
family



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FATHERS DIARY

Drug education turning kids off

Parents are responsible to provide an example to kids on two levels: First, traditions of the family,

community, government and society as a whole must be taught, clarified, and reinforced by exam-

ple. Second, parents should be acquainted with the trends of the day, discuss them with their kids and, when reasonable, engage in those trend-situations as a guide to the young ones.

One "trend" that parents need to be particularly well informed about is drug-taking.

As parents, we want the best for our children, which these days includes a college education, a supposed "must" for success. So we work hard to pay ever-increasing tuition and send our teens off to high-pressure academic life. Then just when they need more parental

support than ever — and we are too busy working to give it to them — they are tempted with drugs by their peers and by the need to escape from school pressures.

Neither are our children armed against temptation by drug education in the school system. According to "The Truth About Drugs: The Body, Mind and You," by Gene Chill and John Duff, "Drug education did nothing to deter drug abuse ... One reason is the content. Not enough is explained. Too much is left unanswered. Two is the approach. Even if answers were available, it is doubtful anyone would listen, since the method of

communication used by the educators is disastrous."

Of particular concern to the authors is the unrealistic and stereotypic dramatizations given to drug-related experiences. Rather than deterring youngsters from using drugs, they in fact encourage them to get on the bandwagon.

But you don't have to deny your kids a good high. The question is what kind of high. Our job as parents is to encourage a high on living life rather than the make-believe world of drugs.

We have a lot of work to do to get

to know our kids once again and develop their confidence in our wisdom and knowledge. It's never too late to establish workable alternatives to drug experiences.

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"The Truth About Drugs" is published by Bridge Publications. Other information and literature is available from Narconon, Inc., 519 S. Westmoreland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90020, and the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, P.O. Box 6272, Silver Springs, Md., 20906, Bill Barton, president.