

118410
015811
118416

Drugs in school:

We're losing

our minds

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

118410-
118415

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Pepperdine University
Natioanl School Safety Center

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.



National School Safety Center
7311 Greenhaven Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831
916/427-4600

The National School Safety Center is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education and Pepperdine University. NSSC's mission is to coalesce public, private and academic resources throughout the United States and provide a central headquarters to assist school boards, educators, law enforcers, lawyers and the public to ensure all our schools are safe, secure and peaceful places of learning.

Ronald D. Stephens, Executive Director

George Nicholson, Director and Chief Counsel

Glen Scrimger, Deputy Director for Education

Stuart Greenbaum, Deputy Director for Communications

Pepperdine University NSSC Steering Council:
 David Davenport, President, *Chair*; William B. Adrian, Executive Vice President, *Vice Chair*; Michael F. Adams, Vice President, University Affairs; J. Edward Mandrell, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs; George Nicholson, NSSC Director and Chief Counsel; Ronald F. Phillips, Dean, School of Law; William B. Phillips, Vice President, Academic Affairs; Charles B. Runnels, Chancellor; Ronald D. Stephens, NSSC Executive Director; Nick Stinnett, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Psychology; John G. Watson, Vice President, Student Affairs; and James R. Wilburn, Vice President and Dean, School of Business and Management.

School Safety

NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER NEWSJOURNAL

School Safety is published by the National School Safety Center to communicate the latest trends and exemplary programs of school safety and delinquency prevention. Publication dates are September (Fall issue), January (Winter issue) and May (Spring issue) to coincide with the academic calendar.

George Nicholson, Executive Editor

Ronald D. Stephens, Associate Executive Editor

Stuart Greenbaum, Editor/Art Director

Nancy A. Ackley, Associate Editor

Blanca Gonzalez, James W. "J.J." Julien, Sr., Kenneth D. Sjoen, Assistant Editors

Monica Winegar, Compositor

Articles in this publication may be reprinted - excluding individually copyrighted material - with credit to *School Safety*, NSSC and a copy of reprints to NSSC. *School Safety* encourages the submission of original articles, artwork, book reviews and letters to the editor and will review and consider each item for publication.

Prepared under Grant No. 85-MU-CX-0003 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education or Pepperdine University.

Copyright 1986 National School Safety Center.

About the cover:

"Bond of Union" by M.C. Escher is reprinted by permission of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.: Gift of Mr. C.V.S. Roosevelt (B-26,969).

Contents

SCHOOL SAFETY, NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER NEWSJOURNAL SPRING 1986



4 ["Just say no." 118410
 By First Lady Nancy Reagan

6 Student problems 118411
 and challenges
 By U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles

8 Educated suicide 118412
 prevention
 By Iris M. Bolton

12 Agencies stand united
 By Lucy D. Hadi

14 Bad news offenders 118413
 By Wolfgang Pindur and Donna Wells

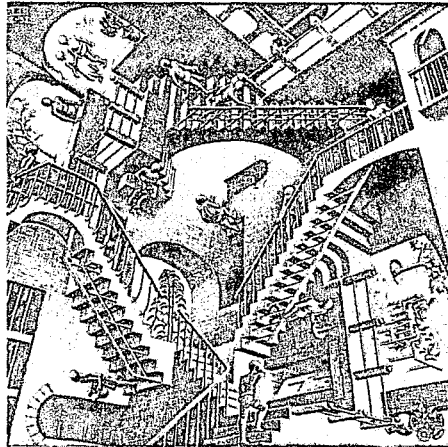
17 Delusions of grandeur
 By Blanca Gonzalez 118414

22 Schools respond with
 drug prevention 118415

24 Pros tackle drugs

26 LAPD's Project DARE 118416
 By Chief Daryl F. Gates

28 Drugs: TV's new 'Vice'



Sections

2 NSSC Report

30 National Update

31 Legislative Update

33 Legal Update

34 Resource Update

35 *Principals of Leadership*

Resource Order Forms

29 "What's Wrong With This Picture?" (film/tape)

32 *School Crime & Violence: Victims' Rights* (book)

NCJRS

JUL 15 1989

ACQUISITIONS

Drug abuse in schools: How a nation responds

The pervasive problem of drug and alcohol abuse has reached all corners of our nation, causing concern among educators, parents, health and law enforcement officials and other community leaders throughout the U.S.

