

Black Feminist Speaks Out

Speaking Of Drugs

by Ernie Pitt

Drug abuse in the U.S. has been a problem almost as long as there has been a U.S. Teen-agers start out by "going along with the crowd;" not wanting to feel left out. It may start with the puff of a cigarette.

The smoking inevitably leads to mild drinking. Having been influenced to that point, taking a "drag" from a marijuana cigarette is naturally the next thing to do.

So many people rationalize that using drugs is not harmful if used with moderation. Many even say that as long as they are not harming anyone but themselves then "what's the fuss."

What these so-called "hip" people do not understand is the defeat that accompanies the use of illegal drugs. It is definitely a "cop-out" to allow your brain to be "blot out" with drugs that you hope will relieve you of your responsibilities.

But, a very practical consideration that is often overlooked is the fact that you can go to prison for it. I know...I spent two years in some of North Carolina's roughest prison camps. And believe me it isn't pleasant. You may not be as fortunate as I was.

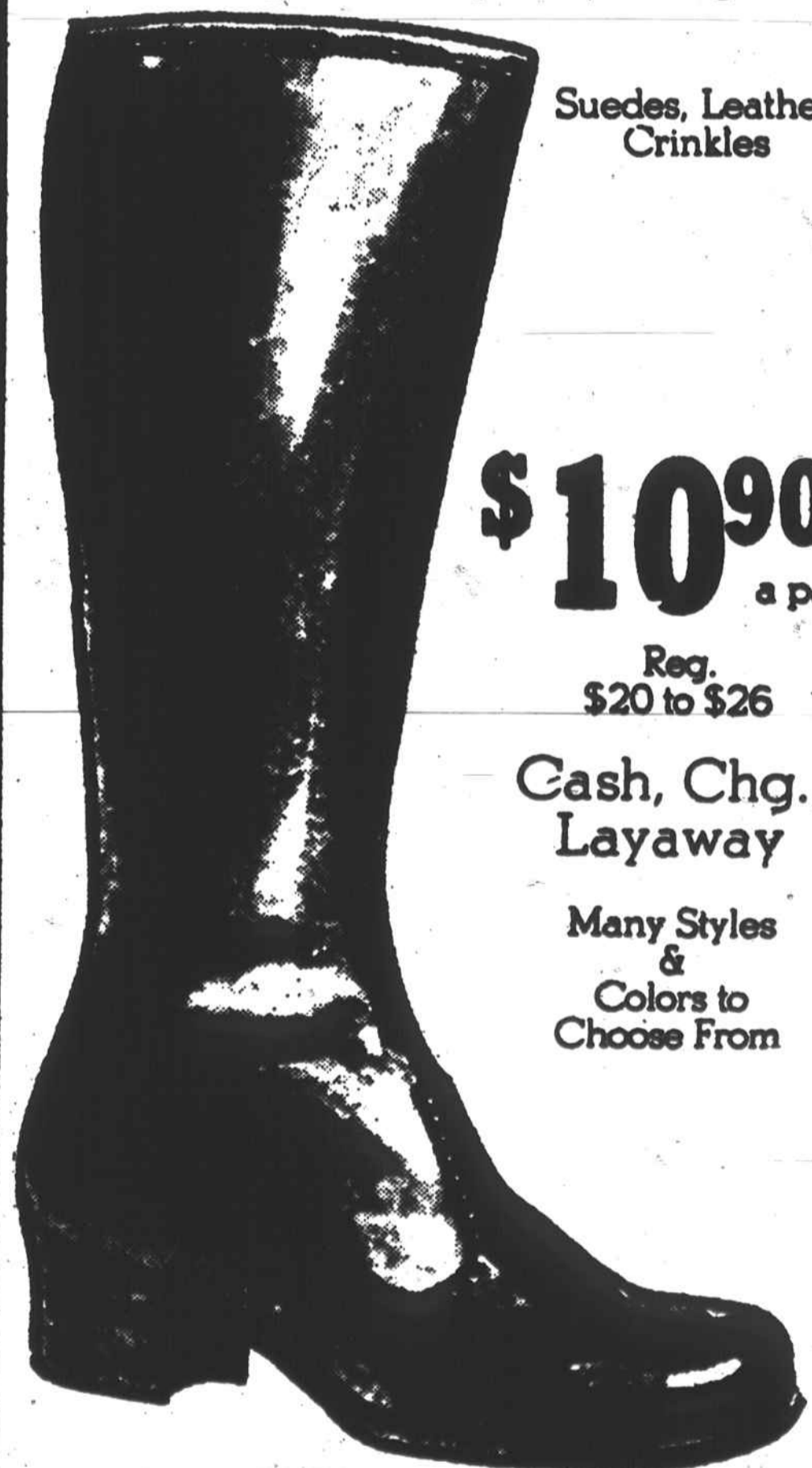
You may not have the love of friends and parents to help you get yourself straight so that you can assume a responsible role in society.

