the responsible use of drugs.

The main factor in the problem of drug abuse is that many of the young people are not well informed of the consequences of drug abuse. These people may be vulnerable to peer pressure. Parental control of parties is a good idea but it may not control the problem of peer pressure that might take place during the school day, therefore, educating young people to the consequences of drug abuse would do a lot to control the problem.

Yes, I would like to respond to the question by saying that there are very few parents who will check to see where the young people are going, get a telephone number that they can call, find out if the parents are there at the party because they are afraid of their children and until we get control of our children, we are all in danger.

The can educate themselves so they are well informed. Communicate with the parents of their children's friends, help their teens with alternative activities with a party with a cake, cooperate with existing agencies working to combat the problem. It is no coincidence that these keys to clear of trouble are the goals of FFIA (Farmington Families in Action).

The parents should be at home with their own children and get a more family life together, like years ago instead of going out for their own good times and social life. They should stay home and have

more family goings on instead of running around on their cruises and vacations two or three times a year. Let's go back to old times and we will have more kindness to our children.

I think they should make it mandatory through laws to make some of the children to go through some of the jails, the mental hospitals, the drug treatment centers and see what the end results are of some of the people who use these things. I think they ought to make it a state law that the children go through these places and really see what they are getting into.

First of all, parents can establish peer groups so that they can have guide lines, party rules for their children.

As the high school football season begins, booster parents whose kids hold flower-making parties and after game parties should insist that there be no alcohol at these parties and also that any youngster that has alcohol with him, be sent home. If the parents united, there might be less of it at the high school level. Also the party store people should be more careful of kids outside their doors asking 21 year olds or older people to buy booze.

They can set a good example for the children. That is the only answer. Everywhere we go it is drink, drink, drink? It is very sickening, and the children can only observe the adults. That is where they get their role model and also the parents can work to get drinking off TV and out of advertising.

The Stroller loses a friend

With the death of Msgr. Clement Kern, who became a legend in his own time as the poor man's priest, The Stroller lost one of his most cherished and unusual friends.

And while he has shaken off this mortal coil, the good father has left behind many fond memories that will live on and on.

It was back in 1943 when The Stroller had established his office in the Fort Shelby Hotel downtown that he met Msgr. Kern.

It was shortly before noon on St. Patrick's Day and The Stroller was on his way to lunch when he was grabbed on the arm by Tommy Long, an innkeeper on Fort Street, who said, "Come on, Dutchman, you are going to be Irish for a little while. We're going over to Holy Trinity in Corktown and you're going to meet one of the finest priests you'll ever know."

THERE WAS no chance of getting away as the Irish in those days made a round of all the hotel lobbies downtown and got folks to join them in a march to Holy Trinity. The church was located in the center of what was known as Corktown.

When we reached the church Tommy Long grabbed The Stroller again and marched him down the aisle to a front row seat where a group of sisters were sitting.

the stroller
W.W. Edgar

When the Mass was finished we adjourned to the parish house and there The Stroller was given the formal introduction that started a most unusual friendship.

The few hours spent there were stamped indelibly on the The Stroller's mind and he never missed a St. Patrick's Day at Holy Trinity with Msgr. Clement Kern for the next 20 years.

OVER THAT period Corktown changed greatly. The Irish started to move uptown. The Halligans, the O'Rourkes, the Cavanaghs, the Scullens and the Hagerbergs moved north and one of them — Jerry Cavanagh — became Detroit's mayor.

When it came time for Msgr. Kern to retire he left Holy Trinity to take up residence in St. John Seminary in Plymouth and the Stroller's friendship with him was renewed in another unusual meeting.

The Stroller made it a point to visit Msgr. Kern at the seminary one morning and we chatted until

lunch time. The host wasn't in priestly garb, but in a plain undershirt.

We sat together at lunch and at the finish Msgr. Kern in a rather hushed voice said, "I have done you a favor, now you do one for me. I want you to be my guest at a class of young men studying for the priesthood."

THE INVITATION was accepted and the good Father sat with this Pennsylvania Dutchman and explained each section of the Mass as the students were being taught.

When the class was dismissed the monsignor was host on a tour through the seminary which included a great surprise.

When we reached one of the rooms in the basement the Stroller was shown the casket of the Rev. Cardinal Mooney, another great friend of The Stroller. It was a breath-taking moment as we stared at the bronze casing and allowed the memories to come floating through the years.

It was a moment that never will be forgotten. And now, with the passing of Msgr. Kern, St. Patrick's Day will take on a stronger meaning — for each year there will come the fond memories of the first meeting with the legendary poor man's priest.

X-rated fare keeps on rolling

PORNO FLICKS are still flicking and erotic film stars still cavorting in the altogether in adult movie houses in and around Detroit.

Attempts to shut down X-rated theaters falter in the gray area of over-changing and conflicting laws in which "obscenity" is in the eye of the beholder. First a m e n d m e n t rights prevail.



Jackie Klein

In this area, you have only to buzz over to the Cabaret on Eight Mile Road at Beech to catch Hyapatia Lee, former Miss Nude USA, on stage in a live strip show and starring in the triple-X-rated "The Young Like It Hot."

And if it's Tuesday, it must be live amateur night at the Cabaret. It was only two years ago when Southfield police officers arrested more than two dozen nude dancers for indecent exposure during amateur night performances at the movie house on consecutive Friday nights.

THERE WERE few convictions

and the most notable star, hardly an amateur, was placed on probation. Amateur night at the Cabaret was changed to Tuesdays and the show is now somewhat modified.

Topless exotic dancers still strut their stuff. But the court ruled performers can no longer go bottomless.

Legal obscenity surrounding so-called pornography is why the Cabaret is still spinning skin flicks. The city has tried to close the theater for alleged violations of either obscenity statutes or zoning laws. But X-rated films grind on. They're tough to fight.

A kind of cat-and-mouse game is played over obscenity statutes which rely on contemporary community standards to decide what is offensive and what has some redeeming value.

Contemporary community standards vary from sophisticated city to conservative, small town. And a film that one juror deems obscene has some artistic or scientific value to another when viewed as a whole.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 knocked out previous lenient guidelines and ruled that community standards should determine what is obscene in court tests. The

federal court passed the hot potato to the state and the state couldn't handle it.

Attorney Stephen Taylor, who has successfully defended many clients in connection with obscenity charges, cites the constitutional right of free choice. His motto is, "If you don't like skin flicks, don't see them."

A Southfield woman is pushing for a city ordinance to prohibit the rental of video film tapes she considers to be "hard-core pornography."

VIA THE MEDIUM of video, X-rated films may be shown in thousands of homes and foisted on minors throughout the city, the resident contends.

City officials realize they'll be hard pressed to stop video establishments from renting adult movies to adults. It's close to impossible to legislate morality. And what kids watch has to be monitored by parents.

X-rated films are usually plotless and boring as well as offensive. As long as there's a market for so-called smut and obscene obscenity laws to protect those who profit from the demand, the supply will continue to be plentiful.

discover Michigan

by Bill Stockwell

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