

'Rap session' on drugs

A roundtable on drug use and abuse Thursday night at Heppner elementary school was attended by students, law enforcement officers, attorneys and members of the council on drug abuse from Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The questions and answers followed those given in a similar session held six months ago in Heppner. What's the difference between marijuana and alcohol? Why is it permissible to vote at 18 but not permissible to drink until age 21? Why do parents believe they're right and refuse to listen to the side of their children?

There is, according to the panel's finding, no local problem with hard-core drugs, although marijuana is being used in most of the county's junior and high schools.

Students present asked a police officer what, if any, is the difference between using marijuana and the use of alcohol. The answer appears to be a matter of law. The use of alcohol is prohibited to minors; the use of drugs is prohibited to all persons.

Law officers said the amount of drugs found on a person determines the penalty he will receive. An ounce or less is presently considered a misdemeanor; possession of more than one ounce constitutes a felony. Officers explained the difference in arresting a person for being drunk and for taking drugs—there are tests to

determine drunkenness, not for having smoked marijuana. They suggested marijuana should be legalized, or failing that, stiffer penalties should be administered for marijuana arrests.

"Does the smoking of pot lead to the use of harder drugs?" A drug council member replied, "Most alcoholics start out drinking milk."

Many doctors claim smoking pot produces no harmful effects, but it has not been proven that smoking pot does not have harmful effects on the human system. Tobacco can produce harmful effects, as can any substance taken into the lungs.

Rich Panzer said he would like to see legislation to legalize the use of marijuana, but to control its sale. "If it were sold for 15 cents a bag to anyone who wanted it, the sale of marijuana would soon diminish. The marijuana presently distributed is of poor quality. Government control over the sale could also control the quality of the product."

Panzer said most people start smoking a joint a day, and later go to two or three joints (of marijuana) a day. Anyone who smokes six or more joints a day soon gets sick of it and stops smoking it altogether.

Students compared smoking pot with using alcohol, and asked why it is permissible to get drunk at age 21 when other privileges are given to them at 18. They were referring to the

right to vote in certain elections at 18 and to be considered as adults at that age, yet are forbidden to purchase or drink liquor.

A parent answered: "Youngsters today have to earn the right to do many things, and in some cases they have to wait until they are 21."

"Are you saying," the student replied, "that you have to earn the right to get drunk?" Regardless of the age, a drunk is a drunk at 15 or 50, the student reasoned.

Students present made a point that juveniles arrested for smoking pot should be treated as adults, not as juveniles. "It doesn't do any kid any good to be picked up and taken to court when his family can come down and bail him out just because he is a juvenile. If that youngster had to spend a night or two in jail he would soon learn the meaning of the law. That is the only way many of them are going to learn. A mere slap on the wrist and not allowing the youngster to go out for a week is certainly no punishment," was one student's conviction.

Another student statement: "Why is the smoking of pot always associated with young people? Don't older people smoke pot? If a youngster is caught smoking it he makes the headlines, but if an adult is caught driving while drunk he hardly ever makes the papers—and if he does it's on the back page where no one will notice it."

told the panel that when a youngster is caught speeding he is quick to accept the officer's citation without question. However, an adult caught for speeding will usually question the officer's judgment.

Student statement-query: "Why do parents always believe they are right, and refuse to listen to the side of the youngster? Can't they be wrong, even if they are our parents? Why don't they offer an explanation of the consequences rather than just continuously saying 'no.' Let us kids take some responsibility. Parents are always trying to keep us from getting into trouble; but they don't realize that at one time they were kids and did some of the same things we are doing now."

Bob Abrams, attorney, concluded the panel, saying, "Laws are made by people and they are not perfect and need revisions. When you students feel that some of our laws need changing, do everything in your power to make the changes. When I was growing up I was surprised at how much my father learned when I was between the ages of 17 and 22. Prior to that time I felt he didn't know very much. You youngsters are facing the same situation now with your parents, but all they want to do is help and protect you. Some day you will realize this, and when you are parents you will face the same problems your parents are facing today."

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Heavy equipment sabotaged

Sabotage of heavy construction equipment has resulted in a loss of approximately \$10,000 over the past six weeks at the Valley View Estates subdivision.

Elva Duvall, construction superintendent for the R.A. Chambers & Associates, contractors, told the Gazette-Times Friday the heavy equipment had been made inoperable by persons putting sugar in the crankcases of two large Caterpillar tractors. Two backhoes and a forklift have been put out of commission by the same method, except that the sugar in one of the backhoes had been put in the hydraulic equipment.

The sabotage began six weeks ago when the first Caterpillar was damaged at a cost of \$2,500. The other Cat, belonging to Bert Corbin, was damaged approximately \$1,000 three weeks ago by someone putting sugar in the oil. On Oct. 21 the forklift was sabotaged, and on Oct. 24 the other backhoe was put out of commission.

Duvall said a sample of the engine oil was sent to the State Crime Laboratory in Salem, which confirmed that sugar had been the damaging agent. One of the two backhoes is also owned by Bert Corbin. The other is a rented machine from Walla Walla.

Duvall said his company has maintained no nightwatchman at the construction site, but would probably be forced to do so from now on.

Helen Beard of Australia was guest speaker at a meeting for Irrigon women Oct. 24, with a brunch following at the Assembly of God Church.

Doctors will visit Heppner

Doctor recruiter Helen Chenoweth contacted the Doctors' Search Committee president, Liz Curtis, Monday evening to report what she considered to be a successful recruiting trip for the committee the previous week.

