

One-woman performance teaches students to exercise emotional control

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FOR THE WICHITAN

MSU students were both entertained and educated through the nationally known act of Susie Vanderlip Tuesday night when she brought her *Legacy of Hope* show to Akin Auditorium.

Vanderlip translated to the crowd to never ignore their emotions, but rather to gain emotional wisdom. The event was sponsored by the MSU counseling center, the Student Success Series, and the office of student development and orientation.

Through seven different wardrobe changes, Vanderlip created seven different characters, each with a different problem.

Her first character was a young Hispanic gang member who dealt with physical abuse from his father. He had emotional scars from the death of seeing his two older brothers die at the hands of a rival gang. Vanderlip brought life to the act by portraying the character very realistically

with baggy jeans, a black beanie covering up her long, dark curls, a bulky plaid button-up shirt and black shades.

With invigorating moves and the energy of a 15-year-old, Vanderlip thrilled the crowd as she portrayed a young girl dealing with the effects of an alcoholic father.

From there her act and attire changed drastically as she symbolized four more characters, including an alcoholic man, a new, young mother dealing with verbal and physical abuse, a woman raising her grandchild and a young college student who recently discovered she was HIV-positive.

"I brought you these characters because these are all people I know," Vanderlip said after the performance. "It doesn't matter where I go... the problems that these characters have are ramped all across America."

Vanderlip explained to the audience that everyone deals with the feelings of loneliness, dis-

couragement, hopelessness, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, family conflict, relationship issues, self-harm behaviors, suicide and substance abuse, but that with emotional wisdom, one can overcome these issues.

She even told the story of her first husband's death to a life a drugs and alcohol. Vanderlip was able to connect with the crowd and make students realize that even adults carry emotional wounds.

"Emotional wisdom is being mature enough to see your choices more clearly," Vanderlip said. It never hurts to consult a trusting, safe adult to help you make responsible decisions, she informed.

Along with this key point, Vanderlip informed students that instead of trying to make life easier by turning to drug abuse, one must face these "symptoms of life," or your emotions. She gave four key tips to help anyone facing emotional dilemmas.

Number one: get out of denial.

Understand that your problem is a real issue and should not be ignored.

Number two: reach out and ask for help. Feelings have to come out and there are many different support systems to turn to, including anonymous groups, counselors, friends, family, teachers and therapists

Number three: set a personal policy. No matter how small, make up your mind and decide for yourself what you will and won't succumb to, and stick to it.

Number four: commit your life to service. Ask yourself "How can I make this world a better place, and what is my role in doing so?" You must realize that you are here for some purpose.

With Vanderlip's encouraging performance and informative speech, students may have left with a better understanding of how to properly care for their emotions.

Jerry Springer takes show on the road, treats college campuses to shock thrills

DAVID HILTBRAND
MCT

Jerry Springer is in the midst of a college tour. Which is ironic because the whole purpose of going to college is to decrease your chances of ever appearing on Springer's syndicated sleazefest.

On this brittle February night, the P.T. Barnum of talk-show hosts is in Asplundh Concert Hall on the campus of West Chester University, addressing the student body.

The kids, who occasionally erupt into the familiar battle cry - "Jerry! Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!" - are getting the full dog and pony show. Literally.

One of the episodes shown is "I Married a Horse," during which a Shetland pony is led out onto the stage of Springer's Chicago studio to kiss a decrepit man in visored sunglasses. The host's on-air introduction: "Today we have a love story."

Earlier in the day at his hotel in Philadelphia, Springer, 64, sardonically distanced himself from this particular spectacle. "The guy who slept with his horse? I came out against it. I said it was wrong," he says with a smirk. "So let it never be said that I don't have a moral compass."

That's Jerry's shtick: He watches with amused astonish-

ment his show's sick pageant of midgets, trannies and crackpots but he never steps into the slime pit himself.

"One of the reasons I work (in this role) is that people see me as a regular guy in the midst of the chaos," he says at the hotel. "My role is purely reactive. I don't know anything about the guests beforehand. All I have is a card with their name on it. Every segment always opens with me saying, 'So what's going on?' Then they tell me their story. And I ask them questions and make jokes."

That disingenuous blend of shock and mock has kept "The Jerry Springer Show" on the air for 16 seasons.

"If you aim a show at high school and college kids you can be on forever because there's always new kids coming along to watch," he says. "If you aim a show at a 30-year-old, by the time they're 33, they're bored with the show. But you always get new kids."

"I really think that explains our longevity," Springer says. "Because the show is mindless. It serves no purpose. But it stays on because of the giggle factor."

Later in West Chester, the students are shown a prepackaged clip reel, narrated by Matt Lombardo, the sports editor of the campus newspaper, who has been drafted as moderator.

It traces the arc of Springer's

talk-show career, starting in 1991 when he was an earnest news anchor in Cincinnati trying to assume the mantle of Phil Donahue.

