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Teen Suicide Warnings

Special To The Post
Can suicide be predicted? Several studies have tried to answer that question with mixed results. However, two Michigan physicians report that disturbed adolescents often exhibit certain behavioral and emotional clues - especially depression and alcohol abuse - that suggest suicidal tendencies. While such indicators are not necessarily foolproof, they may be helpful guidelines for professionals who work with troubled youths.

The study examined 64 psychiatric patients, both male and female, between 13 and 18 years of age. Approximately half of them had made at least one suicide attempt. Diagnoses of the group included anorexia, anxiety, schizophrenia and depression; in fact, five of the six patients who had made serious suicide attempts were diagnosed with major depressive disorder.

The researchers used a standard interview to describe four different dimensions of the youngsters' suicidal tendencies: Their preoccupation with suicide, for example, and the seriousness of their past attempts. The four parameters were then matched against 38 emotional or behavioral symptoms to see if these symptoms might suggest self-destructive tendencies.

Of the 38 symptoms, depression and alcohol abuse were closely associated with all four suicidal parameters. Other symptoms that may suggest suicide include hopelessness, insomnia, poor concentration, and generally joyless outlook on life.

The researchers also stress the fact that every patient who had seriously attempted suicide had made a previous, less serious attempt. Even seemingly minor self-destructive gestures should be considered as indicators of future, perhaps lethal, attempts. Finally, the authors note that most adolescents are very adept at describing their emotional states (especially when the family is not present in the interview) and should thus be carefully heeded.

Credit Counselors To Assist Piedmont Natural Gas Customers

Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) began a pilot project with Piedmont Natural Gas Company on August 15 to assist elderly customers who are about to have their gas cut off because of unpaid bills.

Under this project, Piedmont will refer up to 25 delinquent customers each month to CCCS for budget assistance and counseling. Individuals who elect to receive counseling and who need to go on a debt repayment plan with CCCS will include the gas company as part of their repayment plan to creditors.

"The limited size of the counseling staff and the manageable number of elderly residents served by Piedmont Natural Gas make this public utility an ideal candidate for the pilot project," Pickens said.

CCCS is a division of United Family Services, a United Way member agency.

TURTLE-TALK



Ability involves responsibility; power, to its last particle, is duty.



Michelle Boyce
.....Garinger sophomore

Boyce Aspires To Be A Child Psychologist

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

This fall, 15-year-old Michelle Boyce became a sophomore at Garinger High School. And, already, she's sure she doesn't like that status. "The upper classmen give you a hard time," she complains. Her other opinion on high school is "I thought it would be more exciting but it's not much different than junior high."

But she still has three years to test the waters and Michelle confesses she's still looking forward to "what's going to happen now that I'm in high school." She's greatly anticipating taking driver's education this year and eventually getting her driver's license. Plus, she's excited about attending the school's football games. Though, "Garinger has gotten beat already," Michelle fuses. "Twenty-one to zero, that's terrible!"

At school, Michelle also has plans to join the Adelpheans which is a type of social club and booster organization at Garinger. But first she'd have to go through initiation. "You have to do embarrassing stuff," she laughs. "I think I can probably do it."

Currently, Michelle is a member of Garinger's orchestra in which she plays the violin.

Some things about youth and high school never change. What do most 15-year-old female sophomores talk about? "Mostly boys," admits Michelle. "To have a boyfriend who is a senior would be nice. If he has a car that's a good thing, too." Then something about high school do change. "Guys who are athletes are no big deal," relates Michelle.

Michelle's other interests include finding a job. "So I can get a car," she tells. And she also enjoys shopping for clothes. "I like anything that's in," she says, "like two-toned Gasoline jeans and Levi's. Maybe some dresses."

This week's beauty also likes going out with friends to parties and, in quieter times, she enjoys a good book.

"I have a lot of friends," relates Michelle, who describes herself as "friendly and nice. I talk a lot and I'm outgoing," she adds.

In the far future, after high school and college, her aspiration is to be a child psychologist. "I enjoy working with children," Michelle notes. "As a psychologist I would be a friend to children who may have problems. I would also help them learn dif-

ferent things. I think I'd also like to work with foster children."

Michelle has one sister, LaShelle, who is 14. Michelle says of her sister, "We are getting closer as we get older. We share a lot of things."

Their parents, Howard and Frances Boyce, are the people Michelle most admires. "They work hard to help my sister and I," she expresses. "Some kids can't talk to their parents but I can talk to mine. My mom and dad always help me with my problems."

Two lessons that Michelle has learned in life that she would like to pass on to others her age are: "Don't take people's feelings for granted," and "Value your education." Elaborating on education, she concludes, "A lot of young people drop out of school in their sophomore or junior year, but that's a waste because they really don't have that much more to go."

By Loretta Manago
Managing Editor

Something exciting is in store for the health of black women who live in this area. Plans are already underway for a workshop that will deal specifically with the health needs and concerns of black women, for this coming November.

This project which is referred to as the black women's health project grew out of another organization also concerned with women, Blueprint. Blueprint is comprised of numerous women's organizations, that takes upon itself a different issue of concern each year. This year, Blueprint concentrated its attention on health.

