

KSKA to air documentary about drinking

KSKA Program Director Barbara Hayr has announced that the station plans to broadcast a definitive, 12-part documentary called "Thinking About Drinking," beginning Nov. 1.

The first program of the American Public Radio-produced series will be aired by KSKA at 8 p.m., Nov. 1, and subsequent programs will be broadcast each Sunday at the same time for 11 weeks following.

Although alcoholism represents a public health problem that claims about 100,000 American lives each year, this concern seldom shares the limelight with other addictions and diseases. "Thinking About Drinking" provides an in-depth look at a problem some experts believe directly affects one American in 10.

Hayr said the documentary series goes well beyond citing a collection of shocking statistics dramatizing the social and economic costs of alcohol abuse. The 12 programs examine virtually all aspects of alcoholism as an economic, social and medical problem.

"It's clearly the most definitive treatment of the subject we've ever had the opportunity to broadcast to our audience," she said.

The raw statistics on the subject are discussed in the program:

- Alcohol is implicated in at least half of all cases of murder, rape, suicide, child abuse and assault.

- The alcohol abuse price tag is \$120 billion a year.

Producer David Freudberg has created the series by drawing from more than 130 in-depth recorded interviews. Some of the more well known contributors to the series include former First Lady Betty Ford, public opinion analyst George Gallup Jr., actor Rod Steiger and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.