Fine Progress Reported in Anti-Cancer Effort

Oakdale Teenagers See Anti-Smoking Film

Films Being Shown at High Schools

By PODINE SCHOPENBERGER
(Times-Picayune, Medical Writer)

Arrayed in their shorts and T-shirts, a group of boys sat on the “gym” floor at Oakdale High School the other day watching an anti-smoking movie.

The film was entitled, “Is Smoking Worth It?” From the expression on the faces of the boys it seemed to be going over pretty well.

Suspended above a nearby bulletin board was a sketch of Bert Starr, quarterback for the Green Bay Packers. And beneath the sketch appeared the following words, “I Do Not Smoke.”

TYPICAL OF MANY

Showing of the film, at Oakdale High, is typical of the many activities now going on throughout the state as part of the all-out drive against teenage smoking launched recently by the American Cancer Society.

C. J. Bergeron, field representative for the Southwest Area of the American Cancer Society, said fine progress has been made to date in his area in the anti-smoking drive.

Participating parishes in Bergeron’s area include Acadia, Allen, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne and Vermilion.

Success in the campaign was also reported Friday by Mrs. Edith O’Leary, field representative of the Central Louisiana Area of the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. O’Leary said in Alexandria members of the Future Homemakers Club at Alexandria Junior High School are busy making anti-smoking posters.

STORY OF DRAGONS

“They plan to place these posters in strategic spots around the school,” explained the central Louisiana representative.

At first the Smoking Dragon is very popular with his fellow dragons as he strolls around town puffing on one cigarette after another. Then the non-smoking Dragon arrives on the scene and almost immediately the picture begins to change.

The non-smoking Dragon challenges the non-smoking Dragon to a race. And because he has never hurt his wind by smoking, the non-smoking Dragon wins the race. He also wins the heart of a beautiful orange-colored Lady Dragon.

As he walks down the street with the Lady Dragon all the dragons watching them pass by throw away their cigarette and so comes the fade-out.

In addition to showing movies, these are some of the other things being done on a statewide scale in connection with the campaign against teenage smoking:

1. School superintendents are urging their principals, their teachers and their PTA leaders to support the campaign.
2. Art teachers are encouraging their pupils to compete in the anti-smoking poster contest being sponsored by the American Cancer Society.
3. Speech teachers are arranging student debates which revolve around the question, “Is Smoking Worth It?”
4. Physicians are delivering addresses in the schools warning students that smoking can cause lung cancer.
5. English teachers are encouraging their pupils to write essays on the dangers of smoking so they can compete in an anti-smoking essay contest being planned for them by the American Cancer Society.

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Why did you start smoking?
How many cigarettes do you smoke each day?
Have you ever tried to stop smoking?
Was it hard to stop?
What is your recommendation to teenagers?
Answers to these questions will be incorporated by the students into school papers or essays.