

Street called a 'war zone'

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intervention and prosecution — that the demand for drugs has to be stopped.

Dwyer stressed that the drug problem is no worse in Farmington Hills than other areas. But it will take a community effort to curb the problem, he said. And parents are important when it comes to school-age children.

"It's a parent's responsibility to try and do what they can do in the home environment," Dwyer said.

DWYER ADVOCATES parental searches of bedrooms, cars, schoolbooks — anywhere drugs could be hidden.

The southside resident wasn't surprised at the low parent turnout Wednesday night at a "Say No To Drugs" information forum at North Farmington High School.

About 40 parents attending the live cable broadcast, and others who called in with questions, wanted to know what was being done to educate their children.

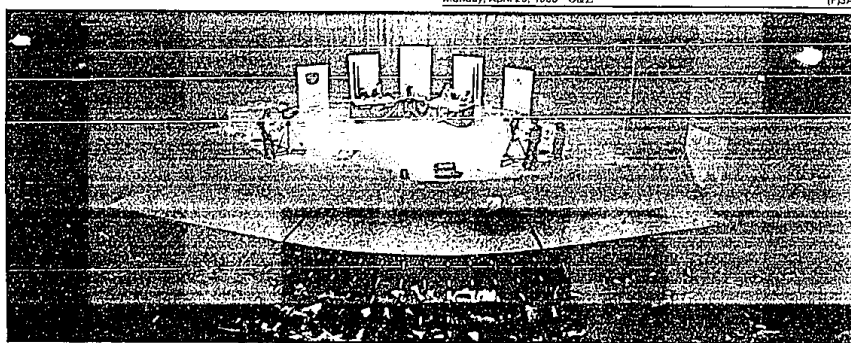
The cable show was one of two broadcast Wednesday to start the yearlong "Say No To Drugs" community education process.

NORTH FARMINGTON High School principal Donald Cowan, one of the panelists, explained that today's high school drug use is not as prevalent as it was in the 1960s and 1970s. But that doesn't mean the problem has gone away.

"Kids are more subtle now," Cowan said. "They're using drugs on weekends . . . during their private times. It does not mean we don't have a problem (at school) — we do."

"We have problems in our community that affect our schools," Cowan heads a school district committee studying substance abuse. He said changes would be recommended not only in drug education curriculum, but also in the student code, in implementing intervention help and in forming peer support groups for students who need them.

There are other problems relating to drugs besides physical and psychological addiction, Cowan said.



photos by RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

An overview of the North Farmington High Auditorium at the panel discussion Wednesday morning.

Absenteeism, disrespect, suicide and other things are a direct result of drugs and affect the school environment.

FARMINGTON FAMILIES in Action chairwoman Betty Nicolay, whose group has been active in drug education in Farmington schools, said past education programs have been done at the request of individual

teachers and principals. She called Farmington drug education efforts "sporadic."

"We have not had a consistent program throughout the district," Cowan concurred.

Part of the effort in the schools will include staff training in substance abuse counseling. Cowan said his committee "hopes to have" a dis-

trictwide coordinator for the drug education effort that will involve not only students and staff, but parents.

"Many of us, as parents, have blinders on," he told parents, adding that they cannot have "blind love."

"Every student has the capability of being a drug user," he added.

JUDITH WILITE, assistant superintendent, said last week the culmi-

nation of the district's study on health curriculum will be presented to the board in a report May 17.

It will include information on both drug awareness and education on AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

"We will look at substance abuse, AIDS education — the total picture," she added.

Drugs, alcohol can harm body, teens learn

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O'Sullivan and Web were among 150-175 selected senior high and middle school students invited to a cable discussion about drug and alcohol abuse. A student panel discussion was held Wednesday night for parents.

Panelists included Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department, Betty Nicolay, chairwoman of Farmington Families in Action, Jane Williams, chemical dependency therapist, and Donald Cowan, North Farmington High School principal.

THE PANEL discussions, sponsored by Farmington Public Schools and the Farmington Hills Police Department's new citizens crime prevention advisory committee, are part of a citywide campaign to heighten awareness of drug and alcohol abuse. The campaign was kicked off with the specially designated "Say No To Drugs" week April 17-23.

