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Motivational speaker discusses choices

By Trena Munro
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"I'm mad at society," said motivational speaker Garry Whyte at a school-wide assembly on Thursday, February 18.

Addressing the issues of alcohol, nicotine, and drug abuse with a teenage focus, Whyte exuberantly presented his views on problems currently being faced by teenagers in society..

Whyte discussed why people resort to substance abuse, and included many of his personal experiences of prison and drug-related actions such as dealing, and using.

He also emphasized the influences that celebrities, major corporations, and even peers have on individuals. The importance of being careful who you trust and what you listen to was also stressed.

Beginning at the age of thirteen, Whyte experimented with drugs and alcohol which rapidly escalated to a four hundred dollar a



(Lindsey Galvin photo)

Garry Whyte spreading his message.

day drug habit, and an alcohol-related car accident, all of which resulted in a seven- year imprisonment.

Whyte wishes that he'd made better decisions, and told students that "it's not about telling you what to do, not to have fun; it's about choices."

Whyte offered powerful information to the audience. For instance, it takes a teenager one fifth of the time to develop the disease of alcoholism than it does an adult, and most alcohol-related automobile accidents are suffered by teenagers between the ages of sixteen and nineteen.

With regards to marijuana, he spoke of how THC, the main chemical in the drug, can have physical and mental effects. Also, a link has been made between drugs, depression, and teen suicide.

Whyte also stated that "the number one teen killer is impaired driving, and it's not really worth it."

The audience's attention was held by Whyte's outgoing manner, and his message appeared well received by most LSS students.