

On facing our tasks and our duties

The author is president of the local chapter of the National Association of University Women.

GUEST COLUMN
By THELMA E. SMALL

In today's world, a new note is heard, a note of tragedy and despair; as if in the uneducated world when we as a race could not help ourselves and cried in the wilderness, in the fields, in the households and in the world as a whole.

The time has come that even though our men and young women have reached a day of independence, our long-awaited day of apprenticeship of learning, and a brighter day of hope and a clear insight into the future, our women are like cattle inflicting motherhood upon millions of fatherless boys and girls -- children who will never know the love and care of a father.

Our young girls, young and old, are giving birth -- not only to one baby, but several -- without a

father. Some openly say, "I'm not the first, and I won't be the last."

Some go on with a career, and thousands turn to welfare. Life holds fear and despair for the future generations who have no guidance nor leadership and those who will grab the first thing offered that gives a thrill.

We as educated women should look closely at the situation, not as it might have been or ought to be, but as it is and as it will be if some groups like ours don't take action -- positive action.

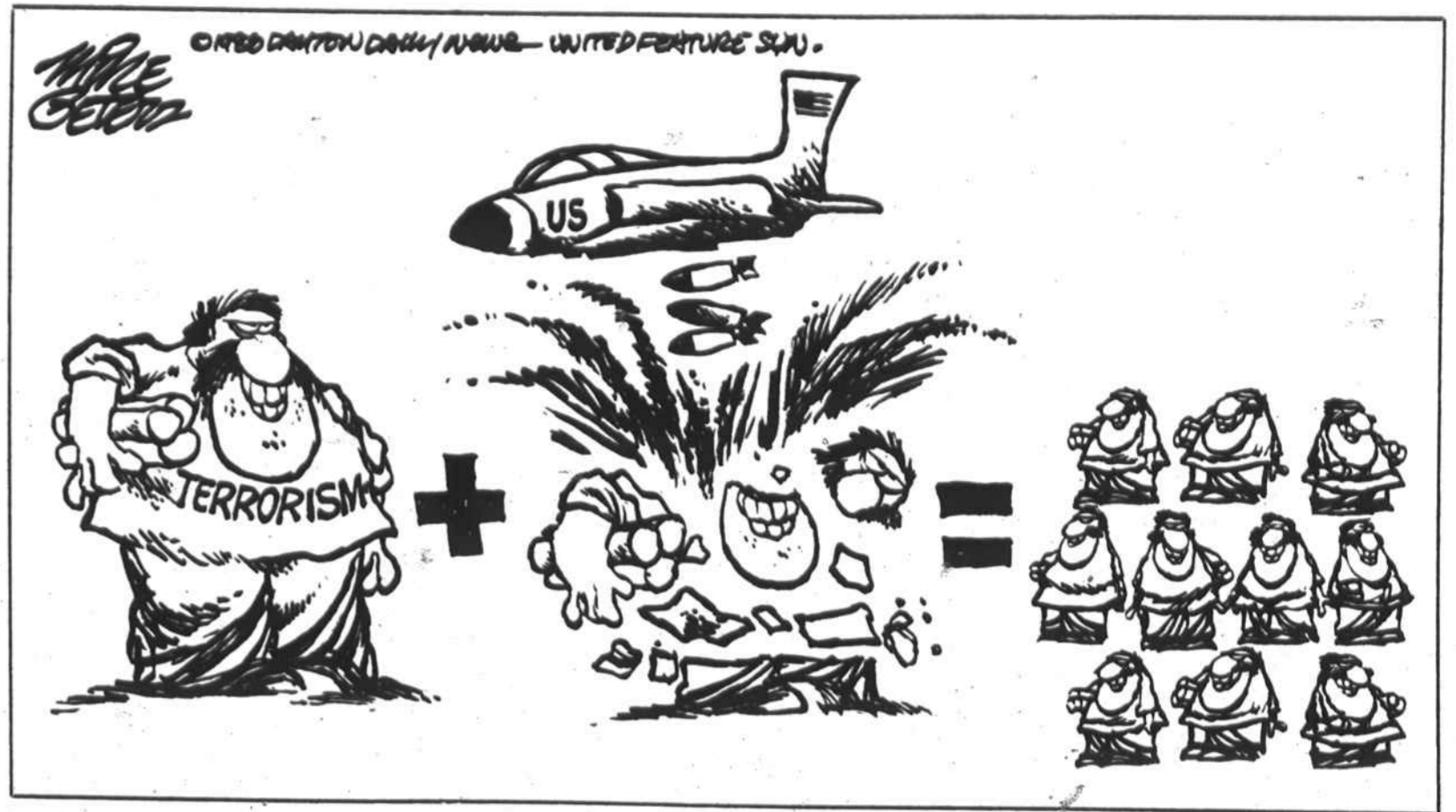
We are involved in many activities, organizations and clubs, such as the National Council of Negro Women, National Women of Achievement, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority and other sororities, religious organizations, the Top Ladies of Distinction and a vast number of other women's organizations.

These organizations quite often involve our husbands in fraternities and other men's organizations. They work together, and women involve their husbands in their social, religious and civic meetings and gatherings.

These meetings quite often concern many subjects, but the street urchins are the last subject to be mentioned. The boys and girls mainly discussed are the ones who have a high IQ or are the winners of scholarships or the high achievers.