Different communities, school districts and organizations have come up with various methods of dealing with drug and alcohol problems to meet their specific needs. Following is a brief look at some programs and strategies being used around the country to combat the drug epidemic that is endangering our youth.

Clifton, New Jersey – Student participation and staff training are part of a comprehensive substance abuse program at the Toms River School District.

One of the most important parts of the program is the training of high school students to speak to fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders about the dangers of abuse. Carolyn Hodge, program coordinator, says school-children make their decisions about alcohol and drugs at this early age and by the time they reach high school, it may be too late.

Birmingham, Alabama – Students at Mountain Brook High School have formed the Teen Connection, a group that provides peer support for boys and girls who do not smoke, drink or take drugs.

The group's projects include promoting "being drug-free" by placing posters in the school, attending drug-awareness seminars and workshops and being available to offer support for students.

Bay Village, Ohio – School board members have adopted a policy stip-

ulating local junior and senior high school students must forego part of their extracurricular activities if they are caught anytime, anywhere taking drugs or drinking.

Pupils involved in extracurricular activities caught selling, using or buying drugs or alcohol are prohibited from 20 percent of the activities. The students forfeit more participation for additional violations. Pupils can avoid all or part of the penalties if they voluntarily seek counseling.

Corbett, Oregon – High school students held a week-long program of activities aimed at proving they can get high on life without using drugs or alcohol.

The "High on Life" program, run by students in Corbett High's communications class, was designed to help educate the student body in regard to drugs and alcohol and related problems and to encourage participation in alternatives to drugs and alcohol.

Activities included a special assembly, a video in which celebrity Bill Cosby deals with the issues of drug and alcohol abuse, various guest speakers, stress-relieving relaxation exercises and a free dance with games, food and prizes.

Boston, Massachusetts – Governor Michael Dukakis kicked off the second year of his statewide Alliance Against Drugs program last October by teaching elementary school students about drug and alcohol abuse. The governor and former Celtics star M.L. Carr went into classrooms to tell kids that the "cool" thing to do is say "no" to drugs.

Mesa, Arizona – School officials

designed the "Taking Charge" program to keep students in school while also dealing with the drug problems. A strict drug policy at Mesa Public School District had resulted in an increased number of students suspended for drug-related reasons and an increase in the number of youths who never returned to school.

Students caught possessing, using, buying or selling drugs on school grounds may now enroll in the program as an alternative to a semester suspension. Program participants must promise not to use or possess drugs and must attend weekly counseling sessions which include individual and group activities aimed at helping students boost their self-esteem, learn factual medical information on the effects of drugs and explore the possible underlying causes for their drug use.

Concord, New Hampshire – McDonald's, the corporation that has been serving fries and hamburgers for years, is now offering teenagers a little food for thought with its "Get It Straight" drug abuse prevention program.

The program, aimed at junior and senior high school students, is designed to emphasize the dangers of drugs and the benefits of a drug-free lifestyle. The program features an award-winning film, "Get It Straight," that gets its message across with a touch of humor provided by comedian Tim Kazurinsky, formerly of "Saturday Night Live."

Cobb County, Georgia – The local narcotics squad is now doing its job with the help of Ranger, a black labrador retriever. Worth \$6,500, Ranger is trained to sniff out such drugs as cocaine and marijuana. He was paid for with money confiscated by the narcotics squad.

The drug-detection dog is used at middle and high schools for demonstrations and for after-hours searches of lockers, buildings and parking lots.

Honolulu, Hawaii – While the rocky transition from elementary to intermediate school can make young people vulnerable to drugs, concerted

efforts in the Awareness House Prevention Program can result in a smoother change.

