

Drug answers win prizes

By Dorothy B. Peckman

SYRACUSE, NY — Public school kids here have been "doing drugs" — with the approval of their teachers and parents. As part of a substance abuse education program, teams from local middle schools competed against each other in drug quiz shows, answering questions about drugs and alcohol.

The shows look just like TV quiz shows, complete with judges, timers, buzzers and lights. The contestants answered such questions as: "What are designer drugs?" "What substance used for medical purposes in the American Civil War created thousands of addicts?" "What are three signs that a person may be having problems with substance abuse?"

Money for the program was supplied by area businesses. Members of all eleven teams received T-shirts and certificates. Three finalist teams competed in an evening show emceed by a local television personality. The kids were so quick with their answers that twice the judges had to provide a new list of questions.

Sponsors hope that the success of the program in educating young people about drug abuse will spark similar programs around the country.

Lifesaver was all wet

LA HABRA, CA — Luckily for his three-year-old cousin, Derek Grant learned lifesaving in swim class. Derek, 10, used the skills he had learned when his cousin, Stephanie, fell into a swimming pool at their babysitter's house.

"The most important thing was saving Stephanie," Derek said. "As soon as I saw her fall in, I went right over there."

The babysitter was vacuuming when the accident occurred but looked out the window in time to see Derek jump into the pool. "He jumped right in, came up beside her, grabbed her and pulled her out," Kelly McDonald said.

Derek said his mother was furious at first when she came to pick him up. His clothes and shoes were dripping wet, but he quickly explained he had just saved Stephanie's life. Stephanie also explained, "I fell in the pool. I love him."

Derek said, "The whole school knew about it the next day. They said, 'Wow, that's neat.' But I felt happy for myself that I did it."

Martins exhibit father's gifts

PORTLAND, OR — "I think it's a pretty good idea to show the things dad made for us," said Trent Martin, 12. Trent and his sister Edie, 15, were asked to display their gifts in the Portland Children's Museum for Father's Day. They will be the youngest museum exhibitors the museum has ever featured.

Will Martin, Trent and Edie's architect dad, was killed in an

airplane accident two years ago.

"One Father's Legacy: Will Martin's Gifts to His Children" includes more than 20 handmade gifts from their father.

"The doll house is my favorite toy dad made," said Edie, who was four when she received her gift. "My doll house has so many detailed things, I can keep myself busy for hours looking at everything in it."

Her dad spent one year making the four-foot high house that includes lights in every room. Edie replaced the six dolls who came with the house with her own set of seven rabbits and one raccoon. "The six people really didn't have any personality, so I decided to dress up my bunnies and put them in the house."

Trent's favorite gift from his father won't be at the show. His dad made a go-cart for him when he was five, but it was stolen from their home. "My dad was being the biggest genius when he made the go-cart," Trent said proudly. The go-cart was complete with headlights, taillights, a rosewood covered steering wheel and an advanced system for braking and steering.

Another creation in the exhibit is a real gingerbread house the Martin family made for a national contest. Their space-age home was designed for an ambassador from a small intergalactic planet. It won fourth place.

Trent and Edie know their father's talent has given them a creative and artistic edge. "He was always working on something and he always included us," Edie said. They're proud to share his work — their toys.



Edie (left) and her brother Trent (right) are always on the lookout for little detailed pieces to put in their doll house.



SAN DIEGO, CA — Volkswagen didn't design its van to hold 76 kids, but that's how many squeezed into the vehicle to raise money for a local chapter of Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

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