



JOHN DISCHER/staff photographer

Gershwin the Chirobot tells students how wonderful it is to be a living human.

Hugs, not drugs — robot tells students

The Chirobot robot visited Livonia and Redford students last week at Clarenceville Junior High with an anti-drug message.

Alex Kowalewski, in the role of Gershwin the Chirobot, visited the Clarenceville Junior High May 17 morning to present the hour-long "Hugs Not Drugs" program.

Gershwin also was at St. Agatha High in Redford May 18. In an attempt to avoid the use of all drugs by youth, Kowalewski offers ways to say no to drugs. "I start out as a robot and then turn human so I can share experiences with them."

At Clarenceville and St. Agatha, Kowalewski did not limit the presentation to illegal street drugs but also focused on socially accepted drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, prescription and over-the-counter medications.

When in the role of Gershwin, Kowalewski walks and talks like a robot, bumps into things, then hugs whoever he bumps into. Dressed in a costume of silver and gold metallic cloth, sporting dark glasses, he moves in those the herky-jerky and smooth-wheeling motions typical of a robot.

"Hugs are very positive. Think about it, friends hug, football players hug... it's a better transfer of energy than drugs."

THEN, TURNING into a person, Kowalewski tries to stimulate the students' imagination to help them think of ways to use their bodies — eventually making it easier to say no to drugs.

Turning back into a robot, he says: "You have a choice. I don't have a choice. I turn back into a robot."

"I'm not here to tell you not to do drugs. You're old enough to make

Clarenceville

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

your own decisions. We're here for those people who don't want to do drugs. I'm here for those people who want to say no!"

The show features a variety of pantomimes, including asking the students to dream up a few. Students are asked to respond to skits, to share their thoughts.

The appearances at Clarenceville Junior High and St. Agatha High were sponsored by Andan Chiropractic Clinic of Livonia.

WHILE IN town, Gershwin made an appearance at an exhibit booth for Expo 275 sponsored by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at Rema's of Livonia.

The theme for Expo 275 was "Chiropractic in Industry — It's Your Business." The industry education message is accident prevention, rehabilitative health care, and cost containment.

On May 16 last week, Gershwin the Chirobot appeared at Vladimir's on Grand River across from Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills with humorous entertainment to educate in the areas of personal wellness, preventive and rehabilitative health care.

Adan Chiropractic Clinic also sponsored the appearances at Expo 275 and at Vladimir's.

Student visits Africa

Todd Stoneman, a sophomore at North Farmington High School, will travel to the Ivory Coast in West Africa on June 9 to spend three weeks living with a French family. The purpose of the visit is to experience the culture and language by sharing the daily life of a family.

Arrangements for the homestay are being made by Nacel Cultural Exchanges, a non-profit organization which arranges summer homestays in French, German and Spanish families for American students, and summer homestays in American families for students from France, Germany, Spain and the Ivory Coast.

At this moment, many French, Spanish and German teenagers are still dreaming of spending four weeks in an American family. Anyone wishing to open their home to a French, Spanish or German teenager from July 2-29 or July 29 to Aug. 25 can make this dream come true.

Participation in the program provides an opportunity to foster better international understanding, as well as the opportunity for an exciting and enriching summer-

time experience for the whole family.

If you would like more information about the program, contact Evelyn or Julian Prince, area coordinators, at their West Bloomfield residence, 626-6641.



Todd Stoneman
North sophomore

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