

Visitors share ideas in drug use battle

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Rarely can the average person pass a day without reading or hearing about drug or alcohol abuse and its place in American society.

With attention and concern increasingly drawn from nations around the world the United States seems hardly alone in its fight against adolescent substance abuse.

Giving weight to the notion that drug

abuse is a growing world problem, 17 First Ladies and representatives from at least 51 nations recently gathered for a drug abuse control conference in Atlanta.

"The purpose is to bring together all the people from all over the United States and the world to report what is new in the adolescent drug abuse field," said Greta Mackler, project director for the Birmingham-based Michigan Communities in Action (MCA). "They really bring together the finest

ministers in the world to share their experience."

Sponsored by PRIDE (Parent Resource Information on Drug Education), a national center which helps grass-root drug educational groups like Farmington Families in Action (FFA), the conference brought together professionals as well as parents and students.

SHARING INFORMATION didn't stop at the end of the three-day Atlanta conference.

Scientists, directors of government programs, psychologists, educators and other professionals from the 51 nations stayed in the United States for about a month to gather even more information to take back to their homelands.

"How interested they must be to spend the money and the time in this," said Betty Nicolay, president of FFA.

How the FFA works and makes its presentations to parents and youngsters was cause enough last week to bring three of the international guests

to Farmington Hills. The trio also spent time in Ann Arbor and Birmingham, as well as California, Washington, D.C., and Florida.

"The parent movement is working," said Nicolay, about the guests' interest in involving parents in the fight against drug abuse.

Ushered around the state by Mackler and Ann Hansen, MCA network director, the visitors were from Milan, Italy; Quito, Ecuador; and Nassau, Bahamas.

"Our guests were here to see what they can take back to their own countries," Mackler said.

Visitors Annalisa Chierici, a psychologist; Silvia Laufer, director of a drug prevention program; and Theophilus Cox, a primary school principal representing the Bahamian Ministry of Education, were interviewed by the Observer and asked to discuss the adolescent substance abuse problems in their homelands.

Bahama educated

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Bahamas and the United States are facing a similar problem when it comes to adolescent substance abuse.

"There is not much difference," said Theophilus Cox, primary school principal in Nassau, Bahamas. "The problem seems to be basically the same."

Geography is a good part of the reason why the United States and the Bahamas share similar problems with drug abuse, Cox said.

The Bahamas, Cox said, is the midpoint Caribbean stop in the South American shipment of illegal drugs to the United States.

Like the United States, those in the Bahamas are confronted with "a combination of problems — alcohol, marijuana and cocaine," Cox said.

While drugs are inexpensive to buy in the Bahamas, Cox said, treatment for the addiction is very expensive.

"For those who purchase it, it's relatively cheap," he said. "And some of them don't really purchase it."

"We are a drug shipment center. They stop here. In so doing, some natives are aware of the financial gain. It's sold. Some kids just get it (free) from the young adults."

Drug abuse treatment methods in the Bahamas are similar, "but not as elaborate," as those used in the United States, Cox said.

Unlike in the United States, individual treatment centers don't exist in the Bahamas but some hospitals contain treatment units or services, he added.

Parent education programs and services such as Farmington Families in Action and Michigan Communities in Action are not prevalent in the Bahamas, Cox said.

But at least one program does exist. It's called Drug Action Service and is designed to provide drug education,



Theophilus Cox

particularly to parents.

"This is new," Cox said.

BECAUSE HE he is interested in

prevention, education and treatment

programs, Cox intends to go back to the

Bahamas and investigate ways of im-

plementing some of the ideas he picked

up here in the States.

"When I go back I have to report on the

whole program (the international confer-

ence in Atlanta)," Cox said. "I'm not

sure exactly how it's going to be done."

"Here's Looking At You Too" is one

of the programs which captured his in-

terest while in the United States, Cox

said. The program is actually a com-

plete curriculum in a kit with teaching

aids and charts that can be used to

teach students in grades kindergarten

through 12th about drug use, he added.

The educational kit includes teaching

aids, charts and other things that can

be used in class to teach students about

drugs.

