

Chastity is best policy, she says

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

The topic was sex at several area high schools Tuesday and Wednesday as a 55-year-old mother of eight encouraged kids to consider the virtues of chastity.

Molly Kelly flew in from Philadelphia, her airfare paid by local parents and schools, to repeat the message she has relayed to teenagers for 10 years.

On Tuesday she spoke to 900 kids at Redford Thurston High School, 1,100 kids at Redford Union High School and about 250 kids at Senholm High School in Birmingham. Wednesday she went to Lahser and Detroit Country Day.

The Senholm crowd was relatively small because the whole student body wasn't there. Only the students in health classes

were compelled to attend. To some people, Kelly said, safe sex is just a euphemism for contraception. But Kelly prefers the term "saved sex," meaning sex a person didn't have, but saved for the future.

Her main concern is that casual sex can have serious side effects, like pregnancy and disease. But Kelly parts company with the safe sex crowd when she notes that birth control devices are fallible and there's no reason why chastity shouldn't be presented as an option.

Noting that condoms fail 10-20 percent of the time, Kelly asked the rhetorical question, "Would I give my car to a kid if the steering wheel locks 10 percent of the time?"

On basketball player Ervin subject of holy piercing begins taping 5 p.m. Friday for broadcast at 7 a.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 355-7099 any time.

Magic Johnson — who is HIV positive — Kelly wondered what he would have said if the woman he was about to have intercourse with confessed to having AIDS. "Do you really think he would have said, 'Not to worry, I've got my condom,'" she said.

Kelly also noted that teenagers are getting mixed messages on sex, alcohol and drugs. With the latter two, the message is simply, don't do it. With sex the message seems to be, "Here's a condom, here's a birth control pill. Be careful."

Applying the message regarding sex to the drug situation, Kelly said, would result in something like this: "Don't take drugs, but if you're going to do it anyway, meet me over by the door and I'll give you a clean needle."

A few Senholm students corralled at the end of Kelly's one-woman show said they liked what she said.

"It's a good message," said Lloyd Abramson. "You never see this message brought out."

"She had a lot of good ideas I hadn't thought about before," said Denny Luger.

"It's nice to see an assembly on something controversial that you can't get diseases from," said Mitch Brown, recalling past lectures on homosexuality and AIDS.

"She has a good point of view that the students can relate to," said Joe Srock. "I thought she was excellent."

Kelly said that her travels were made worthwhile when a girl approached her after the speech. "She took my hand and said, 'You made my day.'"

CLARIFICATION

A column by Birmingham Reuter Donald (Jerry) McKeon in Monday's paper should have said: "The trans-

fer tax, originally at \$1.10 per thousand, will now be at \$7.50 per thousand. That is an increase of nearly 700 percent."



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hospital, but also quality care. Women want to be listened to and respected by medical professionals who are kind, skilled and experienced.

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