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STUDENTS USUALLY KNOW MORE

Common Sense, Not preaching In Low Key Drug Program In Schools

Teachers presenting Halton County's new low-key drug abuse program are facing a problem unique in the history of teaching — the teacher usually knows less about the subject than his students.

How the schools are combatting the problems of drug abuse in the county was the main topic pursued by the Halton County Board of Education recently, and the comments from assistant to the director E.M. Lavender about the students often knowing more than the teachers was just one such among many from the trustees and administrators.

The net result of an hour-and-a-half of discussion seemed to be that the trustees are generally satisfied with the drug program, although most wish they knew more answers to some of the basic questions like "why?" and "how?"

"Why do people do such

foolishness?" asked R. E. Goodin.

REALLY PROMOTES

He said much of the "propaganda" of drug education courses actually ends up promoting rather than preventing drug use.

Should teachers provide some intentional value judgments and moral guidance in such social questions as drugs, asked Bill Priestner, a separate school trustee.

He thinks they should not continually be told, as they are in the preface to the drug program, not to let their personal beliefs and values become part of their teaching.

"I think this is what's wrong with the whole system," he said.

MIND P'S AND Q'S

Several trustees expressed confidence the majority of young people are not involved with drugs, although none

would actually open up the delicate topic of percentages.

The optimist of the lot seemed to be the man who supervised the design and implementation of the county's drug program, the co-ordinator of physical and health education, Nick Volpe.

"Ninety per cent of the kids are straight-laced and minding their P's and Q's," he told trustees.

SATURATED

"The students are getting to a point where they are actually saturated with drug material."

Volpe said the drug education program is only part of the total health program taught the students, and in a sense has been included for many years already in the form of information on smoking and drinking, which are also forms of drug use and abuse.

NOT PREACHING

He said the programme doesn't seek to scare or preach, but approaches drug use and abuse in a common sense and factual manner that appeals to today's 'sophisticated' student.

"And you don't have to experience it necessarily to teach it effectively," he said.

Volpe said the first part of the program begins in Grade 5, and the coverage gains in detail as the student advances through high school. The whole program covers tobacco, alcohol, narcotics, non-narcotic depressants, stimulants, marijuana, other hallucinogens, and inhalants, although not in that order.

SINCERITY

Among the guidelines to teachers of the course, which note that they should be applied with "professional judgement and common sense" are ones suggesting the teacher strive for "an atmosphere of sincerity" avoid "sensational issues," note that quotations are the opinion of one person or group, avoid conducting students surveys, and "avoid indiscreet expressions of personal beliefs, particularly on moral or religious issues."

Volpe also showed trustees a display of the various resource materials available to the teachers, including books, films, display lists and speakers. He showed trustees one of the films called "Like It Is" shot in Wind-

sor with the co-operation of local police and narrated by Sammy Davis Jr.

CONFIDENTIAL

The co-ordinator referred to a series of administrative memos to school principals designed to help them deal with drug cases which appear in the schools.

"We treat students on drugs as if they were ill" he told trustees, noting the school nurses have all taken the six-week drug course and are able to handle most situations.

Another memo said information from students for their use of drugs was to be treated as confidential, but since an admission of this nature from a student presumably indicates he wants to tell someone about it he should be turned over to "competent people."

OBLIGATION

Volpe also said that, where students are under 16, the administration feels an obligation to tell parents, if only because it is hard to help such a young person without involving the parents.

If the student specifically asks that his parents not be told, the school official is expected to carefully consider all the factors involved before agreeing not to tell the parents.

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LIONS KICK IN FOR OSAKA TRIP

Dick Succie, left, and Eric Hooton, right, represent the Georgetown Lions Club in presenting a cheque for \$150 to 8th Georgetown Scout Gavin Strachan. The \$150 is to help defray the 8th Georgetown's Group's Committee's portion of the expenses for Gavin's trip to Osaka, Japan, for the World Scout Jamboree. Venturer Paul Riley is also attending from here. They leave Toronto July 27 and return home August 14 or 15. Between those dates they will attend a pre-jamboree camp in Vancouver for two days and arrive in Tokyo July 31. The Jamboree in Osaka will be held from August 1 to 10 during which tours will be made. The boys will get a chance to climb Mount Fuji, and spend one of their days in Tokyo.

— Adams Photography

Credit Valley Planted With 3 Million Trees

Tree planting begins next week in the area under the jurisdiction of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Superintendent Norman J. McMahon reports that more than 150,000 trees will be planted this year by authority staff.

The type of tree, i.e. white pine, red pine, white spruce, silver maple, depends on the land to be planted. Prior investigations are made to determine the physical qualities of the land to include drainage problems, hillside or swampy areas. Many of the trees are planted with the Authority machine planters but in rough areas or on steep hills hand-planting is necessary.

During the past 10 years the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has planted about three million trees of various kinds on public and private lands in the Credit River Watershed.

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