

FAAC speaker:

Alcohol is most abused 'drug'

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Alcohol has replaced drugs as the most abused substance in the community, said Greg Young, program director of the substance abuse program of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC).

Speaking before a breakfast meeting of the Farmington Jills Optimists Club, Young said that while alcohol seems to be surpassing drug use as the greatest substance abuse problem in the community, more instances of drug-alcohol mixing are occurring.

"They're not using as large a quantity of drugs anymore, but they've found that by mixing a smaller amount of drugs with alcohol, they get the same effect," he said.

Several incidents involving students drinking during their lunch hours have been referred to the facility, he said.

"Some students will bring in a flask during their lunch break. Some will go out to lunch and have two or three beers and smoke some marijuana."



GREGG YOUNG

OFFENDERS ARE now referred to FAAC, rather than sent to a house of corrections or given a criminal record. These referrals are the result of a relatively new liaison between the

schools, the two police departments and the facility.

"Counselors didn't know how to deal with student's problems when something like this came up. So now, any students who would be suspended for an offense are automatically referred to us."

Counselors and social workers at the facility see 100 clients per month for individual therapy. Most clients are seen once a week for about five months.

Others are seen only two or three times a month, depending on the frequency and severity of drug abuse.

Counseling help is designed to aid the client in forming a value system so that he can responsibly decide whether he will use drugs or not, Young said.

Drug cases usually involve marijuana, alcohol or PCP, an animal tranquilizer often mistaken for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

MORE SERIOUS problems involving detoxification and clients who are diagnosed psychotic or pre-psy-

chotic are referred to hospitals.

The facility sees few heroin addicts, Young said. Most of them are sent to St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac to go through the methadone detoxification program.

The program, he said, is considered to be a safe way to detoxify, and most patients are assigned to a 21-day outpatient program. An in-patient program is available, but difficult to get into. Beside marijuana and alcohol, the most common drug abuse problem is PCP, which he described as a hallucinogen which is not physically addicting.

FAAC was equipped with a clinic to handle venereal disease and pregnancy testing, but a loss in federal money killed the clinic.

"WE WEREN'T able to have a detoxification clinic, but we did serve youth in the community who needed counseling on pregnancy and other problems but didn't want to tell their parents," Young said.

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'Tommy' Thompson dies

(Continued from page 1)

used two pseudonyms for his columns, "Doc Minard" and "Artee," as well as his own name. The "Doc Minard" tag was a joking reference to a horse liniment he used to ease arthritic pains.

THOMPSON WAS firm in his opinions and never hesitated to make his feelings clear.

Once, to emphasize a point, he smashed his fist on a desk so hard he broke the little finger.

"During the many years I knew Tommy — as a veteran newspaperman, editor and friend — I was most impressed by his integrity," commented Sam Hudson, chief historian of the City of Plymouth and former Schoolcraft College trustee.

"One always knew where he stood on important civic issues. Tommy was forthright, never equivocal. He was an extremely competent news executive who will be missed by his many friends and readers," Hudson said.

"He was the traditional, old time newspaperman — as traditional as the Benjamin Franklin press," declared Mrs. Myra Chandler, whose late husband, Paul, brought Thompson to the Observer newspapers when he owned the Plymouth Observer in 1962. "They're not making newspapermen like Tommy any more," she said.

WHILE THOMPSON'S interests extended to all sports, he was known primarily as an authority on harness

racing and was a regular contributor to national harness racing publications.

He visited the harness racing tracks a couple of times a week but rarely placed a bet.

"He just loved racing itself," said Dick Frederick, long-time track public relations officer and a close friend. "I've been around the track for 20 years myself, and I never knew the things Tommy did. He knew the drivers and all about their families and their kids and everything about them. He was really interested."

"He was involved in all sports and read the sports pages from top to bottom," Frederick continued. "And he remembered all of it."

Thompson became managing editor of Observer Newspapers in June, 1965, when Power purchased the group, and he was named executive editor in October 1969. Upon the merger of Observer Newspapers and Synercom, Inc. (which published the Eccentric Newspapers) in December, 1974, Thompson was named executive editor of the new group. He retired from this position in January 1975 to assume the managing editorship of the Plymouth and Canton Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

UNTIL 1962, he was employed at the Detroit Free Press where he advanced to an executive in the sports department.

Thommy worked for us for years in the sports department and was top editor in charge of laying out the pages, makeup and editing and, in a sense, was executive of the department," said Frank Angelo, associate executive editor of the Free Press. "He

was always a great horse fan. Racing was one of his chief loves and he spent a lot of time talking and thinking about it.

"One of the things I always remember about Tommy was that he was an extraordinarily loyal guy, responsible and committed to trying to produce a top quality product to the best of his ability."

Thompson was born Jan. 15, 1910 at New Kensington, Pa., the oldest of 10 children, all of whom have remained close over the years.

The family moved to Warren, Ohio, where Thompson attended high school and his father joined the police force. His mother died in 1930, leaving several small children.

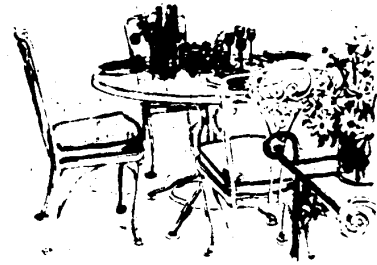
It was from listening to his policeman father that Thompson gleaned a fund of hilarious stories about prohibition-era vice and crime in Ohio with which he enjoyed entertaining his friends. His father died in 1940.

TOMMY WAS 16 years old when an accident during a sandlot football game eliminated any chance of his own playing in the sports he loved. He made a flying tackle, his head hit a tree root and he suffered a fractured skull and deafness in one ear which plagued him the rest of his life.

Even though banned from play himself, Thompson joined the high school Officials Club which enabled him to officiate at games.

"He was a lucky man," observed his brother, Sam. "Sports have been his life and he found his niche in life early. Some of us have to wait many years for that."

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Millage meetings held around district

FARMINGTON—The "Yes, Kids Count in Farmington" committee will hold several informal millage meetings throughout the district in each of the elementary schools.

There are 14 meetings left between now and the April 29 millage election. They include:

- April 18: Middlebelt Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- April 17: Fairview Elementary School at 8 p.m.
- April 17: Lakeshire Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- April 17: Kenbrook Elementary School.
- April 19: Shawanee Elementary School 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- April 21: Ten Mile Elementary School 7:30 p.m.
- April 22: Wooddale Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- April 22: Alameda Elementary School at 8 p.m.
- April 22: Gill Elementary School.
- April 22: Woodcreek Elementary School.
- April 24: Forrest Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- April 24: Shawanee Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- April 15 and 22: William Grace Elementary School.

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