Accompanied by nervous giggles from the young audience, the panelists outlined the hard facts to describe the proliferation of drug and alcohol abuse among youth. More than 3 million adolescents in this country are addicted to alcohol and drugs; addiction in an adolescent or teenager takes only six months to one year; one of every seven high school seniors in the country has tried cocaine; 12-15 million kids today live with parents who are chemical abusers.

"I've seen a lot of the damage drugs do to families. I've seen a lot of the damage drugs do to young people,"

Williams said. "You are the future. You are the pride and joy of your parents and your educators. I've seen drugs stop children from being what they want to be."

Following the brief fact-filled discussion, students questioned panelists. Their questions offered insight into some of the misconceptions youths have about drugs and alcohol, as well as some of their fears.

Will parents be informed when their children seek help for substance abuse? How long do you have to take drugs before you are really addicted? Which is worse, alcohol or marijuana? Could I have seen drug deals and use and not know it? What programs are being provided for kids with abuse problems?

PANELIST RESPONSES were accompanied by pleas to students to exercise freedom of choice and avoid substance abuse.

"What we want you to say is 'yes to life' and 'no to drugs,'" said Nebus, who detailed legal ramifications of drug abuse.

"When a youth asked how serious substance abuse is in Farmington Hills, Nebus said police see the result in the form of increased crime, including burglaries and armed robberies. At least two or three crack cocaine houses exist in the city, he said.

"Farmington Hills is just about the same as what's happening in any other school district," Williams added. Some of the students were surprised by the answers

to their questions. Panelists stressed that alcohol is as dangerous and addictive as most narcotics. And addiction in young people occurs faster than it does in adults. "The problem with alcohol is it is a very difficult drug to target in on," Nicolay said.

UNLIKE OTHER drugs, alcohol is socially acceptable, readily available and legal for anyone older than 21.

"Alcoholism is a disease and can be passed on to your children," Nicolay said. Kids of alcoholic parents are particularly at risk for mirroring their parents' problem, she added.

Tracey Taketa, 12, was surprised by some of the facts she heard. "Alcohol — it's more of a problem than I thought it was," she said, adding that she found much of the information offered by panelists to be helpful. Shannon Simmons, 13, said she thinks drug and alcohol information should be more readily available to kids because they are the first to know when their friends are having problems. "Kids are afraid they will get into trouble," she said.

A classmate, Katrina Kidd, 13, wanted the adults to know she was pleased with the panel discussion and plans for the future. "I'm glad I've found out they are going to do something about this (drug and alcohol abuse)," she said.



Steve Zyskowski, a North Farmington senior, wanted to know what was more dangerous, alcohol or marijuana.

business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion, are planning a new venture or project, or have information about other business-related happenings — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Observer readers. Send items to: Business Briefs, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MARKETING MANAGER

Thomas Peters of Farmington Hills was appointed McDonald's marketing manager for Michigan.

As a chief marketing officer for the corporation, he is responsible for all marketing programs in the Michigan Region.

Peters joined McDonald's Corp. in March 1982 as a field marketing representative. He was transferred to Greenville, S.C., and promoted to regional advertising supervisor in 1983. In 1984, he was promoted to advertising manager for the Norfolk Region, where he remained until his latest move to Michigan.

Recently, he was appointed to the Detroit Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. He also serves on the publicity committee.

McDonald's is the world's leading food service organization, serving 20 million people each day in 10,000 restaurants in 46 countries. Seventy-five percent of McDonald's restaurants are locally owned and operated by independent entrepreneurs.

ROOM RANKINGS

Six metro Detroit hotel/motel chains that serve the Farmington area are among the top 20 chains based on 1987 room totals, according to Crain's Detroit Business.

Holiday Inn tops the list with 2,210 rooms in metro Detroit. Knights Inn is fifth with 1,083 rooms. Red Roof Inn is sixth with 900 rooms. Quality Inn is seventh with 818 rooms. Radisson is 11th with 518 rooms. Embassy Inn is 19th with 335 rooms.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Newest members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce are:

Data Systems Services, Farmington Hills, computer systems, 478-8485; Atlantic Brass Co., Farmington Hills, wholesale to hobby industry,

477-2813; Employee Benefit Concepts, Farmington Hills, market research insurance, 533-4801; Bishop Distributing, Farmington Hills, sales representative, 474-8793; Arbor Dental Associates, Farmington Hills, dentist, 553-9393; Crittenden & Associates, P.C., Farmington Hills, accounting firm, 553-3456; McCulloch & Co., P.C., Royal Oak, CPA, 544-4400; Basket Boutique, Farmington Hills, best of Michigan baskets, 626-9929.