So, the next time one of your enemies, whom you may have mistaken for a friend, offers you a "drag" or a "taste", tell him you'd rather think for yourself. And do just that. Think about the consequences of your actions. You'll be a better person for it.

I know what I am talking about for I have gone through it all. And I have paid for it with prison terms - two years of my life. It might be too late if you do not listen to me now.

DOWNTOWN AND PARKVIEW

SUPER BOOT SPECIALS



Suedes, Leathers
Crinkles

\$10⁹⁰ a pair

Reg.
\$20 to \$26

Cash, Chg.,
Layaway

Many Styles
&
Colors to
Choose From



MOTHER - DAUGHTER
STORE

Downtown and Parkview



Photo by Bill Wrenn
Florynce Kennedy, outspoken feminist and organizer.
by Mae Israel

Flo.

There she was sitting on the bed in the hotel room with a kind of "relaxed impatience."

The trinket framing her short, graying Afro moved from side to side on her forehead as she smiled and then looked down at some papers.

One couldn't help but feel just a bit nervous while thinking about Florynce Kennedy--a black feminist, outspoken, frank and bold. She has been described as an "outrageous and creative troublemaker."

She was one of the few women to graduate from Columbia Law School in the 50's. She was admitted to the law school only after she threatened to denounce the school for racial bias.

Flo, 58, has led picket lines, written two books ("Abortion Rap", co-authored with Diane Schuder and "The Pathology of Oppression"), acted in several films and appeared in a number of television interviews.

"One of the reasons black women are turned off to the feminist movement is because of the racist women in the movement," Flo said as she

flipped through heaps of paper surrounding her on the bed. "I am in the feminist movement to ride shotgun on racism within the movement. I know if I stay out it is highly likely racism would be a lot worse.

"Racism is more virulent," she emphasized. "Losing your identity is not quite the same as losing your life."

Flo feels black women have some good reasons for not trooping into the feminist movement. "There is the sex angle. There is a very large shortage of black men in the country," she explained. "The black power movement has freed the black man to make choices as he sees fit and black women do not want them to choose white women."

"Here is an application to the National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO). I would complete it and send it in if I were you," she said as she handed me a xeroxed application form. "I encourage black women to join the National Black Feminist Organization because it deals with issues that are exclusively black.

"Black women in the white

women's movement would strengthen the white women's movement and conceivably white women in the black women's movement might strengthen it, except that I think that white women in the black women's movement might have a similar effect as men in the women's movement would have," Flo emphasized.

The NBFO was started in August, 1973 and since then its membership has grown rapidly. More than 500 women attended a convention in New York to set guidelines and address themselves to social action issues.

The Feminist Party, with approximately 180 chapters across the country, was started at Queens College in New York in November, 1971. Flo is the founder of the party.

"After a lecture we decided that a group concerned with feminist issues and candidates such as Shirley Chisholm should be separated from other feminist groups," Flo said. "We support a Ron Dellums over a white feminist in contrast to the Women's Political Caucus which would favor a woman over a well-qualified black man."

A suit to deprive the Catholic Church of its tax-exempt status on the grounds that it spends illegal amounts of its money to influence legislation, particularly abortion, was launched by the Feminist Party. In addition, the party deals with other major political issues.

"We're planning to x-rate America and focus on all of the major institutions in the country," Flo said. "After five years of the feminist movement and 20 years of the black movement, more progress should have been made with this much racism and sexism."

As the conversation was ending, Flo started pulling on her blue boots and clasped a belt with a pouch around her waist.

She is indeed, Flo: "the creative troublemaker."

Homecoming '74 — November 8-9

Homecoming Festivities 1974

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

"ALUMNI DANCE"

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER
10:00 P.M. UNTIL 2:00 A.M.
CORONATION AT MIDNIGHT

"GAME TIME"

W.S.S.U. VS MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE
BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM
1:00 P.M.

"HALL OF FAME BANQUET"

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER
6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

"GALA PARADE"

AT 9:00 A.M.

"CABARET DANCE"

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER
10:00 P.M. UNTIL 1:00 P.M.