

Thursday, October 26, 1989

## Speakers: drug education key to solving problems of abuse

By Steven Patrick

Of The Battalion Staff

The solution to alcohol and inhalant abuse, two of the least talked about yet most dangerous forms of drug abuse today, can be found in education and awareness, said speakers in a discussion on drugs Wednesday night.

Dennis Reardon, coordinator of the Texas A&M Center for Drug Prevention and Education, said the public must look to education, not incarceration, as the key to fighting today's epidemic drug problem.



Reardon, along with Gloria Noah, program director of Greenleaf Hospital's Adolescent Treatment Center, were the key speakers of "A War of Words on Drugs," sponsored by the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture.

Reardon and Noah focused the discussion on the use of inhalants and alcohol, two drugs largely ignored in today's "War on Drugs."

"If there's one drug you don't want to try once, it's an inhalant," said Noah.

Noah said people don't realize how dangerous inhalants are. Inhalants are some of the most dangerous drugs because they are inhaled and immediately attack the central nervous system. The worst effect of inhalants is the irreversible destruction of brain cells, Noah said.

Noah defined an inhalant as any chemical whose vapors, when inhaled, can cause excitement, confusion, or even hallucinations. Inhalants commonly abused include

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— Dennis Reardon, C.D.P.E.

gasoline, glue, paint thinner, and spray paint, she said.

One of the big problems today, Noah said, is the lack of attention given to inhalant abuse. Noah said increased awareness and education are the best way to fight drug abuse. Reardon followed Noah's discussion on inhalants with a look at another

widespread, but largely ignored drug, alcohol.

Reardon criticized the way alcohol abuse is accepted by society and depicted in the media.

"There is a comedic or benign acceptance, worse than that we have it shown as a positive experience," Reardon said.

Reardon said that of the \$240 billion spent annually to fight drugs, \$170 billion is spent to fight alcohol abuse. Despite these large expenditures, Reardon said President Bush's "War on Drugs" fails to address the issue of alcohol abuse.

"Not one word in the Bush policy is addressed to the alcohol problem," Reardon said.

Reardon called upon increased funding for education as the best means to deter drug abuse.

"The dollar we spend in education goes a lot further than in enforcement," Reardon said.

"We do what we believe, and if we teach the truth, then that is what we will believe," he said.

## Competing in a global economy

### Officials discuss role of higher education in international market

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

AUSTIN — Higher education must be the catalyst for change if Texas is to adapt and compete effectively in the increasingly crucial international marketplace, concluded university officials and business leaders meeting here Wednesday.

"We've got to find a new future," Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth told a statewide gathering of university presidents and other officials. The group came together to help formulate an action plan for dealing with the role that Texas and U.S. institutions of higher education should play in the global economy that is now a reality.

"The United States is a nation at a competitive disadvantage, and we're not going to get out of this critical situation in an easy manner," Ashworth said.

He said the only good aspect evolving from the bleak situation "is that it is bringing us together."

A key element of the Austin meeting was the opportunity for top university officials to get their first look at a preliminary report of the Coordinating Board Commissioner's Advisory Committee on International Issues in Higher Education.

The committee, chaired by Texas A&M University President William H. Mobley, began its

study last year and plans to submit its final report early in 1990.

Mobley called the report the basis for "an action agenda that is educationally sound and financially feasible."

He said the report represents an opportunity for input from both higher education and private sector leaders.

"There is a clear recognition of the importance of the international dimension of higher education in the global economy," Mobley said.

A recommendation was made that the Legislature be asked to appropriate \$10 million dur

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## Brazos Valley kids visit A&M fair to see 'chemistry in action'

By Julie Myers

Of The Battalion Staff

Brazos Valley children will get the chance to see "Chemistry in Action" at the Texas A&M Chemistry Fair Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the new wing of the Chemistry Building.

"Chemistry in Action" is designed to entertain elementary and secondary students, teachers and parents, and to introduce them to the world of chemistry.

Students attending the fair will have a chance to observe and participate in chemistry experiments and presentations under the leadership of A&M scientists, undergraduates and graduates.

Presentations aimed at younger students will focus on the chemistry of life, living light (chemiluminescence), photosynthesis, macromolecules, genetic engineering and the chemistry of violin making.

Programs for older students will cover superconductivity, career opportunities in chemistry, preparing for college, cold fusion and chemical structure determination.

In addition to the various presentations, which will be repeated throughout the fair, a one-hour "Chemical Demonstration Show" for all age groups will be staged at 10:10 a.m. and again at 12:50 p.m.

Supervised "hands-on" experiments for elementary school students will be conducted from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tours of the new Biochemistry and Biophysics Building, chemistry laboratories, and chemical engineering labs will be conducted

throughout the fair, as well as a teachers' room providing supplemental classroom materials.

Associate Chemistry professor and fair co-coordinator Larry Peck said besides "showing off," the fair's purpose is to show students the involvement of chemistry applications in everyday situations.

Rules for a student essay contest also will be available at the fair.

T-shirts will be awarded in grade levels 3-12 for the best essay answering, "Chemistry in Action: How Does it Help Me?"

**Students attending the fair will have a chance to observe and participate in chemistry experiments and presentations under the leadership of A&M scientists, undergraduates and graduates.**

Contest rules will be available at the fair and the Chemistry Week display Nov. 4 in Post Oak Mall in College Station.

The fair is sponsored by the departments of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biophysics and Chemical Engineering, as well as the American Chemical Society and various industrial groups.

A schedule of presentation times and locations is available at the fair or by calling Peck at 845-2356 or Dr. John Hogg at 845-0520.

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**The MSC Pageant Committee would like to wish the best of luck to all the contestants in the Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant February 24, 1990**

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