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Drug Film Shows Gap

"Numerous films on drug abuse weren't worth showing to anybody."

—Jack Peuler

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) didn't like what they saw in drug abuse films, so they made their own.

Entitled "The Bridge," the 12-minute movie took a year to complete. It is available for presentation to schools, churches, service clubs, and any other interested community group.

"What we wanted to show in our movie was some of the situations in Farmington that might breed the loneliness and frustration leading to the abuse of drugs, as well as other potentially self-destructive behavior," says Jack Peuler, administrator of the FAAC.

The movie shows some of these situations, citing absence of meaningful communications with peers and parents as one of the most important. It prescribes honest and open communication between people as a healthy step in the right direction.

Peuler says this film treats drugs as a "symptomatic phenomenon."

"We've screened numerous movies on drug abuse that

were't worth showing to anybody. They treated the complex problem in an oversimplified 'drugs are bad' scare campaign."

To counter this, the FAAC decided to make their own film explaining the underlying cause of drug usage.

It depicts a family problem. The audience is given the opportunity to view the situation through the eyes of both father and son, revealing their widely different perceptions of the same incident.

The film was made entirely in Farmington. All actors were local non-professionals. It was produced by Leslie Zaleski, a social worker with the special education department of the Farmington School District who is a member of the FAAC board of directors.

Jack Mingo, an Oakland Community College student and Rap Line crises telephone operator, wrote the script. Students from the society of arts and crafts were responsible for the directing and filming.

Because of FAAC's limited budget, the project was handled entirely through special donation.



FARMINGTON TALENT discusses the confrontation scene between father and son during the filming of "The Bridge," the new drug abuse film produced by the Farmington Area

Advisory Council and featuring all local talent. From left: Richard Weiss, Esko Isotolo, and Rod Wasserman.

Cagers Advance In State Tourney

Livonia Churchill, Westland John Glenn, Farmington High School and Farmington Harrison all were triumphant Tuesday night in state tournament basketball competition. Scores were:

Livonia Churchill 50, Livonia Bentley 44
John Glenn 44, Garden City East 37
Farmington 65, Bloomfield Hills Andover

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Farmington Harrison 67, Southfield 51.
All four will play in district semi-final games Thursday night. It will be Churchill vs. Redford Union at 7:30 at Churchill, and Glenn vs. Garden City West at 7:30 at Belleville. In a double header at Harrison, Farmington will face Detroit Ford at 7 and Harrison will meet North Farmington at 8:30.

Gripe Spot

Want to tell your congressman how to vote? Got a gripe for your man in Lansing? Who's your county commissioner? As a public service, Observer Newspapers presents a complete list of lawmakers' names, addresses, office and home phone numbers. Clip it and save.

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Dime Fancier

Why do dimes stick to the ceiling at a local Farmington pub? It's an old custom. The story is on:

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Little things are important

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City To Buy New Machines

The City of Farmington has taken precautions against running short of voting machines as in last November's election. It has purchased five used machines, giving the city a total of 19.

The machines, purchased from the Computer Elections Systems, cost \$625 each for a total of \$3,125. Payment is to be made from the 1973-74 budget.

Robert Deadman, city manager, recommended the purchase.

"We don't believe the city is in a position to wait until next year's budget has been approved before the five used automatic voting machines are purchased, since used machines of the series desired may not be available after July 1 and prior to the next election in Farmington," he said.

By STEVE BARNABY

Methaqualone, a depressant drug used in sleeping pills, is the newest "in" drug currently being used by a great number of high school students, according to the Farmington Area Advisory Council's Rap Line.

Last year at this time, there were no calls to the crisis center about methaqualones. A recent seven-month survey showed that 65 percent of the calls relating to depressants were methaqualone-connected.

"In the junior high schools of Farmington, the widespread usage is in ridiculous proportions," says Betty Arnold, Rap Line spokesman.

One problem in controlling the drug is that it isn't included in the Federal Controlled Substance Act, therefore making it readily available on the street, she said.

"We are trying to make students aware about this drug through the crisis line and literature distributed in school. You don't have to use scare tactics. The best way is to give factual information."

Among the facts students are hearing is that methaqualone is addictive; while the body builds up a tolerance, the amount needed to overdose remains the same.

Regular methaqualone users, unlike heroin users, will eventually reach a point where they will no longer feel

any physical effects, but still overdose.

"The danger increases when it is taken with alcohol because the two depressants mixed cause a double 'down,'" says Miss Arnold.

She also warns that anything requiring coordination, such as driving, is dangerously inhibited by using methaqualones.

Come from overdose has occurred from 24 grams of methaqualone, about six capsules.

Overdose symptoms include convulsions, delirium, vomiting and coma. It can cause liver and kidney damage, bleeding, skin rashes and swelling of lung tissue. Death has occurred from taking eight grams.

Rap Line officials say that everybody reacts differently to the same amount. One person's body might be able to take more than another person's.

It is also reported that a counterfeit methaqualone is being passed around, which contains only phenylcyclohexylamine (PCP), an animal tranquilizer and anesthetic, classified as a "psychedelic down."

Rap line officials say withdrawal for a methaqualone addict is extremely dangerous and should be done only under the medical supervision. Sudden withdrawal can result in convulsion and death. It is reportedly more dangerous than heroin or barbiturates withdrawal.

First For 3 Years

City Police Sign Pact

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington Public

Safety Officers Association signed its first three-year contract with the city recently.

Previous contracts have been for a maximum of two years.

Covering the period from July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1976. Continued on Page 3A

Kiwanis Bird House Contest Is Under Way

Farmington students ages eight to 14 are eligible to enter the annual Kiwanis bird house contest.

Judging of the contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 24 in the Farmington Community Center, according to Louis Gilson, who is organizing the contest for the Kiwanis.

For the first time this year, all 26 elementary schools in Farmington will participate, Gilson said.

Plans and instructions for the houses have been distributed to the schools. Bob McLean and Tom Shillito, at Flanders Elementary, are the two main advisors on the projects.

Other schools are also expected to have their own advisors. The Smith Lumber Co. has

donated the materials for the houses, Gilson said.

Judges for this year's contest are Neil Travis and Hallett Thornton, both members of the National Audubon Society.

Chamber Supports Millage

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce voted recently to endorse the five-mill property tax renewal for the Farmington School District.

The five mills are expected to return \$1.8 million for the district. It is the second year the chamber has taken a stand on political issues.



BIRD HOUSES from last year's Kiwanis contest are displayed by Laura Arbour, Chuck Pell, Mrs. Larry Wisman, Mike Strelczuk and

Scott Wisman. Mrs. Wisman was also responsible for making the posters explaining the contest to elementary students. (Evert photo)