

EDITORIALS

Drugs - Copenhagen . . .

Several weeks ago a 16-year old Copenhagen youth was arrested on a charge of criminal possession of a dangerous drug in the sixth degree, a misdemeanor. He has since been granted youthful offender status and his case is being handled by the courts in closed session.

The case against the youth stemmed from an incident at Copenhagen Central School when he was apparently caught smoking marijuana on school premises. Principal Richard Rawlings notified the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the youth was taken into custody. Several other youths were discovered by the principal to be possibly using drugs and were requested by Mr. Rawlings to confer with their parents.

Mr. Rawlings made it perfectly clear that he would not tolerate, as principal of the school, any use of drugs on school premises. Period! There would be no ifs, ands or buts about the matter; if someone was caught with drugs in his or her possession, police authorities would be notified.

Now, most people, including this editor, are 100 per cent behind Mr. Rawlings and wish that more high school administrators were of his attitude regarding the drug abuse problem. However, few, if any of us, take the time to tell him so, but those who disagree, the "bleeding hearts" among us, are, as usual, very loud in their denunciations.

In a recent letter to the editor, unsigned as might be expected, Mr. Rawlings was viciously attacked. (The letter did not appear in this newspaper.) Let's quote a portion: "I think that everyone will agree that smoking marijuana in school is not quite the proper thing to do, but to call a law enforcement agency in for something as minute as that and ruin a young man's reputation is utterly ridiculous." "Utterly ridiculous," indeed! Would the "bleeding heart" who wrote the letter suggest that Mr. Rawlings cover up such incidents that occur in his school? If so, they might consider this: In covering up such an incident, a parent who does not share such liberal views might very well visit a law enforcement agency and file a complaint against the principal, who would then be subject to arrest for obstructing governmental administration. Interestingly enough, obstructing governmental administration is a Class A misdemeanor and criminal possession of a dangerous drug in the sixth degree is also a misdemeanor, Class A. In other words, Mr. Rawlings could have been derelict in his duties as principal of Copenhagen Central School and covered up the entire matter; it has been done in the past at other schools. But should he also break the law himself in the process? And isn't the chief duty of a principal of a high school to conduct the school in a manner that is best for the overall student body? Would anyone suggest that a principal who turns his back on a pending incident is doing what is best for all of the students of the school?

In any case, Mr. Rawlings is now the victim of vicious attack from a handful of unsigned letter writers with pens dipped in venom and the target of every "bleeding heart" that appears to crawl to the surface each and every time a community finds, to its embarrassment, that it is not any different than any other community and shares the drug problem with each and every one.

Having experienced similar experiences for his efforts in helping to curb the drug problem in our area, your editor can certainly appreciate Mr. Rawlings' position. And we hope (and know) that he will remain firm in his position.

Although it is very often fruitless to try to trade verbal barbs with anonymous letter writers of the sort that has attacked Mr. Rawlings, since they usually can see only a breath beyond the end of their crayola, but to quote from the letter again allows us to make a good point for the more sensible among us: "To say that marijuana leads to harder drugs is like that if you drink a bottle of beer you become an alcoholic." And, so once again we find that argument keeping up that smoking pot is no worse than drinking alcohol. Well, let's twist those words around a little: Can the writer honestly suggest that the alcoholic did not start with a bottle of beer? Certainly he had to start somewhere.

And finally, let us dispell the "pot is no worse than booze" theory with this thought: Many times we go out in the evening to attend a social event of one sort or another. But how many of us go to these social events with the intended purpose of getting stoned out of our minds on alcohol. Most of us, at least those of us in complete possession of our faculties, might take a few drinks on a social basis, and sometimes we take a few too many and admit it, but do we honestly go out to purposely get loaded? Okay? So now answer this one: Why does a person smoke a marijuana cigarette? Unless he is experimenting with it for the first time up "legs along with the gang" he is smoking it to get stoned! And if anyone who uses pot regularly can argue against this statement, then I would like him to give me an explanation (in an anonymous, unsigned letter if he likes) of just exactly why he smokes the crap.