Another highlight is the 1997 episode "Klanfrontation," when militant members of the Jewish Defense League were brought on to "debate" robed and hooded Ku Klux Klan members.

To no one's surprise, a full-scale, chair-throwing riot broke out in the studio. The attendant controversy and ratings spike marked a turning point for the show.

The rest of the reel is sheer Springer bedlam: brawls, food fights, gender atrocities and romance gone terribly awry. You've never seen this many women in wedding gowns throwing haymakers.

By the way, if you do choose to get married on "The Jerry Springer Show" by the in-house man-of-the-cloth, the seedy Rev. Shnor, you may want to have the legitimacy of the ceremony checked by local officials.

After the clips, there's a brief Q&A session with the audience ("What keeps you interested?" "My bills"). Then Springer asks the crowd's forbearance for "four minutes to talk about what's going on in the world right now."

He delivers an impassioned case for universal health care, advising the kids to hold all the presidential candidates account-

able. "You say to them, 'If we don't have national health insurance by the next election, you who I voted for will never get my vote again as long as I live.'"

Then comes the part of the evening that everyone came for, as Jerry moves to a side table and the kids line up to have their pictures taken with him by their friends with cell phones.

It's a perfectly modern moment, made peculiar only because Springer himself is something of a Luddite. "We've become subservient to the technology," he said at the hotel. "My staff always makes fun of me because I don't use a computer. It's not a world that I want to participate in. I have no e-mail. I have a cell phone with no numbers (programmed) on it."

That Jerry. He's all about irony. He insists that his goofy, outrageous program has, almost unwittingly, made the culture more tolerant. "The intent of the show is pure entertainment," he says. "But the effect is that we're more accepting, more open as a society."

Wait, are you trying to tell us that in a few years marriages between people and ponies will be commonplace?

Springer laughs. "We did a follow-up show," he says. "The horse left him. It's not as open as you think. Horses are so judgmental."

Campus briefs

- **Mar. 5 Dining etiquette seminar; Career Management Center; Wednesday 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
- **"Beer and Booze: What Will You Choose?" presentation; Carnival on Sunwatcher Plaza; Wednesday 1 - 3 p.m.**
- **"Do I Drink Too Much?" alcohol screenings; CSC Cheyenne; Thursday 1 - 3 p.m.**
- **"Imagine Graduation;" CSC Atrium; Wednesday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**
- **Mar. 6 "Extreme Makeover Career Edition;" CSC Comanche; Thursday 7 - 8:30 p.m.**
- **"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum;" Fain Fine Arts Center; showing Thurs. - Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m.**
- **Mar. 10 Nursing Association Speaker; internship opportunity; Bridwell 108, Monday 12 - 1 p.m.**
- **Mar. 11 "The History of Drag," Faculty Forum presentation; CSC Kiowa; Tuesday 7 p.m.**
- **Mar. 12 "Supervisor Boot Camp;" Hampton Inn; Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

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Apple technology could prove to be useful tool for entertainment, studying

SHALAUDRIA ANDERSON
FOR THE WICHITAN

Imagine being able use your iPod in class. But you don't listen to music. Instead, you listen to your professor.

For those who don't know, the iPod is a portable media player designed by Apple. Users can listen to music, watch videos and play games on the device.

Several campuses across the United States have been experimenting with this latest technology.

A professor at the University of Connecticut uses the device regularly to transmit lectures to students.

Incoming UConn freshmen

are given iPods. Each has to sign an agreement not to sell or give away his or her iPod for the trial period.

Using a computer microphone, professors can record lectures and load them as podcasts on the Internet. Students can then download lessons using the Internet.

Podcasting is a method of distributing multimedia files, such as audio programs and music videos, over the Internet for playback on mobile devices and personal computers.

Subsequent podcasts of the review sessions are free on the iTunes music store.

One MSU student said she wouldn't mind purchasing an

iPod to get her lectures.

"I've heard about this at other schools," junior Ashley Adjei said. "I would rather buy an iPod than a textbook. You can have more uses for it and you wouldn't have to worry about selling it back. You can use an iPod long after the class is over."

According to the Apple Web site, the iPod Shuffle is \$69, the Nano \$99. The price is about the average a student would pay for a textbook.

"I wouldn't mind buying one for class, if that's the only thing I would have to buy," Adjei said. "If I had to get an iPod in addition to a textbook it would be a real problem."

No more asking the professor

to slow down. Students can stop the podcasts and take notes instead of using a handheld voice recorder.

Junior Crystal Williams thinks the idea of using an iPod at MSU would be better than a voice recorder.

"The sound quality of voice recorders isn't that great. It's very airy. Sometimes you can't hear what the professor said because the sound is muffled," Williams said.

Some students, however, don't think using iPods is a good idea.

"I already don't like computers," junior Elna Goudeau said. "I don't see the point. This sounds like another Web CT."