

NNPA FEATURE

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by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



Drugs: A Problem With no Solution

The death of Len Bias will probably not deter a single individual from using drugs - nor will any of the other popular proposed solutions. Here are some of those proposals and their problems.

Develop thousands of neighborhood drug education centers across the country, primarily for people who have never used drugs. Education and counseling for people who abuse drugs is of questionable value. There is one line of thinking which argues that counseling drug-abusers is useless. The high that one gets from crack (some people mix crack with PCP) has been equated with "ten simultaneous sexual orgasms." Drug-abusers do not fear the negative consequences of their act because of their desire for the high. Sugar Ray Richardson, of the New Jersey Nets and John Lucas of the Houston Rockets knew that they were jeopardizing their basketball careers by using cocaine. Len Bias knew of others who had died from drug overdose.

When a particularly high-potency batch of heroin caused seven drug overdose deaths in a single day, in Washington, DC last

year, a newspaper reporter asked a drug addict how fearful he was of making a purchase. The addict's response was "man, you may think I'm crazy but I can't wait to get my hands on some of that beautiful stuff."

Put pushers and dealers in jail, mandatorily. This suggestion has its detractors because of the abundance of drug pushers. The selling of illicit drugs gross more money in the United States than any other business. There are thousands of pushers on the streets of New York, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and other major cities, on any given day. There are hundreds of others waiting to take their places should they be arrested. For many poor Americans and illegal aliens, selling drugs is the only job that they will ever have; it is the only way that they can put food on the table. The demand for illicit drugs is so great that many pushers can't keep enough in stock.

Mandatory jail sentencing has the impact of taking many criminals and potential criminals off the streets. Currently, however, judges in most cities treat pushers differently than they do other law breakers and release

them. Sixty percent of all those arrested in Washington, DC are drug-related offenders. The percentage is higher in New York. There are not enough judges to convict them nor prisons to hold them.

Hospitalize and treat addicts with drug therapy. Point: There is an old saying "Once addicted, always addicted." Alcoholics Anonymous operates on this premise. An alcoholic under treatment is always a recovering alcoholic. He is never cured of his need for liquor and must always be on his guard to defend himself against the "urge." Of course, few alcoholics acknowledge their addiction. Such also is the case with drugs. Once addicted, the addict never completely recovers. He could become "hooked" again even after years of abstinence. Drug therapy is considered as simply a means of lengthening the bomb's fuse. It will explode eventually no matter how much treatment is provided. There are not enough treatment facilities to treat the rapidly increasing number of users who volunteer for treatment.

from Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), where he had served as provost. Prior to that, he was professor of economics and chairman of the department of business administration at Morehouse College in Atlanta Ga.

Earlier in his career, President Hefner taught economics at Atlanta University, Clark College in Atlanta, Ga., and at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. In addition, he has been a visiting research associate at Harvard University, Princeton University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A native of Brevard, N.C.,

President Hefner earned his bachelor's degree at North Carolina A&T State University, his master's degree in economics from Atlanta University, and his Ph.D degree, also in economics, from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

D.C. Residents Call for Recall of Washington Post Magazine

by Rhoda McKinney
NNPA National Correspondent

Chants of "Take it back" drifted down the block. The effect was like a ripple. The word spread and the crowd outside the Washington Post grew at an encouraging pace. As the number multiplied, their enthusiasm followed suit, as did stacks of the premiere issue of the Washington Post Magazine that were strewn on the steps of the newspaper's headquarters.

Signs with photographs of a young rap star and accused murderer who was profiled in the first edition of the magazine were held high with captions that read, "No More," accompanied by chants of "The people, united, will never be defeated."

It was a scene reminiscent of the civil rights movement. It was a non-partisan, non-denominational protest, everyone was represented, from priests to politicians, labor leaders to the handicapped. Those assembled said they were united by their mutual disdain for the negative portrayal of blacks in journalism, more specifically in the Washington Post.

D.C. Del. Walter E. Fauntroy, a member of the Washington Post Recall Committee had the crowd on their feet as he shouted, "Fire it up D.C." and the protestors echoed back, "Fire it up."

When asked why he supported the protest, Father William Curlin of the Nativity Church said adamantly, "Because my parishioners are here." "I oppose the unwarranted representation of all young black males as potential muggers," he said. "The Washington Post has made an exception to the norm."

On September 7, the first issue of the Washington Post

Magazine, a Sunday supplement, hit the stands. Depicted on the cover was a young black man who called himself Just Ice. According to protestors and other concerned citizens, the article presented black men in stereotypical fashion, as thieves and drug addicts. The article implied that young black men threaten the safety of law abiding citizens, said Cathy Hughes, WOL radio station owner and the organizer for the rally and the Washington Post Recall Committee.

Richard Cohen, a columnist for the magazine, in his "Critic At Large" editorial, noted that D.C. area merchants and jewelry store owners had installed electronic buzzers allowing them to use "discretion" in who could patronize their stores. Cohen stated that black men ages 18 to 25 wearing tennis shoes were culprits of crime and concluded that discrimination was acceptable when race interfered with business.

"The Washington Post cannot be repaired or fixed," an enthusiastic Hughes cried out to approximately 600 protestors. "The magazine must be recalled and returned every week that the Washington Post continues to publish it."

Father William Montgomery offered prayer at the event and asked God to "Pray for Cohen for he is a brother we do not

MINERS

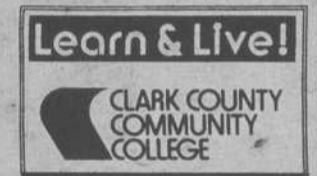
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Unions in Brussels that its demand for an independent commission of inquiry into the disaster was based on ignorance and represented a "cynical and insensitive" attempt to lay blame.

A government team is investigating the fire. South African mining companies contend that their safety standards are among the highest in the world, given the inherent dangers in this country's deep mines, and that safety figures show steady improvements.

About 6,000 Kinross miners attended the outdoor memorial service Monday. In front row was Derek Keys, chairman of General Mining Union Corp., and other white managers.

The miners' signs and slogans reflected racial tension in the mines, where blacks work under white supervision.



understand. Racism by any other name is racism."

Officials at the Washington Post have stated that they would meet with the Recall Committee if approached.

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