So, in conclusion, keep it up Mr. Rawlings. We sure wish there could be more school administrators around like you. We owe you a debt of gratitude. - Michael J. Blair

A Farmer's View

Comments by Otis Munn

I was pleased to take note of Governor Rockefeller's turn to conservatism, which was a move that should have been made many years ago.

In my opinion his fling with liberalism has caused much damage to the taxpayers of our State, starting several years ago with his insistent demands for the passage of a Medicaid bill in the last few days of the Legislative Session, over the protests of many of the members.

This move nearly broke many of the counties in Northern New York and forced them to raise real estate taxes, which were already too high and in many instances to resort to a local sales tax. Next came the appointment of Charles Goodell to the office of U.S. Senator, and he failed to work with the Republican Administration in Washington, and finally the writing began to appear on the wall when he was soundly beaten by a conservative, James L. Buckley, and the message became loud and clear with the landslide victory of President Nixon last November.

Think Governor Rockefeller is an opportunist, and he now believes that the people are demanding a return to more fiscal responsibility in our State Government, with less taxes and more law enforcement.

His attack on drug pushers is demanding that they be given life imprisonment if caught and convicted. It is a great step forward as I think this kind of traffic is the lowest form of enterprise ever devised by the mind of man.

Some argue that a murderer at the present time only gets "life" but I think that a drug pusher is many times a murderer and no slip in life sentence.

A strong body and healthy mind are the greatest gifts that we can be endowed with and to deliberately destroy them is surely the height of madness.

Drug addiction leads to crimes of theft and violence, shop-lifting and purse snatching, because an addict needs the extra money to support a habit of this sort. He probably becomes mentally and physically unfit to hold down a job or support a family and has no other alternative but to resort to a life of crime.

This means higher crime prevention costs for the already overburdened taxpayer, to say nothing of the loss sustained by him from thefts of his sort. It puts an added burden on our courts, which are already overcrowded, and makes our streets unsafe and our highways more dangerous.

It is my hope that the recommendations of the Governor's Board of Education, and the active support from our Legislators and hopefully introduce new laws of conservative and constructive thinking.

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Like Now

by Terry Oakes



In his State of the State address, Governor Nelson Rockefeller outlined a new proposal that he will introduce to the state legislature. If passed, the measure signals a step in a new direction aimed at ending the misuse of hard drugs. The new plan would make life imprisonment mandatory for anyone convicted of selling narcotics. It would also demand life imprisonment to be imposed on anyone committing a crime while under the influence of narcotics. Another important provision of the proposal would prohibit plea bargaining in cases involving the sale of dangerous drugs. And finally, the new measure would authorize \$1,000 rewards for information leading to the conviction of a drug pusher. The Governor's words were greeted with both warm approval and condemnation. Let us not take a look at Mr. Rockefeller's proposal - why it is needed, what it means, and what it doesn't mean.

During the past few years, more than one billion dollars has been spent by New York State alone in an effort to curb the ever-increasing problem of drug abuse. It can be safely said that all this money has been wasted, instead of diminishing, the drug problem has approached epidemic proportions in some locations. No area is free of this problem. Clearly, something else must be tried, and harsh penalties for pushers seems to be the only alternative we have.

The drug problem is a most delicate one. Recognizing this, the Governor has proposed no new measures to deal with the users of narcotics. It is generally accepted that an individual will continue to use drugs no matter what the consequences may be. This is partly due to the addicting nature of most narcotics and also to the widespread opinion that a person can do anything he wants as long as it harms no one but himself. It now appears that authorities have realized this unusual state of affairs. How then to cope with the drug problem? The supplies of drugs, production, and poverty problem. What we need now is not more money, but enforcement of existing laws and a return to common sense in the enactment of future laws concerning these and other problem areas.

Dear Uncle Elmer



Dear Uncle Elmer: Why is there a spot reserved for a county car in the village garage when the village car has to be kept out all night? Beadle!

Dear Beadle: Maybe there isn't room for both of them, Uncle Elmer.

Dear Uncle Elmer: All you do is make sarcastic remarks about us public officials. Frankly, I am getting sick of it. Thoroughly disgusted.

Dear Thoroughly: If you don't like dem apples, don't shake 'em tree, Uncle Elmer.

Dear Uncle Elmer: I have this hot little Sunbeam, Boy, it's the fastest thing I know. Delbert Dear Delbert: If it can beat my Sunbeam, then it must be fast! Uncle Elmer.

Dear Uncle Elmer: How come when it's all slushy outside our sanding truck is spreading sand all over the place but can seldom be found when it's snowing and very slippery? Gilberta

Dear Gilberta: You're so silly! Why anyone can figure that out, because it's easier to spread the sand when the truck isn't slipping all over on the ice. Uncle Elmer.

Dear Uncle Elmer: Why is President Nixon always sending Doc Hiss Kissinger abroad? Dottie Dear Dottie: He's not. He seems to be getting enough on his own. Uncle Elmer.

Dear Uncle Elmer: You are such a disgusting old fart I have the intention of ever speaking to you again. Lad

Dear Lad: I am such a disgusting old coot that I honestly think I would never answer you if you did, Uncle Elmer.

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Karen's Korner

By Karen Young



Several weeks ago, in his "State of the State" message, Governor Nelson Rockefeller called for mandatory life imprisonment of all sellers of drugs and of all who commit violent crimes while under the influence of drugs. "The hard drug pusher destroys lives just as surely and far more cruelly than a coldblooded killer. . . I therefore will ask for legislation making the penalty . . . a life sentence." The Governor insisted that there would be no plea bargaining, no parole and no suspended sentences in such cases. The only exception would be defendants under the age of nineteen, who would be eligible for parole after fifteen years. To add to his crackdown, Rockefeller offered a "bounty" to be paid to those who informed on addicts and sellers.

Rockefeller's "lifelong cure" is a solution, but it is a solution with many faults. The Governor says, "We have tried every possible approach to stop addiction and save the addict through education and treatment. . . We have achieved very little permanent rehabilitation - and have found no cure." But his resolution is certainly no "cure."

Those who were critical of the program suggested that the state should try a different approach. Said Rep. Bella Ziegler: "A comprehensive rehabilitative drug program that has been adequately funded and administered has yet to be tried."

In 1965, the state set up the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission to treat addicts. This was part of Rocky's "all-out war" on narcotics. The facilities set up were shut down due to lack of sufficient funding.

Adding to this, many experts have sensed a slow down in the heroin epidemic. Several recent studies have also pointed out a lessening in drug-related crimes.

The Governor's sudden proposal has raised a seemingly infinite number of questions.

Rockefeller's address was not specific enough in many areas. Under the present drug laws, sale of drugs includes "gifts" of drugs. The Governor didn't indicate this, but his office assures the people he includes "gifts." Furthermore, he failed to make any distinction between the experimenter, the small time pusher and the big dealers. There is no differentiation in Rocky's mind, and the Governor's office indicated that there will be none.

On an even more practical level, Rockefeller's proposal would be impossible to initiate. If the proposal were to be passed, many more prisons would have to be built. And, since the Governor would forbid plea bargaining, many more trials would be necessary, along with more lawyers, judges and prosecutors.

If anyone is to be hit, and hit hard, by drug legislation, it should be the dealer, not the addict or the small time pusher of soft drugs. Addiction is a disease and it should be treated as such.

Analysis and Comment

Moscow audiences have been showering plaudits on the latest play from the pen of Yevgeny Yevushenko, the Kremlin's pet poet.

"Under the Skin of the Statue of Liberty," which portrays the United States as a land of oppressed, police-brutalized peace demonstrators and assassinated public figures - John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King - takes place on a narrow stage against a backdrop of "a towering curtain of sheet metal (an Iron Curtain)" labeled in English letters, 10 feet high, "The War."