Jack Christensen, West Bloomfield, Inc., West Bloomfield, real estate, 737-4460; Birmingham Coffee Service, Farmington Hills, 628-1338; Law Offices of Paul J. Blizman, Farmington Hills, 478-2049; McElroy, Phares, Turpak & Peunne, Farmington Hills, law firm, 553-2300; Radisson Suite Hotel, Farmington Hills, 477-7800; Osterdale Insurance Agency, Farmington Hills, insurance sales, 553-7579; TSI Office Services, Farmington Hills, 585-3640; Midesco, Inc., Farmington, computer consultants, 478-0023; Marketing Communications Counsel, Farmington Hills, marketing, advertising and PR, 737-0930.

Convergent Technologies, Farmington Hills, computer sales, 489-0050; AT&T, Southfield, telecommunications, 351-2529; Rosen Vision Clinic, P.C., Farmington, optometrist, 474-5125; Woolman Chiropractic Center, P.D., Farmington, 478-4409; Craggs Cabinet Co., Farmington, manufacturer counter tops and cabinets, 474-1100; United Savings Bank, Farmington Hills, savings bank, 681-1703; and Hoffner Systems, Farmington Hills, data processing consultants, 473-1193.

SALES ACHIEVER

Sweet & Associates in Farmington Hills was named to the President's Million \$ Council by Citizens Insurance Co. It is the third year in which the insurance agency has achieved this honor.

"The President's Million \$ Council is a special honorary group established by Citizens to recognize outstanding sales and above-average underwriting results by the independent agents which represent us," said James Coville, vice president of marketing at Citizens Insurance Co. in Howell.

Sweet & Associates placed \$2.5 million in premium with Citizens in 1987 and fulfilled all other requirements to qualify for the President's Million \$ Council. The agency will receive an award plaque and other special benefits in recognition of its achievements.

Sweet & Associates is one of only 25 from among 500 independent agencies that represent Citizens in Michigan to receive this honor, based upon 1987 results.

Citizens Insurance Co. of America is the largest writer of insurance through independent agents in Michigan.

BANK PROMOTIONS

Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit announced the following promotions of Farmington Hills residents:

Daniel Casselton, vice president and trust officer, personal trust administration; Janet Swoboda, second vice president and account officer, Metropolitan loan division; Susan Fiedler, vice president, systems application development; Brian Petrak, international banking officer, international foreign exchange; and Nancy Williams, leasing marketing officer, Manobank leasing.

HE'S RE-ELECTED

John Dilland of Farmington Hills was re-elected assistant treasurer of the Michigan Mills Producers Association Board of Directors.

DONATES SALES

On April 16 and 17, T.J. Cinnamon Bakery, in the Downtown Farmington Center and in Orchard Place Shopping Center in Farmington Hills, donated a portion of sales to the children at Judson Center for boys in Royal Oak.

NAMED DIRECTOR

Diane Johnson-Loush of Farmington Hills was named director of the Women's Recovery Program at Woodside Medical, Inc. in Pontiac.

She is responsible for clinical programming and marketing. She will head the Speaker's Bureau, which provides training for industry and community groups on substance abuse topics and women's issues.

The Women's Recovery Program is a specialty inpatient chemical dependency unit serving adult females dependent upon alcohol or other drugs. It emphasizes women's concerns, such as sexuality, effective parenting and assertiveness.

Johnson-Loush is a member of the Association for Labor and Management Consultants on Alcoholism. She has completed three years of service as treasurer for the Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists.

She comes to Woodside from the Oxford Institute of Oxford where she held the position of director of clinical services.

JEWELRY SHOW

Jeanne Hackett
Fashion Jewelry
Thursday, April 28
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Birmingham

Meet the designer and view her handmade necklaces. Primitive to semi-precious avant-garde designs.

Jacobson's

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday