

Turning On: An Addict Tells How

By CLAIRE DIETZ

Ben is a drug addict. Or rather, he was a drug addict until he learned what it meant to be really turned on.

This week he came to Farmington as part of a panel on drug abuse. The other panelists were from the Federal Bureau of Drug Abuse Control and the Oakland County prosecutor's office.

But the drug control agents never had a chance, Ben stole the show.

And he did it politely, quietly, with his own sense of self-possession and understanding of what the kids in the audience wanted to know.

hung up on laws and pills when the kids want to know about being turned on."

So he told them.

"Listen, let me tell you about mind expansion. For six years I thought I was turned on. I got high on everything from cough syrup to heroin. When I went to the junior prom, I was on morphine. For the senior prom, it was heroin. All the time I was closing myself in. I really didn't care about anything but myself."

Ben has been off drugs for three years.

"NOW I KNOW WHAT it means to be turned on. I paint a little, I sing, I care about people. Being turned on is being alive."

He is a member of an organization known as Synanon, which operates a house in Detroit. Synanon, which began in California and is based there, is an independent, non-profit group run by former addicts. For several hundred men and women like Ben, it has meant a whole new life.

But there's no fifty cure for drug addiction, and Synanon won't call you a graduate until you've been there for three years. Ben is a graduate, but he's sticking around for a while to give other people a hand.

Questions from the audience of Farmington kids and their parents covered a wide range of curiosities about drugs. The majority were directed at Ben, but

the drug control agents answered several from parents and teachers.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS of the Q and A period:

A long-haired, slightly scurvy teen-ager sitting on a table asked: "What about the kid who goes to a party and blows some grass and finds out that it's not so bad—that he's not a criminal or anything?"

Ben: "Well, OK. There are two things. In the first place, he is a criminal. He's broken the law, and he's taking the risk of having a criminal record."

"Then there's the other thing. Anybody who takes pot for a kick is going to be looking for a bigger kick. You may not

think you're going to get hooked, but you're taking an awfully big chance.

"You know, nobody ever convinced me I was hooked on dope until I practically died in a drug coma. I kept telling people I took the stuff because I liked it. Pretty soon I couldn't live without it."

"WHAT ABOUT banana peels?"

Ed Maciejewski, one of the FBDAC agents, answered that one. "The Food and Drug Administration is a serious, scientific agency, and when people first began talking about banana peels, we put an investigative team on it. If somebody told us the Farmington water supply would

give you a trip, we'd check that out too.

"A group of scientists went through every test in the book on banana peels. They roasted them, burned them, broiled them—everything. And they found that banana peels—burned or any other way—are nothing but banana peels."

A MOTHER ASKED Ben how she'd know if her kid was taking pot or something else.

Ben: "Well, if you've got a real serious kid who studies a lot and is real quiet and all at once he starts rolling on the floor—I'd be suspicious."



ASSISTANCE A LA CARTE — Susan Singer (left), Bambi Waalk and Karen Kobe, get behind one of the wheeled carts at St. Mary Hospital as part of their duties as candy strippers there. All help at the hospital several hours a week.

Teens Make Difference For St. Mary Hospital

Some of them think they might like to be nurses some day. Most of them find they enjoy new experiences during their teen years.

All of them know they want to do something to help others. So more than 20 girls in this area, 14 and 15 years old, put in several hours a week as candy strippers in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

In trim blue and white uniforms—many of them take care of ironing them on their own—these young ladies help with clerical work, sort supplies, give assistance to patients.

ST. MARY is one of few hospitals that accepts 14-year-olds as candy strippers.

"We realize," said director of nursing Rita Radziszewski, "that by the time girls are 16 they want to get paying jobs, and we've been very gratified with the way these younger

girls have fit into our hospital."

One of the current crew of candy-strippers agrees that it's a good idea. Karen Kobe is 14, lives in Redford Township and attends Marshall Junior High School. At the hospital, she files X-Rays and escorts emergency room patients to the X-Ray lab.

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The candy strippers will stay on their present jobs for this year. If they stay on next year, with the new girls who join the group next fall, they may switch posts.

All agree that being a candy stripper is an experience they wouldn't have missed.

stands for parents and staff members.

