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Market Watch



Index	Last Trade	Change
NASDAQ	2401.18	-14.67
SP 500	1410.76	-7.54
Russ 2000	780.82	-2.08
AMEX	2034.67	-5.44
NYSE	9062.13	-41.32
30 YR BOND	47.63	0.72

Dec 23, 2006 1:20 PM ET
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Statistics don't indicate a significant danger

I am writing in response to the letter "Here are the facts about the TeenScreen Program." This letter makes it sound like suicide is a pervasive threat for Iowa children...one of such grave dimensions that it requires wholesale screening through the schools to catch the many desperate children whose difficulties would otherwise go unnoticed. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, however, would indicate otherwise: In 2004, 19 Iowa children between the ages of 0 - 18 committed suicide out of a total of 724, 095. That is a percentage of .00262%, or 2.62 per 100,000 people. That is hardly an epidemic.

For the rare child who really is in trouble, though, it seems reasonable to ask whether TeenScreen and the recommendations that follow it will actually do him any good. First of all, is it not unlikely that his unhappiness will have been noticed already by somebody - parents, teachers, minister, coaches, or friends? Are we so unobservant that only an official suicide questionnaire will uncover a child on the edge? I doubt it.

Secondly, even if this were likely, does it really justify asking leading, suggestive questions to thousands upon thousands of other children, subjecting them to the possibility of misdiagnosing, mislabeling, and potentially damaging treatments? I don't think so.

And last, supposing that we screen everybody and really do catch a child who appears to be in trouble - then what? In the wake of this assessment - whatever else is recommended - the follow-up is very likely to

Community Liaison

Great River Medical Center, located in West Burlington, Iowa, is currently seeking a Community Liaison for our Hospital Department. The new position will support the mission of hospice through analyzing, developing, overseeing and evaluating all marketing and public relations development and fundraising programs. This position will research, create, oversee, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive development strategy for the organization through the development, promotion, and monitoring of community relationships (physicians, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, patients and families) as well as through the marketing and promotion of hospice through newsletters, health fairs, presentations, newsletters, workshops and tours.

Qualified candidates must have a Bachelor's degree, excellent organization and planning skills, and strong written and verbal communication abilities. Knowledge and experience in fundraising methodologies and development programming are preferred.

This position will work approximately 30 hours per week and offers full benefits.

To be considered, please apply online at www.greatriver.com. Additionally, you may email a resume and cover letter to hr@grmc.com.

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include a referral, a diagnosis, and a prescription. Once in the hands of a psychiatric professional, diagnosis will be made on the basis of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which has been thoroughly discredited. Then, prescription, and no help there. Black box warnings have been added to various psychiatric drugs on the basis that they can actually increase the likelihood of suicide.

So what do we do? We get this TeenScreen program out of the schools, and help children without hurting them. Caring parents and teachers and ministers and friends can do far more to bring children up to an enthusiasm for life than all the assessments and diagnoses and prescriptions in Christendom.

Elizabeth Neal Cameron

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