

# Teen Communications sends message: drug use and alcohol abuse can kill!

LINDSAY (Staff) — A strong message on the perils of drug and alcohol use was sent to I.E. Weldon and LCVI students.

Hosted by OSAID, the visiting group Teen Communications, spoke to the students of LCVI in the morning and I.E. Weldon in the afternoon.

Teen Communications is an organization that uses mixed media to send the message that drug use and alcohol abuse kills.

Humor, graphic accounts, prerecorded and live music, slides, and audience participation were used to send the message home.

Ministry of Rhythm, a group of five high school boys, performed rap songs The Beginning of the End, and Hit and Skins.

Garry Whyte, founder of Teen Communications, spoke of his own experiences with drugs. He started smoking at 13 years old. He was mainlining by 15 years old. His drug habit sometimes reached \$300.00 a day.

Garry spent seven years in prison partly and during that time he was freed of his addictions.

"It's hard to make the right decisions when there's all these messages and influences coming at (you)" Mr. Whyte said to students, Wednesday. He then played portions of songs, and displayed slides of famous musicians who died of drug overdoses: Jimi Hendrix, Keith Moon, John Bonham, and Sid Vicious to name a few.

Mr. Whyte also used audience participation. He asked people to

stand if they knew someone who was seriously injured or killed in an impaired accident. Over half of the attending population stood.

Marco Cambil, another member of Teen Communications, shared his history of drugs and alcohol.

Sandy Garner and Lesley Walker, two students from IDCI, performed That's What Friends Are For. This was followed by another performance of Ministry of Rhythm.

"It's very beneficial. It put it into words that teenagers understand," said Cheryl Ray, a student at I.E. Weldon, "it was great."

The assembly received a lot of positive reaction from the students and some students remained for the second afternoon assembly.