

It's up to our 'chemophilic' society to stop setting bad examples, educator says

Drug abuse not a school problem

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Drug abuse doesn't take place within the school and isn't a high school problem, says a physical education and health co-ordinator for the Halton board of education.

Speaking to about 30 parents at Kennedy Public School last week, Jack Richardson said the drug problem is a community problem, not a school problem.

He told parents that misuse of drugs is part of the identification crisis young people face as they mature and try to find themselves.

"Think back to when you were a student," Mr. Richardson suggested. "There were people with alcohol problems in your classes."

The only difference today is that the diversity of drugs available to adolescents is greater. However, Mr. Richardson expressed faith in today's students, noting that only five per cent emerge as adults with a drug problem.

We live in a chemophilic society, Mr. Richardson said, using a term coined

ions to all our problems and we look to them, but the solutions aren't

up and you'll be okay'. You think, 'Can't you prescribe something that will do

Richardson said. Unless you get rid of the source of your stress, your problem will still be there.

Society attributes great powers to drugs and holds great faith in science and medical treatments. The mystification process is enforced by media advertising.

"We have to put drugs in proper perspective," Mr. Richardson said. "We have to understand what each drug does and respect it."

MAKE CLEAR

If a child has a headache, parents all too readily have him swallow an aspirin, he said, advising they try instead to find a reason for the discomfort and make it clear to the child they are being given an aspirin for serious reasons, not as a casual solution.

One of the problems of society is that people look outside themselves for satisfaction, and not within themselves for meaning, Mr. Richardson said.

That's why they turn to television or drugs to give them an easy satisfaction, he said.

"We need to understand that meaningful things in

life come really from within. Don't look outside yourself for fulfillment."

Support within society for the use of drugs comes from peer pressure, media advertising, music and role models, Mr. Richardson said.

The peer group isn't the problem for adolescents, Continued on page C5

"We need to understand that meaningful things in life come really from within. Don't look outside yourself for fulfillment." - Halton school health co-ordinator Richardson

In 1969, it refers to the fact that chemicals are very important in our lifestyle.

"The number of products that have emerged through chemistry are incredible," he said. "We've begun to look to those chemicals to solve our problems."

Advertising on television tells us if we have problems, the solution is to take a pill, Mr. Richardson said.

"We have this interpretation that drugs are solu-

there."

GREAT SUPPORT

The great support for the use of chemicals to solve problems may be an expression of our inability to experience pain and our desire and expectation to solve problems immediately, he said.

"The doctor says 'Rest

something fast!'" he said. "Give me some antibiotic. Why should I wait all that time? Give me that magic cure."

Drugs should only be used for what they're intended. Often they don't cure the underlying problem, but mask it to make you comfortable, Mr.

ABOUT THE HILLS

The kids love her

Child studies, nursery school and lab school co-ordinator Patricia Hileman from Lester Pearson High School in Burlington is this year's recipient of the Children's Service Pin Award, presented by the Halton branch of the Association for Early Childhood Education in Ontario. Honored Oct. 21 at a special meeting in Oakville, Ms. Hileman was chosen from among four nominees, all of whom devote much time and effort to improving the lot of Halton youngsters.

Baha'is invite

Local Baha'is are presenting a three-part series introducing their world faith to interested residents. The first speaker will be Fariyar Arojmand at the library-cultural centre Nov. 9. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served. Call 878-6138 and 853-1883 for more information.

Asthma, allergy drugs

A local pharmacist will be speaking about drugs and how they're used to treat allergies and asthma. Paulette Thibeault of Georgetown's Young's Pharmacy will be speaking at the Georgetown District High School Nov. 8 in Room 139. The lecture starts at 10 a.m. and is free.

Posties help out

The employees of the Georgetown post office continue to be top donors to the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded. The \$2,703 they raised at their annual Fun Ball Game was the largest single donation to the Association between June and September. Other donations came from Georgetown's Newfoundland Club (\$921) and Mrs. V. May (\$300).

Aid for refugees

Local Red Cross staffers are hoping the public will support an international effort by the League of Red Cross Societies to aid 12,000 Lebanese and 3,000 Palestinian refugees who have relocated in Syria. Some are living with family and friends, some in tent camps and others in vacant school houses. The League is hoping to collect \$300,000 worldwide to replenish dwindling resources between now and Dec. 31.

Railway Day

Make tracks for the library for Railway Day Nov. 6. A programme for school-age children at 2 p.m. at the Acton and Georgetown libraries. Celebrate the 97th birthday of the Canadian Pacific Railway with stories, games and displays.

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