Joan Kennedy-Ross, past president of Blueprint and coordinator of the black women's health project talked about how the idea started. "When we (members of Blueprint) started looking at facts like the high incidence of cardiovascular disease among black women, the high percentage of black teenage mothers and the high infant mortality rate among black women, we definitely saw a need for the workshop." Mrs. Ross also mentioned that Blueprint applied for a grant to pursue that avenue from

Lowery: Intrusion Into Religious Matters Justified

"The growing concern about the interference-intrusion of the government into the internal affairs of the church is justified. Thousands of cases across these United States testify to the fact that the courts, as well as government agencies are usurping the Constitutional rights of church bodies.

"Ministers have been jailed in several states as they refused to give in to court-ordered takeovers of churches. The U.S. Supreme Court has steadfastly refused to deal with at least one historic case which could have been a beacon light for all involved.

"The President, who steadfastly claims to uphold the separation of church and state and who proclaims his support of religious freedom, has been strangely silent as the number of intrusions swell to unprecedented level during his administration.

"Perhaps part of the failure to bring a halt to governmental intrusion in the affairs of the church must be placed at the doorstep of religious leaders," Dr. Joseph Lowery said.

"Too many of us have been willing to give 'line-item' support to the struggle for freedom and liberty for all. We have been unwise enough to think that we can remain silent or even support the erosion-violation of liberty and human rights in carefully selected instances, and at the same time effectively protect our own favorite liberties," he continued. "Some of us even now while



Dr. Joseph Lowery
.....SCLC president

engaged in rhetorical support of freedom and rights in this context, have identified with and offered support to the most vicious violator of rights and freedom on the face of the earth...South Africa," Lowery explained. "There is something inconsistent if not hypocritical about demanding that our government in America respect our rights and liberties, while aiding and abetting a foreign government that is engaged in the most murderous and brutal denial of rights in modern history.

"Nor does it help the true and

noble cause of religious freedom for religious leaders to offer some form of automatic absolution and or affirmation for officials on matters that suit our fancy...and thereby abdicate our role as moral conscience-advocates on all matters of public policy," he stated.

Added Lowery, "The struggle for freedom must be wholistic. Either we are for everybody's freedom and human rights or we cannot effectively secure anybody's freedom or human rights.

"So let us be faithful to our calling and loyal to our faith. Let us challenge this administration to put its deeds where its claims are. Our nation is in far more danger from within than from without. Oppression of and intrusion into religion by government, racism, militarism, and economic exploitation and injustice...all represent clear and present dangers to the nation we love. Freedom of religion is necessary to keep a government free from tyranny and a people from enslavement.

"A government that does not guarantee the rights of racial minorities will violate the rights of religious minorities. A government that jails the unpopular to please the crowd will soon jail any crowd it pleases. Love of country compels us...as did Esther...to put love of God and country above popularity with the King (indeed for Esther it was her survival)...and demand freedom and justice," he concluded.

Historic Freedom Convention Set

Special To The Post
"Give us a plan...a 10 Black Commandments, simple, strong that we can carry in our memories no matter where we are and reach out and touch and feel the reassurance that there is behind everything we do a simple, oral, intelligent plan that must be fulfilled in the course of time.

"Even if all of our leaders, one by one, fall in battle, somebody will rise up and say, 'Brother, our leader died while we were on page three of the plan. Now that the funeral is over, let us proceed to page four.'"

Those were the words of Ossie Davis in 1971 at the Congressional

Black Caucus Dinner. He will utter similar words at the Cleveland Convention Center on Sunday, September 29, when he calls for The Freedom Plan - and gets it.

There to lend their support to the Buy Freedom drive and to make guest appearances will be: John Amos (Kunta Kinte of "Roots"); legendary musician Lionel Hampton; Sheryl Lee Ralph (star of "Dream Girls"); Whitman Mayo ("Helltown"); and Grady on "Sanford and Son"; and Marla Gibbs ("227") and "The Jeffersons". Delegates and friends of freedom from across the country will also attend this gathering,

which is free of charge.

Percy Sutton, chairman of the board of Inner City Broadcasting and owner of the Apollo Theatre, will serve as master of ceremonies. Wesley Toles, vice chairman of First National Association Bank in Cleveland, is the planning chairman for the convention.

Tony Brown, chairman of the Council for the Economic Development for Black Americans, will respond to Davis' "Freedom Call" with a multi-year plan to move black America in the direction of community independence. The sequence of objectives for business growth, See HISTORIC On Page 18A

Something Exciting In Store For Health Of Black Women Who Live In Charlotte



Joan Kennedy-Ross
.....Project coordinator

the North Carolina Status of Women. The workshop which is scheduled for November 15 and 16 will focus on three concerns - women taking

charge of their own health; black and female: what is reality? and organizing a self health program. In charge of the workshops will be

Billie Avery, director of the Black Women's Health project in Atlanta and two of her staff members, Lillie Allen and Sharon Smith. The workshop which has been tentatively scheduled to be held at Greenville Center will begin that Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with the workshop being covered the next day from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The workshop's immediate goal is to better educate those in attendance about the health issues of black women; the long range goals of those who came up with the idea of the black women's health project is to establish a center that would concern itself primarily with the health needs of black women.

According to Mrs. Kennedy-Ross part of what the group that is sponsoring the workshop hopes to learn is how to go about forming their own permanent health center for black women. "We hope to find out everything we need to know about getting a center started during the course of workshop. Right now, the closest center of this nature is in Atlanta and we feel that with the size of Charlotte's black population a center like this is definitely in order."

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