

Sobering projects in the works

by April Cooke, Milwaukie High
Winner of the News Writing Competition
Regional Skills Contest Feb. 26

A sobering project for Clackamas County youth is currently in the works.

"This is not a detoxification project," said Larry DeLaunay, county Juvenile court Drug and Alcohol Specialist. "It is a sobering project. Detox can take up to 30 days. We're making a distinction between the two."

The program is in the last planning stages, but has not yet been finalized. "We're waiting on a couple of confirmations," explained DeLaunay. "Most of the road blocks are out of the way, though."

When finalized, the program will begin sometime between mid and late March. Willamette Falls Hospital will provide bed space, while medical care and a "babysitting" service of sorts will be provided by staff from McLean Clinic.

As it stands now, intoxicated youth are picked up by police and either taken home or driven around in the police car for three hours (the maximum detention time).

"This (the program) will get the youths sober enough to go back home or out on the streets without hurting themselves,"

said DeLaunay.

Youths will be admitted and released by medical doctors and will not be allowed to leave unless they are under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or other responsible party.

"This is a medical model," said DeLaunay. "It's not going to be used for, or intended to incarcerate them (the youths)." DeLaunay also said that not all youths picked up by police will use the program: "Only those youths who are so bombed out of their minds that they are dangerous to themselves will be admitted."

"This is not a counseling service."

DeLaunay also emphasized that the project is "not a counseling service. Kids will not be counseled while they are in the program." He added, "I will be contacting all of the families involved in the program, though."

Police are saying that there is a definite need for a program of this kind. "Police pick up between 50 and 60 intoxicated youths each year," informed DeLaunay. "Some of them are so out of it, they don't know who they are, where they are, or

why they are."

Multnomah County had a similar program but discontinued it due to lack of use.

Clackamas County's program will be evaluated after the preliminary \$7,000, which has been supplied by the Juvenile Services Commission, has run out.

"We want to know if it is being utilized, and if it is useful, or if it's the same kids coming in again and again," said DeLaunay.

Treatment for one person will run about \$600, the cost includes the service of a doctor, emergency room space, and any tests or treatment that will be needed.

"We're hoping that we can recoup some of the money from insurance," explained DeLaunay. Other possible sources of money, include private industries, service groups, or a continuation of funds from the Juvenile Services Commission.

DeLaunay, while not sure of the project's outcome, said it is "certainly worth trying. There are youth out there who are killing themselves."

Sex class dispels myths

by Sherri Michaels
Staff Writer

"Most community colleges teach sex education," said Marlene Tufts in reference to the Psychology 231 Human Sexuality class she is currently teaching.

Tufts commented, "I want to teach the factual types of things and dispel the myths that people have about sex." Some of the myths that come up in class have been, men have multiple orgasms, women are not sexual, and women are more romantic.

Upon entering this class on the first day you are administered a pre-test. Some of which covers the above mentioned and many more myths. "Most people who take the pre-test don't do better than chance," said Tufts. Though hopefully when you take the post-test at the end of the term you will have improved.

Even in a class that "is less threatened and just interested in the sexuality aspect you can hardly come to concession of values," pointed out Tufts. Values come up with talks and lectures of several topics, including homosexuality, bisexuality and AIDS. Though some

issues such as sexual dysfunction and sex therapy are not advert to the value and moral issues.

This is definitely a "predictable" class for those reasons. But for such a potentially controversial class "there have been few complaints," said Bernie Nolan. Nolan also pointed out that, "Marlene Tufts is so qualified to teach this course with her doctorate being in sex and psychology."

"Most students are interested in the sexual part of sex," said Tufts. But she includes subjects which range from the sexual anatomy, "a real important part that you ought to know," to the religious and ethical perspectives on sexuality.

Tufts rounds out her classroom lectures with movies, different resource books, and guest speakers. The most noted guest speaker, Holly, talked about her "coming out" process which she went through. She was able to answer any questions that the class had.

Tufts will be offering this class Spring term on Monday evenings. For more information contact the counseling center.

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