

New drug and alcohol awareness program

"If you play, you have to pay"

By Joseph J Wheeler
Staff Reporter

Rex Purkins is the counselor in charge of the new Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program at University of Las Vegas, Nevada. A veteran of the therapeutic community, he's designed programs in the past that have helped people beat drug and alcohol problems.

It's Purkins' goal that students at UNLV know about the downfalls of excessive drinking or drug abuse. "What we're here to teach is a responsible attitude toward drinking," he said.

He said he understands that some students will misinterpret his message of responsible drinking as an endorsement that getting drunk without getting into trouble is acceptable.

"When I say 'light drinking' I

don't mean 'drink light beer', he said. "We know, and accept, what goes on in college campuses. We are encouraging responsible attitudes and choices. That makes a big difference"

To help get the message out, the Student Development Center has created a bookmark that asks students to question whether they drink alone, drink only to get "high", or become annoyed when others criticize their drinking.

So far, 5000 of these bookmarks have been printed up and are available in the library.

Purkins will also place a "floating news rack" in strategic locations during the coming semester. Brochures and information booklets that discuss different drugs, their effects, and the symptoms of abuse will be available.

Since coming to UNLV in

January, Purkins has had 12 students seek his help. The process begins in his office where he does an initial assessment and evaluation. If further help is needed, the student may be referred to an outside treatment center such as Care Unit Hospital or Nevada Treatment Center.

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program also trains those on the front lines in the battle against ignorance.

A special workshop was given for all residential assistants on the signs and symptoms of possible drug or alcohol abuse that might occur in the dorms. Nurses at the Student Health Center were similarly trained. The day-long seminars included video presentations, training films, group discussions, and role playing.

Gayla Baker, a graduate assistant working with Purkins, said

that all the information will do little good if students fail to make responsible choices.

To Purkins, that means students knowing exactly what they're getting into. "Don't ask me if you should smoke that joint", he said. "You weigh it out. You make an educated choice. But if you play, you have to pay".

When it comes to drinking and driving, Purkins feels that students should be well aware of the consequences of such actions.

Drunken driving is a common occurrence on campus. Although most of the drivers involved were not UNLV students, the UNLV police made 23 arrests for Drinking Under the Influence (DUI) since June 1. The roadways around campus are constantly being patrolled by campus police looking for dangerous drivers.

According to Purkins, an ar-

rest and conviction on a DUI result in the following: fines, lawyer fees, increased insurance rates and a possible start in traffic school.

"Next time," Purkins said, "we're going to double the consequences. Your lawyer fees go way up, your insurance goes up, or gets cancelled, and you might lose your license".

Purkins' program puts a priority on individual responsibility. During the recent student orientation, he told incoming freshmen, "You think you are an adult? It's show-and-tell time. Now it's time to start acting like one".

He also presented what he called, "Yo-Yo Time".

"It means that when it comes to making choices," he grinned. "You're on your own."

SAT scores bring excuses for downward slide

(CPS) Each August, when average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores are made public, officials rush to explain why scores rose, fell or stayed the same.

In the years since 1963, when average scores began a long slide downward that continues through today, various experts have attributed students' performance to everything from faulty tests to the atmospheric testing of nuclear weaponry during the 1950's.

Here are some more recent observations:

1986 - Although SAT scores showed no change from 1985, a University of Michigan study contended that "the reason test scores were rising" was that test takers' families generally were getting smaller.

The fewer people in the student's family, the higher the

student's SAT score tended to be, the study showed.

1987 - William J. Bennett, then head of the US Department of Education, blamed another year of little change in average scores on schools that wasted tax dollars.

"Holding ground is better than losing ground, but we're still seeing an insufficient payoff for what we've invested in education. We need accountability for results," Bennett said.

1988 - Average scores dipped. Bennett once again blamed the schools, although he did his best to pep them up.

"I said in April that 'the absolute level at which our improvements are taking place is unacceptably low.' Today, it's a bit lower, and still not acceptable. C'mon team! Back into training."

1989 - When years of steady improvement in minority stu-

dents' average SAT scores ended, it was because some students were being badly prepared again, said Donald Stewart of the College Board, which administers the tests.

"We believe that score differences among ethnic groups and between men and women reflect wide disparities in academic preparation, or lack of it," he said.

1990 - Scores on the verbal portion of the SAT fell again, prompting Stewart to blame television.

"Students must pay less attention to video games and music videos, and begin to read more," he said.

Lynne Cheney of the National Endowment for the Humanities cited "dumbed-down textbooks" and easy course work for the decline.

Rutgers first to cut grants to ROTC students



Yell Photo / File Photo

ROTC students - More and more universities are denying funding to ROTC students due to its controversial policies.

Rutgers becomes the first campus to cut grants to ROTC Students.

Rutgers University official David Burns said Aug. 22 that his school had become the first in the country to stop giving scholarships to ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) students because of ROTC's policy banning homosexuals from the military.

Following ROTC's ultimately futile efforts in March to retrieve scholarship money from students at Washington University in St. Louis, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who it ultimately found out were gay, more than 20 campus presidents signed letters to the Pentagon asking it to change its policy.

None of the schools, however, has yet carried out a threat to disassociate from the ROTC program.

Great offers — on the HP 48SX and the HP 28S

HP has two special offers for getting ahead of the pack when it comes to schoolwork.

1. FREE HP Solve Equation Library card when you buy a new HP 48SX Scientific Expandable calculator.*



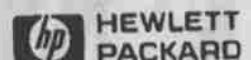
2. \$25 rebate from HP when you buy an HP 28S Advanced Scientific calculator.*



Come in and try one today.

HP calculators — the best for your success

* Offers good on purchases made between August 15, 1990 and October 15, 1990. Ask for HP's "Limited time only" coupon.



HOLMAN'S
of Nevada, Inc.

Products for Business and Engineering

878-1016

3515 WEST CHARLESTON
STORE HOURS: MON-FRI 8:00-5:30 SAT 10:00-3:00