Mrs. Chenoweth, who was hired to recruit a doctor or doctors for the area, reported that she was sending the names of six interested men to the committee. All six are currently residents in the field of family practice. Two of these indicating interest are

studying in Wichita, Kans. Two in the Little Rock, Ark. area indicated interest. One of these men had grown up in Oregon and reportedly expressed interest in returning. In Albuquerque, N.M., Mrs. Chenoweth reported two more men interested in visiting the Heppner area. One of these men, a Dr. Green, had done his externship in Fossil and had traveled through Heppner, she concluded.

Mrs. Chenoweth also visited hospital training centers in Minneapolis and Denver.

The board of directors of the Doctors' Search Committee will review Mrs. Chenoweth's recommendations in about a week and make plans to fly some of the doctors to the Heppner area.

The committee has also scheduled a recruiting visit with the 20 family practice residents at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland for Nov. 21. Mark and Sandy Murray and Liz Curtis will be making the presentation to this group.



Craig and Darrell Miles, Heppner Elementary School students, add finishing touches to their "masterpiece" in preparation for Halloween. The merchants sponsored the youngsters by allowing them to decorate their display windows.

School's expansion problems studied

"We found Morrow County to be our most challenging study area yet," according to Dr. Kenneth Erickson, head of the Field Training and Service Bureau of the University of Oregon.

Dr. Erickson was speaking to members of the Morrow County School District's Long Range Planning Committee and local planning committee members, school board members and school

administrators at a meeting in Irrigon Monday evening.

The purpose of the meeting was the formal presentation of results of a study conducted by the bureau projecting school enrollment and school facility needs for the next five years in Morrow County.

Dr. Erickson, accompanied by four members of the team who made the study, said the challenge stemmed from the fact that so much change was taking place in the north end of the county and no one knew for sure just what would happen in the next five years, although at the time of writing the report it appeared that greater change would occur after the five-year period.

Jim Shinn, a member of the team, told those present that it now appeared that PGE would build a nuclear plant at Arlington and a coal-fired plant at Boardman. He commented that could change again, many times. He felt the greatest "ifs" in terms of enrollment depended on whether Boardman decided to develop its sewer and water systems and increase housing opportunities in the Boardman area.

Shinn reported that the mill development in Heppner should increase the school enrollment there by 45 students, giving a projected total of 595 students now which would increase to 603 students by 1978.

Ione's projected increase was from 208 students this year to 219 by 1978. In the Boardman-Irrigon area projections were from 407 this year to 462 in 1978.

Shinn noted that these numbers could increase dramatically if housing became available in that area.

The Golden Age Club will have its monthly meeting Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Elks Club. There will be a potluck supper, music and games.

Riverside Superintendent Dan Daloso noted that current enrollment in that area is 440 students. The projected figures and Daloso's figure do not include kindergarten enrollments.

David Dickerson of the study team gave the team's facility recommendations. These recommendations dealt with repair and development of existing facilities, priority being given to the Boardman-Irrigon area. Further recommendations dealt with the construction of new facilities, dependent on growth.

The enrollment projections and analysis of facility needs for 1974-79 were compiled into a 60-page manuscript. About 80 copies were made available to the school district to be used in determining how to meet the growing needs of the district.

Louie Carlson, chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, scheduled Nov. 4, at the district office in Lexington at 8 p.m., as the next meeting for the committee. They will discuss how best to proceed with the recommendations made by the study team.

Who's Who contest begins next week

The "Who's Who in Morrow County" contest begins next week in the Gazette-Times, which means all embryo Perry Masons can begin sharpening their pencils and their wits. Those who enjoy working with clues, and getting better acquainted with friends and neighbors, will want to try their hands at it—and win cash every week while doing so.

Those who want to join the fun and play the game will have to study carefully the small ads that will appear next week, along with other ads inserted by "Who's Who" participating merchants which appear elsewhere in the paper. Search for clues to the identity of the mystery personality; there will be a new one every week for 30 weeks. It won't be long before a good detective will notice some words, phrases, numbers or letters that do not seem to fit the rest of the ad.

These clues will lead to the identity of the mystery personality. But figuring out "who" is only half the problem. Finding the total number of clues in the entire issue of the paper is the other half, and it offers a chance for a bigger prize.

The rules will be published next week. Get ready for some real family fun. Cash prizes will be awarded weekly by the Gazette-Times.

Mental health director named

Terry Hirni is the new director of the Morrow County Mental Health Services. His appointment was effective Oct. 9.

Hirni came here from Avon Park, Fla., where he was with a rehabilitation center for alcoholics. Previous to his Florida work, he was employed in the social service department of the Veterans Administration in Anchorage, Alaska, for two years.

He has a BA degree in sociology from Seattle Pacific College (1968) and his MA degree in social work from the University of Washington (1971).

The local center handles social and personal problems for residents of the county. Hirni will be counseling school students who are having problems in their association with other students; provide individual and family therapy; counsel on family relations, divorce, drug problems; and he will work closely with the juvenile court.

He estimates he sees about 20 patients a week, most of whom are having individual problems that have nothing to do with a person's mental condition.

"One doesn't have to be a mental patient in order to utilize our services," Hirni said. He is aware that the public is uninformed about the work of the mental health service, and hopes to overcome the notion that his office is primarily concerned with the "mentally disturbed" and sanity cases. In the latter

area, he said, he can only make recommendations and refer such people to competent medical authority.

The office is open Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed from 12 to 1 p.m. He will be at the county center in Irrigon every Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Charges for his services are based on a person's ability to pay. Those without means get free service. The maximum charge for counseling and therapy is \$18 an hour, for those who can afford it.

Hirni, his wife, Judy, and their five-month-old daughter live at 135 Gilmore Street.



TERRY HIRNI



Jim Ployher and Jeannine Hammons, Heppner High School students, go through a dress rehearsal for the upcoming play "The Ten Little Indians," which will be presented at the high school auditorium, Nov. 22-23. This is a scene from the first act of the play.