The treatment centers he traveled to

in the United States also captured his

interest, Cox said. He was particularly

fascinated with a center called "The

Village," in Miami.

"The patients are called residents."

"They live in. When they are over to

be drug free they can go back into soci-

ety," Cox said.

Italian viewpoint

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Dr. Annalisa Chierici can rattle off statistics of age groups, types of drugs, and methods of treatment used in Italy with hardly taking a breath.

And there's little doubt she knows her stuff.

A psychologist with the Family Advisory Bureau in a Milan suburb, Chierici is part of a seven-person committee of medical and social workers in the Milan district national health service which sponsors a drug abuse prevention program for 14- to 21-year-olds.

Chierici also has collaborated with the Institute of Psychology at the University of Milan Medical School in drug problem study groups since 1979.

"We have a great problem with heroin much more than alcohol," she said. "And we're having an increase with cocaine. We know marijuana is used by the young perhaps not so much as here."

The 15-25 age group suffers the most drug abuse, Chierici said. But it doesn't stop there. What she found recently is that more drug abuse problems are showing up in youngsters of about 10-11 years old.

AND WITH an emotional tone that seems to almost surprise herself, Chierici told of a 9-year-old child found with severe drug addiction.

While there's a difference between young Americans and Italians in the type of drugs most readily used, the desperation and push for solutions to the problems are the same in the two countries.

"It's quite difficult. But it's important to cooperate with each country. We have to fight together," she said.

That means sharing medical information, treatment, methods and prevention ideas.



Annalisa Chierici

Comparing the entire drug scenario in the United States and Italy is easy.

Crime, particularly burglaries, robberies and larcenies are commonplace in both countries as a means for getting money to buy drugs, Chierici said.

That all economic and social classes and age groups are involved with drugs is another similarity between the two nations.

Other similarities include the myriad of treatment methods and the ever-accompanying controversy surrounding the methods. Both nations share similar types of treatment units as well as the use of volunteers, parents and teachers in the push to prevent more young people from making drugs a way of life.

BEFORE PREVENTION can be really successful, however, Chierici believes it's important to know how drugs affect human beings and why people, especially the young, turn to drugs.

"To prevent, it's important to know why," Chierici said.

One project in Italy that's about two years old, but nonetheless is making headway in prevention, is a plan instituted by the government, she said.

Physicians, social workers, psycholo-

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Global problem

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Ask Silvia Laufer if substance abuse problems in the United States and Ecuador are similar and immediately she shakes her head.

"No. You are the consumers. We are the suppliers," said the director of the National Drug Abuse Prevention Control Program in Quito, Ecuador.

Acknowledging those facts, however, in no way means the government of Ecuador condones the manufacture and export of illegal drugs, Laufer said.

While remaining uncommitted about the extent of drug abuse among the young in Ecuador, Laufer said that "alcohol use and cigarettes are a big problem."

The American cigarette and liquor corporations are sending their wares to Ecuador and other South American countries, she said.

"The cigarette companies are now making big money," Laufer said, pointing to sophisticated advertising campaigns, many directed toward the young consumer.

SAYING THAT use of cigarettes and alcohol are the big draw for Ecuador's young, Laufer said the government is also working on drug abuse, particularly in trying to prevent it.

"We don't have much of a problem," Laufer said. "We have to prevent it. It's social, cultural and historical," she said, referring to the roots of substance abuse.

Emphasis is placed on prevention, Laufer said. But prevention programs in Ecuador are not as narrow in purpose or scope as in the United States.

Unlike the United States, Laufer said, Ecuador does not have a lot of money to devote to a myriad of prevention programs.



Silvia Laufer

"You have much more money for prevention," she said.

Prevention in Ecuador attacks a broad range of lifestyles and attitudes rather than one problem, such as drug abuse, Laufer said.

"It's a lifestyle, a way of considering how to live," she said. "We educate people to look forward, to develop attitudes and behavior that won't harm themselves."

Prevention can take two forms, Laufer said. The first is negative prevention which basically says "don't do it." The second and Laufer's preferred form is the positive approach.

"This let's children develop."

