

Seminar focuses on sexual boundaries for adolescents

Prairie View’s Learning Institute, in collaboration with High Plains Mental Health Services in North-west Kansas and Area Mental Health Center serving Southwest Kansas, will present Jeff King for a day long seminar titled “When Adolescents Violate Sexual Boundaries.”

The presentations will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

March 7: City Limits Convention Center at 2227 S. Range in Colby.

March 8: High Plains Mental Health Center at 203 E. Seventh in Hays

March 9: St. Catherine Hospital at 401 E Spruce St. in Garden City.

King, a graduate of Greensburg High School, received his bachelor’s degree in sociology from Emporia State University and his master’s degree in social work from Newman University. He is a licensed master social worker and a certified sex addictions therapist. He is also a certified Abel Assessment Interpreter.

King is employed at Prairie View in Newton and is the director of Stepping Stones, a treatment program for youth with sexual behavior problems.

According to King, “This seminar is designed to enhance the participant’s understanding of how communities can best respond to, and manage adolescent sex offenders.”

Two major questions addressed during this seminar are: Who are the adolescents that violate sexual boundaries and how should communities respond?

King will describe a treatment approach that includes collaboration of the legal system, the offender’s family, the victim’s family if they choose, peers, school officials, the spiritual and vocational communities, treatment providers and the offender. This multi-systemic treatment approach is used successfully in Prairie View’s Step-

“When Adolescents Violate Sexual Boundaries.”

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

March 7: City Limits Convention Center at 2227 S. Range in Colby

To register, contact Prairie View’s Learning Institute at 1-800-362-0180, ext 6412 and ask for Judy Janzen or download a brochure at www.prairieview.org

ping Stones program.

In addition, King will review research regarding adolescent sex offenders and discuss how current policies affect adolescent sexual offenders and their communities. He will provide information on recidivism rates of adolescent sex offenders and explain how they compare to other adolescent general offenders and what this may mean to communities.

According to David Gear, director of Prairie View’s Learning Institute and coordinator for this event, “Social workers, psychologists, teachers, principals, administrators, lawyers, probation officers, juvenile justice authority workers, community corrections officers, school counselors, school nurses, parents, case managers, foster parents and foster care workers would all find this seminar a very worthwhile investment in learning about the behaviors of adolescents who are sex offenders.”

The cost of the seminar is \$25 per person if registered by Feb. 28. Registrations received after Feb. 28 is \$35 or \$45 for walk-in participants. To register, contact Prairie View’s Learning Institute at 1-800-362-0180, ext 6412 and ask for Judy Janzen or download a brochure at www.prairieview.org

Blonde jokes hurt woman’s feelings



Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

Dear Dr. Brothers: I am the lone blue-eyed blonde (mostly natural!) in a circle of friendly co-workers who are dark-skinned or dark-haired. We all have a good time, despite the occasional personality clashes that are normal in any office group. My problem is the blonde jokes. The more insulting they are, the more everyone laughs. Being the only blonde makes me the butt of the jokes, and even people I don’t know very well in the group feel free to make fun of me. Should I just continue to try to laugh it off? — K.T.

Dear K.T.: Hey, I’m with you in your dismay at dumb-blonde jokes. It seems we fair-haired ones must always suffer one of the longest-lived stereotypes of our time: The idea that blond women are stupid! Whether the finger is pointed at Marilyn Monroe, Goldie Hawn or the latest sample of fair-haired ditziness from “American Idol,” there are always going to be blondes perpetuating the stereotype for fun and profit. So what you have to do is turn this liability around and make it an asset! Taking it personally is not going to lessen the jokes or make you feel better — it usually will just encourage more jokes. First, make sure you aren’t doing anything to draw that kind of attention to yourself. Sometimes a blonde — especially if she is attractive and/or shapely — will have to be a little more businesslike, a little more quick-witted and decisive at work, and take on a leadership role so that those blonde jokes can’t take a foothold. And if a joke is told, don’t let it get a rise out of you. Smile along with everyone else. And how about arming yourself with a few “smart blonde” jokes? They can be found on the Internet, and you can fight back with a smile. After all, we blondes have more fun,

right?

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been living with another girl for about six months to share expenses. We are fairly friendly but also have our own lives. Anyway, everything was OK until about three weeks ago, when she decided she is too fat. Now she is driving me nuts with her diet talk. She counts every calorie, and most annoyingly, makes a big production of weighing herself every day. She’s not even that fat. Do I have to be supportive of this kind of behavior? I want to tell her to just shut up about it. — G.L.

Dear G.L.: Well, it’s true that other people’s diets are among the most boring subjects on earth. And it usually adds to the irritability factor if we have to be around them at meal-preparation time every day, and witness the agonizing over each half-pound registered on the bathroom scale. You don’t mention the state of your own waistline, but many times a dieter’s lamentations about pain and gain (or loss, in this case) serve to remind us that we are not being as good about our own eating habits as we could be, and the dieter’s constant weight-loss chatter is a not-so-subtle reminder to us that we need to shape up, as well. Your roommate could use an encouraging word from you. Offer to go shopping with her when she achieves some success. But just let the everyday complaining and drama go in one ear and out the other, unless you want to get sucked into her diet dilemmas. As far as her frequent weight-taking, it’s apparently not a bad idea. Studies at Brown University and the University of Minnesota found that weight loss was greater and more permanent in those who stepped on the scale every day.

(c) 2007 by King Features Syndicate