A student at Our Lady of Sorrows, in Farmington, she thinks her present troubles with mathematics may throw a road block into her hopes to don a nurse's cap.

"You have to have so much science," she said.

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Drug Agents 'The Job Used To Be Simpler'

After the panel, the three drug control agents talked a little about their job.

Ed Maciejewski and Abraham Azam work for the Federal Bureau of Drug Abuse Control (FBDAC). They represent one-half of a four-man team which works out of Detroit.

F. Gerald St. Souver was appointed in January by Oakland County prosecutor Jerome Bronson to set up a drug abuse bureau. "Actually," he says, "the title of chief investigator sounds great, but right now I'm the whole bureau."

"THERE WAS a time not so long ago," Azam explained, "when an agent's job was a lot simpler. We worked almost entirely in the ghettos; our targets were the gangsters and the pushers."

"Now we're likely to spend our time trying to track down somebody who is selling marijuana on a suburban elementary school playground or nabbing college kids with an illegal supply of LSD."

"For myself, I sort of liked it the old way. If you grab a gangster, you know what you've got. But you get a 13-year-old kid with his pockets full of pot, and that's something else."

ST. SOUVER isn't working much with gangsters either. In fact, one of his big projects now is setting up a drug abuse seminar for Oakland County

junior high and high school counselors. He's not worried about the counselors, but he knows they are a lot closer to the kids than the local police department.

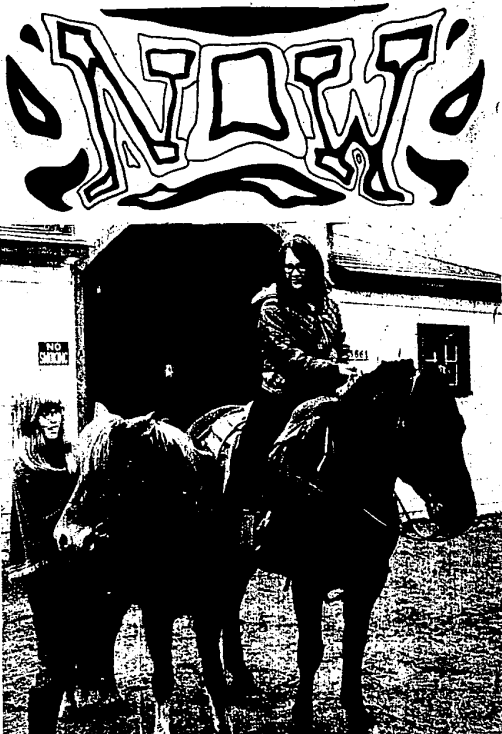
In addition to setting up educational programs, the drug agents have had to educate themselves. All three have gone to see what Dr. Timothy Leary had to say.

"When we went to hear him at Wayne State," Maciejewski said, "we thought we might look a little out of place, but the majority of the people there weren't any more impressed with what he had to say than we were."

"I HEARD HIM when I was in Haight-Ashbury," St. Souver added. "The man is really gone. He has absolutely blown his mind."

The agents were asked about drug abuse in area high schools. "It's hard to tell," Maciejewski answered. "Certainly it varies from school to school. And it is a problem. Once drugs were an inner-city problem, involving a small group of people. Now it's all over."

All three men nodded. They were thinking about the good old days when they would have been out on the streets of a Detroit ghetto nabbing a big-time pusher instead of in a Farmington junior high school trying to talk kids out of buying 75 cents worth of pot on the playground.



SADDLETRAMPS — That's the name of a new 4-H club begun in Livonia this month. The group is open to teens from 10 to 18, who own their own horses. Here, President Joy McCann (left) with her horse "Rusty" and Deborah Bengel, vice president, with "King Clay" saddle up for a ride. Interested teens may contact the group leader, Mrs. J. Singer, at 425-7210.

Banquet For Co-Op Students Planned

On April 5, 500 teens, their employers and coordinators will gather at Schoolcraft College for the annual Livonia public schools cooperative education banquet.

Two Clubs Set Rally April 6

Two Observerland Christian clubs, the Plymouth High Voice of Christian Youth and Franklin High's Campus Life Club, will join forces April 6 to present a teen rally in Plymouth High's auditorium.