THE IDEA behind the positive form of prevention, she said, is to encourage children to look ahead in their lives and fill themselves with the good things in life so much so that there is no need to look to drugs or alcohol to fill the gaps.

Laufer said she is convinced that guiding and showing children how to reach out to the "positive" aspects of life is far more beneficial to them than programs which simply say "don't use drugs."

"When you prevent (in the positive way), you prevent a child for any prob-

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INSIDE ANGLES

BY LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

ONE NEW MAPLE tree and 10 seedlings of various types were planted in Drake Park by members of Farmington Beautification Committee in observance of Arbor Day. Next project for the beautifiers is their annual plant and flower sale when the blossoms will surround the fountain in Downtown Shopping Center May 17-18. The sale begins at 10 a.m. Friday and closes down when the sold-out sign goes up Saturday.

LAURA KOTZIER, daughter of Allan and Mary Lou Kotziers of Farmington Hills and a 1984 graduate of North Farmington High School, has been elected to the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society at Purdue University where she is studying nuclear engineering. She was also recognized as an academically distinguished student by the Department of Freshmen Engineering Staff.

NORTH FARMINGTON High School's vocal music department chalked up another winner this spring when the Women's Ensemble took the top spot in the state among high school female singing groups. The ensemble is directed by Joan Mackenzie whose vocal students have been winning contests and scholarships all spring. The competition was sponsored by Michigan Schools Vocal Association.

MARK W. FERTIG, son of Roso Marie and Bill Fertig of Farmington Hills and a junior at Catholic Central High School, received a second-place award in the Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, recently held at Cobo Hall. His project was titled "Compu-Sonar: Measuring Distance by Computer."

JENNIFER E. BUSS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Wilkins of Northville, formerly of Farmington Hills, has been commended by Roy V. Wood, dean of Northwestern University's School of Speech, for distinguished academic achievement during winter quarter. Jennifer is past president of her residential college and serves as president of the Residential College Board of Northwestern. She also sings in the University Chorus.

JAMES THILL, son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Thill of Farmington Hills and a 1974 graduate of

North Farmington High School, will receive his doctor of medicine degree from Oral Roberts University. He will serve his residency at Henry Ford Hospital.

KAREN LYNN STOYCHOFF, daughter of Eleanor and Richard Stoychoff of Farmington Hills and a 1979 graduate of North Farmington High School, was recently hired as a production assistant for WDIV-TV 4. Karen is a Michigan State alumna with a bachelor's degree in communications and telecommunications. Karen helps produce the nationally syndicated cable talk show "Telling Secrets with Dr. Sonya Friedman."

GEORGE MAJOROS JR., a 1979 graduate of North Farmington High School, has been appointed staff managing editor of the Case Western Law Review for 1985-86. George is working toward his doctorate in Los Angeles. He is a Michigan State Law School second year at Case Western Reserve Law School this May. He will be employed as a law clerk for the firm of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue. He will be dividing his summer between the Dallas, Texas, and Los Angeles offices.

CATHY BENNETT, daughter of Gerald and Millie Bennett of Farmington Hills and a graduate of Farmington High School, is working toward her doctorate in Los Angeles. Cathy was recently on the TV show "Name That Tune" and won a VHS Video Cassette Recorder, a portable TV, a trip to Las Vegas, Skyway luggage, a Touch Tone Telephone System, his and her Helibros Sport Watches, plus money.

THOSE PLANNING WEEKEND get-aways or mini vacations can add a new dimension to their travel by sampling the bed and breakfast experience. A newly-published guidebook, Bed & Breakfast in Michigan and Surrounding Areas, has 128 pages describing inns and private homes which have adopted this centuries-old European travel tradition. The book, by Norma Buzan and Bert Howell, is available from Betsy Ross Publications, 3057 Betsy Ross Drive, Bloomfield Hills 48303. Cost of the book is \$8.25 which includes postage.

BARBARA SCHEFFLER, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Scheffler of Farmington Hills, recently received the Outstanding Mathematician Award from Eastern Michigan University. In addition, she received the Hilton G. Palabes and Regent Scholar Awards. Barbara is a junior majoring in mathematics and computer science and has maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

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