

Victim fights to regain health

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State drug czar to launch drive

Michigan's drug czar will speak Wednesday morning to launch an anti-drug effort throughout the Farmington area.

Director of the Office of Drug Agencies in Lansing, Donald Reisig will be keynote speaker at a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at Mercy Center, 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills.

Before being appointed to his current position, Reisig was a practicing attorney in Lansing and served as president of the State Bar of Michigan for 1988-89.

He has served a number of community groups, including the Greater Lansing Council on Alcoholism, the Greater Lansing Legal Aid Bureau, the Greater Lansing Visiting Nurses Association and church and civic groups.

Reisig's speech will launch National Substance Abuse Awareness Month. A number of activities are planned, sponsored by Farmington Families in Action.



Donald Reisig drug agency director

- SOME OF those activities are:
- Drug-free T-shirt Day, Oct. 6. Students in all Farmington-area schools are being asked to wear T-shirts with the slogan, "Say yes to life, say no to drugs." Students are encouraged to wear their shirts throughout the school year.
 - Sports Nights, hosted by the Farmington Schools Oct. 11, 18 and 25. Already scheduled for Oct. 25

are former Harrison High football star John Miller and Lions quarterback Rodney Peete.

- The "Are You Concerned" series, sponsored by FFIA, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3, 10, 17 and 24 at Harrison High. The substance abuse awareness series will focus on disease and addiction, family teenagers and intervention.

The two bullets lodged in his brain were surgically removed, but doctor's felt removing the bullet lodged in his scapula would do more harm than good.

Klein's attacker was captured and sentenced to at least 35 years in prison before he's eligible for parole. Charles Louis Washington was charged and convicted of attempted murder and armed robbery.

But helping to convict his attacker was only a small part of the battle for Klein.

He was admitted to the Rehabilitation Institute in Detroit Jan. 5. "I was barely able to sit up in a wheelchair," he said. "It's a miracle I'm alive. God wanted me to live."

THREE WEEKS later, doctors told him he may be able to walk again. They expected a 70-80 percent recovery.

But Klein wouldn't settle for that. "I'm going to recover 110 percent. Nothing is going to stop me."

By Feb. 9, Klein was able to stand and walk forward with help. He was transferred Feb. 13 from the Institute in Detroit to its satellite, Haggerty Center, in Farmington Hills.

"He's probably the most motivated client I've ever had," said his physical therapist at the Haggerty Center, Annette Bickel.

Klein began with therapy four days a week, slowly reducing his

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time at the center to once a month by the end of September.

In the Haggerty Center gym on a rainy Thursday morning in September, Klein used an exercise with a large orange ball to practice balancing, his arms out to the side.

"You're never 100 percent recovered," he said. "It takes two years for the brain to reduce back down to somewhat normal size, to be done repairing itself."

KLEIN MOVES around pretty well, with a slight limp in his right leg. He uses a cane and wears a brace to support the leg that he says may never fully recover. The double vision he experienced after the accident has disappeared, but he remains 25 percent blind.

Recovery after a serious head injury is a long, slow process. The brain must "pick up new pathways to the muscles," he said.

Klein has come a long way since December, but it hasn't been easy. It was a combination of his drive and support from family and friends, he said.

"Unless you have the will to want to get better, you're not going to do it," he said.

He spent two months of his reha-

bilitation in a wheelchair — two months he describes as frustrating. People in wheelchairs are often treated differently, he said.

Klein described an incident that occurred at the Harper Hospital Professional Building in Detroit one morning when he was having breakfast with his therapist at the cafeteria.

The chef asked the therapist what she would like, then asked her what Klein would like, instead of asking Klein directly.

"People don't do it intentionally," he said. "They just don't know. Every single individual in the world could become a handicapped person in one way or another. The best thing to do is understand it."