Hundreds of fifth- and sixth-graders from various Hawaii elementary schools participate in the program which features weekly sessions that focus on feelings, decision-making, group communication skills and working together as a team. The children also work on a team project on school transition or drug education.

Pittsburgh, California – The Youth Connection Project is working to prevent drug problems with the help of parent volunteers. The project aims to teach schoolchildren about the effects of drugs and alcohol and to train students in decision-making, increased self-esteem and the ability to handle peer pressure.

Parent volunteers go through a 21-hour training program based on a Stanford University-designed curriculum. They then spend one hour a week working with fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders in Pittsburgh schools.

Naples, Florida – After a 1978 police raid of the local high school resulted in hard evidence of campus drug use, parents responded by forming Naples Informed Parents (NIP).

The group worked with the school in establishing a strict conduct code. NIP members designed a communitywide education project, formed speakers bureaus and fought for tighter paraphernalia laws.

New York, New York – A \$3.5 million school program to educate and control drug abuse is being operated jointly by the New York City Police Department and the Board of Education.

For one hour each week for eight weeks, fifth- and sixth-grade students focus on drug-related subjects ranging from pharmacology to strategies for resisting peer pressure. The program also includes parent workshops and special assemblies, speakers and films for students in fifth- through twelfth-grade.

The law enforcement component of the program is aimed at "creating

a drug-free corridor to and from school," says Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward. Police officials say 7,153 arrests have been made in the vicinity of city schools since the program began in 1984.

Ogden, Utah – Local students have launched an anti-drug campaign which includes public forums and sales of anti-drug booklets.

The program is called Save Our Students (SOS) and through it, students receive training in drug awareness and chemical dependency.

Grand Coulee, Washington – A peer support network has been established for teenagers in the local school district. Under the program, "Natural Helpers," troubled youth have a network of students and staff they can turn to for support and encouragement when they are faced with drug, alcohol or other personal problems.

A group of students and staff were selected for special training to improve their listening and helping skills so that they may become "National Helpers."

Union Beach, New Jersey – A full-scale, full-time effort to attack the alcohol and drug abuse problem has been instituted with the hiring of a highly qualified professional to provide counseling services for local students.

A certified alcohol abuse counselor with a masters degree in social work, provides a full range of counseling services on a full-time, after school and on-call basis.

Hagerstown, Maryland – Community grants totaling \$120,000 for 14 projects to fight drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents were awarded by Governor Harry Hughes.

The program was enacted by the 1985 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly in response to a 1984 school survey showing high drug and alcohol use among teens. The survey indicated that 54 percent of Maryland's eighth-graders have tried alcohol and 7.8 percent are steady users while 86 percent of 12th graders have tried alcohol and 23.1 percent are steady users. Drug figures indicated 5 per-

cent of all eighth-graders and 15 percent of all high school seniors are frequent drug users.

Calexico, California – A group of high school students are attempting to destroy drug abuse through education and peer support.

The Calexico High Camarena Club – named after drug agent Enrique Camarena who was slain in Mexico over a year ago – has a prevention program that is presented to elementary and junior high school students. The club is also producing a play with a humorous tone and serious anti-drug message. Club members are exposed to a variety of experts who speak on drug abuse. The students also try to counter negative peer pressure with positive peer support.

Salmon, Idaho – Local high school students are no longer automatically suspended when they violate the district's alcohol and drug policy because of the drug awareness counseling program which has been instituted.

The program, which is on a trial basis, includes an eight-hour course to acquaint students with the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. The program also emphasizes peer counseling. Students are encouraged to help each other solve their problems instead of having the counselor lecture for the duration of the program. Students needing additional help are referred to the local drug and alcohol rehabilitation course.

Council Bluffs, Iowa – In an effort to deter teenage students from drinking, several local high schools are using alcohol breath testers on students at school functions who are suspected of drinking. The penalty for students found to have been drinking is a three-day "in-school" suspension.

The alcohol test is the kind police give motorists who are suspected of drunken driving. A person blows into the breath tester, which determines how much alcohol is in the person's bloodstream. □

Prepared by Blanca Gonzalez, resource specialist for NSSC.