Earlier this year Yevushenko toured the U.S. To the joy of domestic liberals, he was warmly received and fawned over by late night TV talk show hosts, and Doubleday & Co. book publishers, presented him to the public via a "Poetry in Concert" at New York City's Madison Square Garden, billed as "Yevushenko and Friends." Among the "Friends" was none other than ex-Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.). Now, the hard is safe at home in the Soviet Union with his verbal guns pointed across the Arctic Circle at the nation that made him welcome.

Ironically, theater-goers in the

athlet-controlled Soviet capital are told by the bard that the U.S. is a nation that would crucify Jesus if he were to return, as well as being a land where Presidents are assassinated.

According to Theodore Shabad, writing in the New York Times, the anti-U.S. mood is itself from the moment the play-goers enter the lobby where they are greeted by enlarged photos of war protesters "flaming paper skulls on a Washington in November 1969."

Skulls are also featured props in the play, crowded at various times with soldiers' helmets, native Vietnamese hats and American Indian headdresses.

To the tune of Yevushenko's lyrics, protesters battle police, arrest and are arrested, flash at one point in the production a girl in tan jeans and yellow windbreaker, said Shabad, presents herself to the crowd as the Statue of Liberty, standing on a skull holding aloft a cigarette.

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"What's the use of having down . . . when we can sprightly walk . . . for in a larger sense we know . . . when someone says what's true . . . the Master of all mankind . . . smiles from out the blue . . . God knows that truth is everything . . . in this borrowed life . . . and in the end it will prevail . . . though Interims may mean strife . . . so many folks ignore the truth . . . God knows this and in the end . . . they will have to pay . . . so we'll use the freedom for us all . . . we'll write and say what's in our hearts . . . though it will not please all."



Michael J. Blair . . .

A CLOSER LOOK

Has anyone noticed lately that our country may be at last coming to its senses? We are now witnessing one of the most fantastic transformations in the history of American politics - Nelson A. Rockefeller, the last of the big time spenders (of your dollars, that is), the dandy of the so-called Eastern Liberal Establishment, changing from each and every time the Reds tormented and mutilated an American serviceman? Or where were you when the Reds entered a captured village, raped the women, killed the children and old men, and forced the young men to fight for them or join their dead relatives?

And if Congress, and the liberal-orientated bleeding heart journalists, get off the President's back long enough and don't undermine everything he is doing to force a peace settlement by leading the Reds to believe that if they hold out long enough Congress and public opinion will force him to give in to their terms, we will have peace in Vietnam. Want a timetable? Okay, here's one - if President Nixon is allowed to pursue our policies in Vietnam as he sees fit

we will have an end to the war in 30 days. That's a prediction.

Okay, out there, some of you will call me a saber-rattling radical, completely heartless and completely without feelings for the thousands of North Vietnamese civilians being killed. But where were you each and every time the Reds lobbed a Russian-made rocket into downtown Saigon? Or where were you when the Reds entered a captured village, raped the women, killed the children and old men, and forced the young men to fight for them or join their dead relatives?

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JABBERWOCK

by Jay Addison

A New York Press Association Service



Dear Jay - I keep finding things like torn bread wrappers, chipped bottle tops, discolored linings in vegetable cans, and loose tops on mayonnaise jars among my groceries. I try to be careful, but I can't catch everything. The store manager thinks I'm a crank when I complain, but still a goes on . . . Upset Consumer.

Dear U.C. "Let the seller beware!" Let's say you go home and find a soap powder box has a leak. Put masking tape over it.

Go back to the store at some time when the checkout lanes are busiest. Remove the tape as you enter the store.

Hold the box out away from you, the higher up in the air, the better. Let it leak. Give it a poke if necessary.

Go to the checker at the center lane. In a loud, pleasant voice, say something like, "Excuse me. How can I exchange this for one that doesn't leak?"

If you're lucky, the checker will call the manager and the exchange can be made right there with an audience.

If you're told to go to