The program will include a movie, "Worlds Apart," and three folk singing groups: "The New Christian Minstrels," from Redford's Thurston High; "The Sands of Time," and "Michael and Faye," both from Plymouth. The rally is open to any high school student. There is no admission charge.

The Plymouth Club, which meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school, has plans for several future projects, including a folk festival, a shaving cream fight, talent show and beach party.

Scholarships Announced

High school seniors who are children of Manpower, Inc., temporary employees are eligible to compete for 15 \$300 scholarships offered by that organization.

Applicants must be graduating in June or January, under full-time enrollment in a full-time college program. Rules and application blanks may be obtained by contacting the Redford Township Manpower office at 552-8120.

Speaker will be Dr. Robert C. Lusk, director of educational services and personnel manager for the Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. The subject of his speech will be: "Hire Education."

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, and a former teacher, Dr. Lusk has served for the past 13 years as a representative of the automobile industry in major educational activities and as head of preparation and distribution of all teaching materials for the AMA.

This year will be the first time that all three Livonia high schools have participated in the event together.

Cooperative education seeks to give aspiring young adults a chance to try their wings in a career field while still attending school and is a fast growing and popular specialized program.

Students who participate in the program are given individual help in finding a position relating directly to their career goals by their school coordinators.

All students must have courses related to their positions during regular school hours.



THOMAS FLOMER, of Redford Township, is the new secretary of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity at Central Michigan University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Flomer. A 1966 graduate of Redford Union High, Tom is majoring in marketing at CMU.

GLENN A. PRIMROSE, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Primrose of Livonia, has been named to the Deans Honor List at Saint State University in Menominee, Wis. for the fall semester. A 3.5 point grade average is required for the list.

Conservation Conference Scheduled

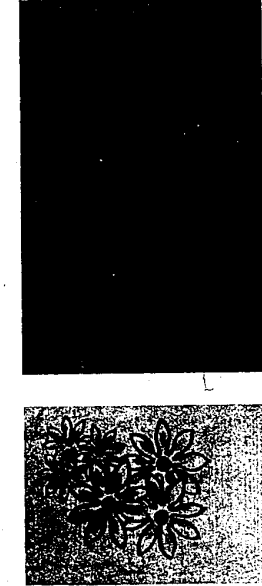
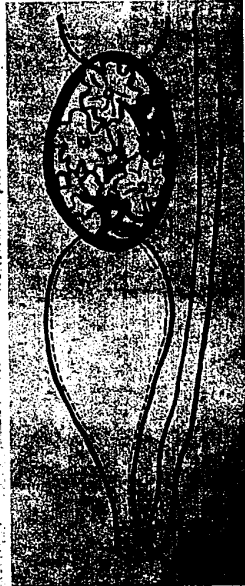
If a planned conference on natural beauty and conservation at Schoolcraft College next Saturday is successful, it should produce a whole new set of projects for youth groups in southeastern Michigan.

The conference is for delegates of major youth organizations and student councils in the state. It's sponsored by

the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan. Guest speakers will be Michael Conboy, director of the Michigan Department of Commerce's Office of Economic Expansion; Milo Hector, president of Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc.; John Stump, co-chairman of Michigan Youth Conference on Natural Beauty and Conservation, and Mary Dam-

son, chairman of MYC and a Camp Fire Girls leader.

The program will include a slide presentation on the Philadelphia conservation program. After the main program, the 500 students expected for the conference will split into groups to plan projects such as cleaning lots and parkways, making bicycle trails or painting buildings.



THE ROMANTIC bows and ruffles on the new spring clothes and the return of the waistline are going to require a new look in accessories. Here: a feminine belt from Paris which could top an evening mild skirt and a romantic white glove with a ruff of tiny flowers at the wrist.

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Wigs... gorgeous, glamorous wigs. Do you know that there's simply no other beauty product on this green earth that can make you look as beautiful? You don't? If you're single, that's disastrous. If you're married, it's not good either (the band's on his finger, not over his eyes). Because there's a whole crowd of smashing beauties walking around. And they won't tell their secret... but we will... WIGS! But good grief, not just any old wig. The whole magic is in the fineness. And the finest selection, by far, is at Bernard's Wig Salons. Light, airy, comfortable... and dozens of shades to choose from. Go ahead, sweetie, give it a whirl!

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