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Parents' Role Cited By Drug Panel

By Peter Walls
Sentinel Staff Writer

A group of persons experienced in the field of illegal drug use counseling and education continued to hammer on the need for communication be-

tween parent and child Wednesday night.

They were speaking at the fourth and final symposium sponsored by the Live Oak Area PTA in Civic Auditorium. About 40 persons attended the talk.

Panelists were Richard Svihus, county health officer; Earl White, psychologist for Santa Cruz City Schools; James Eachus, assistant superintendent county schools office; Mrs. Lori Semple, of the Drug Information and Youth Crisis Center, in Pacific Grove; and the Rev. Gene Dawson, head of the Drug Abuse Preventive Center.

Participants focused on the prevention, education and rehabilitation aspects of drug use.

Svihus wondered what else society can expect of the young when they are constantly bombarded by advertisements that emphasize sex in products when parents set poor examples of behavior, and when the hedonistic life is extolled.

"Drug abuse goes a lot deeper than just talking about drugs," he said. Young people often don't see any meaning in life, and so they turn to drugs in open defiance of a hypocritical society, often because "it's the thing to do."

Getting children off drugs is a matter of motivation — again tied to values, he said.

White suggested that urbanization has changed a child's self-concept — a situation that places greater pressure on the young.

In a rural setting, he said, the child knew from his youngest days that he was an integral and much-needed part of the family structure based on his role in the farming livelihood.

"But nowadays a child is an expense. And we give to a child without requiring him to give to us in return. He doesn't feel he's materially necessary, and we must show him he's a human necessity," White said.

Urging parents to make their behavior a model to the young, the psychologist said parents should "listen to the feelings of the child," avoiding thereby the judgmental attitude that shuts the child out.

Young people seem to think they are getting the closeness in the drug scene which they feel unable to secure at home.

But peer pressure is also a reason for drug use.

To break through the barriers between parent and child and remaining non-judgmental, said white, is often difficult.

Eachus outlined the school program of education for prevention.

"We seek to create an attitude that will keep kids off drugs," he said. And that includes alcohol and tobacco.

In classes, students explore the reasons for drug use, the chemical make-up, and the psychological and cultural reasons why drug-taking is fashionable now.

Schools rely heavily on films, but, said Eachus, teachers are getting away from the Hollywood-type of scripted films and relying upon video-taped interviews with youngsters who are using or have used drugs. The spontaneity of the interview is real, while the young can see through a script with no difficulty at all, he said.

Mrs. Semple said she could not blame parental problems entirely for drug use, nor peer pressure either.

"A lot of kids use drugs simply because they like the way they feel when they're on drugs," she said.

California spent \$80 million

last year on the arrest and punishment of marijuana offenders. And she wondered whether society is teaching a life style, "or merely how to escape from life?"

Parents, she added, must show the child he is loved, "so he can love." A child, after all, is not a possession to show off or be ashamed of.

She, too, suggested counsel, not criticism or moralizing, by parents. She described her Center as "firm, but non-judgmental."

Dawson said that his center has faced many problems in its relations with the community. "When you set up a center such as ours, you are confronted by mass ignorance, myths or by those who attempt to justify their own evil."

He then described how his center treats drug users who come for help. He talked of testing the young person's sincerity and of having him accepted after an interview with a board consisting of the center's director and fellow residents.

He said about 65 per cent of those who seek help are aided "significantly" by the program. He cautioned, however, that help is "no overnight thing. It takes a lot of love, tears and only what God can give us."

The young, he continued, are desperately looking for something to believe in, and many drug users come from homes "where greed runs amuck."

"For too long," he said, "we have tried to shift the responsibility for raising our children—they are not the responsibility of the police or the jailer or the probation officer."

RED SATELLITE LAUNCHED

Moscow (AP)—The Soviet Union today launched the 284th satellite in its unmanned Cosmos series, Tass reported. The Soviet news agency said equipment aboard the space research vehicle was functioning normally but, as usual, did not announce what kind of research the satellite was performing.

New Look At Animal Code

Dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, birds, and fish should be allowed in any number in any zone in the county as long as they do not become a nuisance to neighbors, the county planning commission was told Wednesday.

The Santa Cruz Animal Association, a county-wide group, submitted a counterproposal to a county ordinance to control animals and limit their numbers.

Commissioners got the proposal by mail. It was held over for a committee meeting on the county's ordinance set for June 9 at 7 p.m. in the planning department conference room.

Kirby H. Blohm of Watsonville, chairman of the Animal Association, and Mrs. June S. Markley of Scotts Valley, secretary, signed the document.

It is a revision of a county ordinance which stirred heavy opposition six months ago. That ordinance was tabled for six months to let some of the anger die down, and county planners now are getting ready to reconsider it.

"I don't think we will be going for a complete control ordinance this time," County Planning Director Bert Muhly said.

The old proposed ordinance called for permits to keep any wild animals, and for any animals over a certain number or which were not normally allowed in some zones, such as residential areas.

The Animal Association ordinance, however, would freely allow most domestic animals without a permit unless there was a commercial operation involved.

Permits would still be required for wild animals, including poisonous or dangerous snakes, but there would be no fee unless a public hearing is held.

The county's ordinance would have required a fee.

But the animal group's proposal is careful to say that all animals must be confined to the owner's property, kept penned or leashed, and not be "unreasonably noisy or odorous, or so as to cause annoyance to other uses in the vicinity."

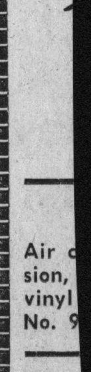
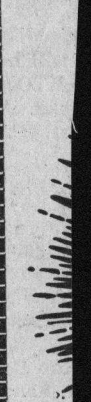
Dogs would be permitted off leash if under the "direct" control of their owners, including dogs trained to stay in one spot when the owner is out of sight.

"Upon the written and signed complaint of the majority of landowners within 300 feet (of a person's property keeping animals), the planning department shall investigate the keeping of any animal or animals . . ." the Animal Association proposed.

If a violation is found, the party involved would have to appear before a planning commission hearing, and correct any deficiencies.

OPEN FRIDAY
MEMORIAL DAY
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

OPEN



Air conditioning, vinyl No. 9
Air conditioning, power walls, No. 9H
Air conditioning, power walls, No. 9H