

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 JUNE 2008

HAVE YOU HEARD OF EMO?

“Emo” is a sub-culture known to many middle school and high school kids. “Emo” is derived from the word emotional and describes fashion styles and attitudes associated with “emo” music. Currently, the word is also being used to describe a general state of unhappiness by some teenagers. “Emo” kids are self-described as depressed and feel misunderstood by the world. “Emo” as a way to describe a particular kind of music, namely hardcore punk, came long before the word “emo” as a slang term. The information for this article was gathered from web searches and talking with middle school kids.

“Emo” carries a stereotype that associates it with self-harm, typically the intentional cutting of wrists and arms. Self-harmers or “cutters” are not necessarily suicidal. Although research suggests that the correla-

tion between “cutting” and “emo” is anecdotal, the kids interviewed for this article were well aware of the association. They were quite matter of fact about the relationship between “emo” and cutting. While they couldn’t identify anyone for sure who they knew as a “cutter”, they were quite convinced that someone in the identified group was cutting.

“Emo” kids generally dress in one of two ways. One way includes vintage or thrift store clothing for a “well-worn” look. The other way involves wearing dark colors and colored hair (red, black or multi) that covers one eye. Highly tailored pants and dark make-up are worn by either males or females. Wrist bands are also popular, presumably, as reported by the kids, to cover up the cutting.



What are kids listening too?

None of the websites had any obvious reference to cutting. One website said, “Emo people are not all suicidal and they do not slit their wrist.” However on another website someone expressed concern about a friend who was cutting and was seeking advice on how to help her friend. For more information on “emo” go to: www.emo-corner.com, www.fourfa.com, and www.luv-emo.com. For more information on self-injury or “cutting” go to: www.mayoclinic.com, type “self-injury” in the search box.

Three percent of teens (12-17) reported current abuse of prescription drugs in 2006, following only marijuana (7%) and well ahead of cocaine (0.4%), ecstasy(0.3%), meth (0.2%) and heroin(0.1%).

(NSDUH, 2007)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HAVE YOU HEARD OF EMO?	1
EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!	2
ILLINOIS PARENTS STILL SPEAKING OUT!	2
DID YOU KNOW?	3
QUOTE OF THE MONTH	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	3



EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

Sometimes parents who have adolescents in treatment are so caught up in the crisis that they feel they don't have time to spend thinking about bigger issues, but there is always something that can draw our attention. Here is an issue to think about this month.

JV Games, which is a video game company in Las Vegas, announced a new series of video games they are developing for the Nintendo Wii called "Frat Party Games." The first video game to be released in mid-June is called "Beer Pong" and will be rated T (for Teen). "Beer Pong" is a common college game where players line cups on a table and bounce ping pong balls into the cups. Depending

on whether you get the ball in the cup or not you are expected to drink the entire glass of beer. The video game will mimic the real life game. JV Games Vice President Jag Jaeger, in referencing the bar game of Beer Pong, is quoted as saying, "Beer Pong is quickly becoming a worldwide sensation, from high-stakes competitions being held here in Las Vegas to more and more establishments creating Beer Pong environments to attract new customers. Being Beer Pong players ourselves, we realized this a game niche to be filled..."

As advocates for our own adolescents and future adolescents we must learn to speak up

about these broader issues. If you have feelings about a video game that encourages binge drinking contact JV Games and Nintendo and **express your opinion!**

You can call JV Games at 702-734-9689 or contact Nintendo at www.nintendo.com/consumer/webform.jsp.

For more information go to: www.jointogether.org (type beer pong in the search box), www.fratpartygames.com and www.pr.com (click on press releases, type in beer pong, scroll down to "Beer Pong Comes to Wii").

WHAT IS THE DASA YOUTH SUB-COMMITTEE?

A GROUP OF TOP-LEVEL STAFF FROM STATE AGENCIES, PROVIDERS, ADVOCACY GROUPS, AND CONSUMERS WORKING ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOLESCENT TREATMENT IN ILLINOIS.

ILLINOIS PARENTS STILL SPEAKING OUT!

Listening sessions at agencies across Illinois are continuing to happen. A representative from Illinois Federation of Families (IFF) and the Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) are visiting agencies to listen to parents tell their stories of finding treatment for their adolescents.

Families continue to express concern and frustration that the schools

are not able to supply the information parents need when they realize their child is using. Another common frustration is parents not feeling backed up by law enforcement. Parents expressed concern that they weren't notified when their child was issued a ticket. Drivers licenses were not revoked in a timely manner. Tickets were not issued to kids for driving

under the influence. Parents feel they tell their kids that there are legal consequences for underage drinking, but those consequences do not always materialize. These concerns were taken back to the DASA Youth Sub-Committee (see box). The Sub-Committee recognized these issues and are seeking ways to help make changes.



DID YOU KNOW!

- Since January 1, 2008 parents can look up their children's driving record. Go to www.cyberdriveillinois.com.
- If you know of an establishment selling cigarettes or alcohol to minors, you can file an online complaint. Go to www.state.il.us/lcc. Click on "Investigations" in the left hand column. "File on line complaint" is at the bottom of the next page.
- A parent handbook is being written in response to parents' observations that there were little resources available to them. The handbook will ini-

tially be available online and have a limited distribution to schools. Here's how you can help! **Volunteer** to review the handbook and offer feedback through e-mail or attending a meeting. **Offer** suggestions to fund publishing costs for wider distribution. **Suggest** topics to be included in the handbook. **Contact** Stephanie at sfrankliff@yahoo.com, if you are interested.

Wondering about text message and internet lingo? Here are some common acronyms used by teens.

- **POS** Parent Over Shoulder
- **PIR** Parent In Room
- **P911** Parent Alert
- **PAW** Parents Are Watching
- **PAL**—Parents Are Listening
- **KPC**—Keeping Parents Clueless

From:
www.antidrug.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Oh I have friends," he said, "of a sort." He turned his glass on the table top. "Asking for help doesn't come easy—especially when it's your own fault." He looked up with a tired smile. "Maybe I can quit drinking one of these days. They all say that, don't they?"

"It takes about three years."

"Three years?" He looked shocked.

"Usually it does. It's a different world. You have to get used to a paler set of colors, a quieter lot of sounds. You have to allow for relapses. All the people you used to know well will get to be just a little strange. You won't even like most of them, and they won't like you too well."

"That wouldn't be much of a change," he said.

Chandler, Raymond. [The Long Goodbye](#). Vintage Books, 1953.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13 - Recovery Walk Chicago (Sponsored by Congressman Danny Davis)

September 20 - Springfield Recovery Walk

September 27 - Peoria Recovery Walk

(Watch www.CILRC.org for more information on Walks or go to www.recoverymonth.org for more events in your area.)

October 25, 2008 - Parent Conference at Northern Illinois University



Think about joining one of the Recovery Walks to celebrate your family's long journey!



ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF
FAMILIES

21555 Gelden Rd.
Lake Villa, IL 60046

Phone: 847-265-0500
Fax: 847-265-0501

EXPRESS YOUR OPINION
WWW.ILLINOISTREATMENTWORKS.ORG
TAKE THE FAMILY SURVEY

WONDERING HOW TO GET ON THE
MAILING LIST FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?
Contact Stephanie at
sfrankliff@yahoo.com or call 847-
265-0500 and leave your e-mail
address or U.S. mail address.

The Illinois Federation of Families is an advocacy organization
that helps families and children with mental health needs seek
a better quality of life.

Funding for this newsletter was made possible by Grant # 1 H79 T117375
from SAMHSA. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official
policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does men-
tion of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply en-
dorsement by the U.S. Government.