KLEIN RECOMMENDS visiting a rehabilitation center. "I'd like to see people take tours, of the Haggerty Center, the (Detroit) rehabilitation center, any other center. Volunteer some time, or help out financially if you can't volunteer time."

Klein intends to dedicate the rest of his life to helping other people in similar situations. "I'm going to dedicate my life to pay back the second chance I had," he said.

Klein sets goals for himself and

others. On Labor Day, he walked the five-mile span of the Mackinac Bridge with the aid of a cane and leg brace.

"It was a piece of cake. That was a goal I shot for and I obtained it," he said. "If you want to get better, you can get better. It's up to you."

Next year, Klein would like to take 10 or 20 people in wheelchairs with him on the walk, along with volunteers to help push them across.

KLEIN HAS other plans in store as well. Klein would like to organize a service to take patients into therapy back and forth to rehabilitation centers.

People who have sustained head injuries are not allowed, by state law, to drive for at least six months. And asking your family for help can be a real drain on them after a while, he said.

Klein envisions a kind of dial-a-ride system where patients can call for a ride. His own problems with transportation kept him from therapy in the past.

"Somehow, someday, somewhere down the road . . . it will be a volunteer organization where you can call in and say, 'I need a ride for three days from now.'"

Klein has already started working toward collecting donations for rehabilitation centers. He raised \$900 in donations during his Mackinac Bridge walk.

"If I could help just one person walk instead of being in a wheelchair, it's worth it to me," he said.

"Rehabilitation right away is very important. It's out there if you want to grab it. The mind is a powerful tool, it can either help you or hinder you."

Local doctor osteopath VP

A certified general practitioner in Farmington Hills was elected third vice president of the American Osteopathic Association, a medical association representing 27,000 osteopathic physicians.

Dr. Richard Knight has been on the staff at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills since 1987. He served as staff president in 1986.

Knight has had many appointments in the insurance field with the Blue Care Network Southeast Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

He is executive director of the Botsford Staff Physicians and president and medical director of the Botsford Medical Group.

Since 1983, he has been a trustee of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

clarification

An edited version of Farmington City Council candidate JoAnne McShane's answers on a candidates' page in the Sept. 28 Observer created some confusion relating to an issue about downtown redevelopment. According to her unedited version, McShane said: "We've spent a large amount of money replacing downtown sidewalks. We need to address

further maintenance of our neighborhood curbs and sidewalks. I have listened to complaints concerning the replacement of sidewalks downtown which did not need replacement while neighborhood curbs which are badly deteriorated go unrepaired. The cost of replacing curbing and sidewalks is a great financial burden to many residents."

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READY

GET SET... GO! OUR COLLEGIATE BABY CRAWL IS ABOUT TO START!

Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m.
Children's Shoes, Livonia
Bring your baby in wearing your favorite college team colors! Crawling babies up to 10 months of age will compete on a five-foot rubber mat "track". Cameras and VCR's are welcome. Pre-register your young star by calling 591-7696, extension 245.

Jacobson's

NEEDLE WORK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This October...collection shows, personal appearances and seminars. Ideas and designs for Christmas gifts and decorations. Take note of the following dates so you won't miss anything.

OCTOBER 2 TO OCTOBER 14
all day Deux Amis Rug Show-Plus: A collection. An opportunity to see the newest and best from the popular designer line.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
noon to 4 p.m. Joan Matrosic personal appearance. Joan has transformed the designs of Michigan artist Gwen Frostic into counted cross stitch charts. Find out how she got started. Charts and models on display through October 14.

OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 28
all day Associated Talents: "A-T" Show. See a wide variety of hand-painted canvases. Stitch counted subjects from juvenile patterns, florals, and Christmas. Included in this showing, spring and Easter pastels.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Kathy Lanza personal appearance. Watch Kathy paint a pet from a photograph. She can perfectly capture the expression on your pet's face.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
10 a.m. to noon Carlene's Metal Thread Ornaments, a seminar, and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. \$25 plus supplies.

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