No race, group of people, or, may I say, no nation is justifiable unless its cause or object is wholeheartedly interested in its future generation. The man of timid peace is not to be admired. The man who embodies victorious efforts -- him we admire.

We deem a man who never does wrong to his neighbor or who helps one in need as being rewarded by God. But is this man going out in the streets, seeing the



work that is needed where our youth of today are concerned? Does he pass the children by and say, "What are the youth coming to today?"

Isn't he his brother's keeper? Wise men lift up their voices in the pulpit, in the courtrooms, in the classrooms, in the homes -- and, in many cases, in vain. I say this because those who need to hear are not present. We are not reaching out to them.

They are in the streets, they are in ill-lighted places, they are in dark rooms, they are in gay and

beautiful rooms. In many cases, boys and girls whom we need to reach are teachers of our boys and girls who are seeking some diversion from the usual daily routine.

What do they have to offer? All the wrong things that sound good to the ones in search of something different.

When a large group of young, ambitious men -- alert, keen, open-minded, sympathetic, observant and filled with visions -- comes together and mixes with each other, there is certainly

something to gain from one another. There need not be a teacher to give them tests and lectures. By the time one transports his ideas and others do the same, a great deal of learning has taken place.

An infant observes from birth the good or bad in the home or on the street. If he is born in a confused home amid children who have never been taught the better qualities, he imitates what he sees. If there is no alternative, he follows that pattern and unfits
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Designer drugs: Stemming tide with money, cure

NEW YORK -- Dick Gregory has been warning us about the drug epidemic for almost 30 years; he has told us over and over again of the enormous price society would pay in economic and human costs.

Now his most ardent critic will agree that city, state and federal funds earmarked for building roads and improving our lives must be diverted to stemming the tide of crack and a plethora of illegal and designer drugs. But Gregory is not offering more advice, he's now in the business of

TONY BROWN
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doing something about it. If you abuse drugs, illegal or legal (over-the-counter "pain killers," caffeine from coffee or tea, nicotine from cigarettes, or alcohol), your body suffers from a severe depletion of essential nutrients.

Naively, many defend smoking to keep their weight down -- not knowing that each cigarette robs an already starving body of 35

milligrams of vitamin C and other essential vitamins and minerals.

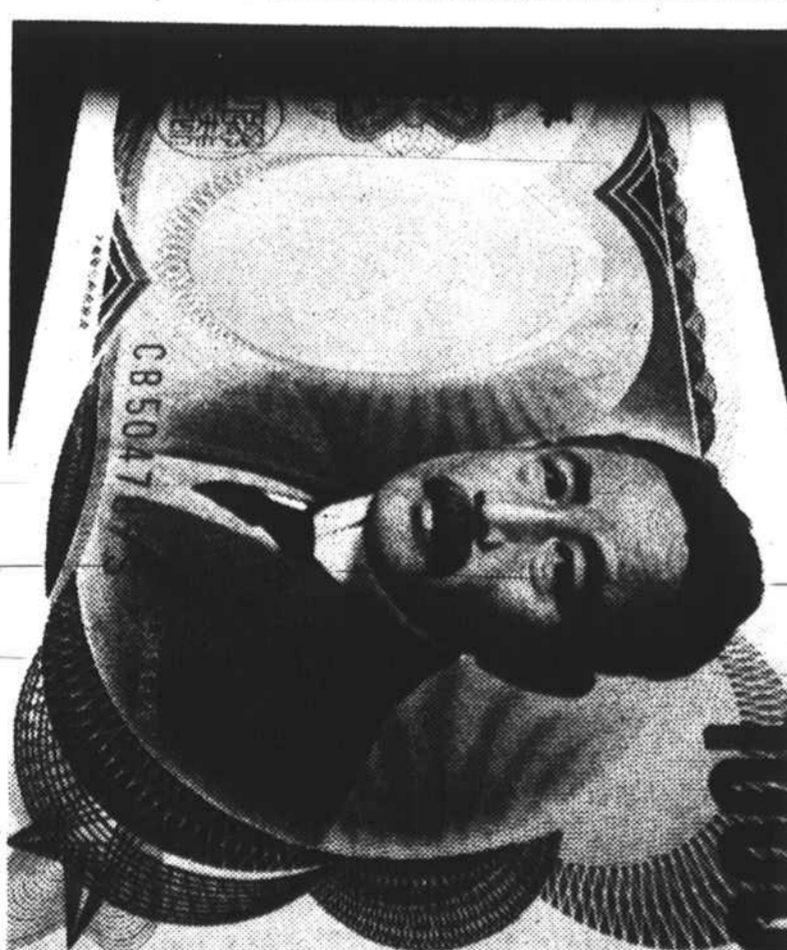
President Ronald Reagan has proposed mandatory urine tests for federal employees to detect drug use. But the president's primary problem is finding, first, a proven cure and, second, the money.

"Dick Gregory's Safe Nutrition Connection" may be the answer. Ironically, it may also be the answer for those who want to avoid detection. This food supplement,

specifically formulated for abusers of nicotine, caffeine, drugs and alcohol, is now being tested in a New York facility for heroin, cocaine or crack abusers, in an Atlanta prison and in New Orleans at both a center for Skid Row alcoholics and a facility for middle-class cocaine, alcohol and polydrug addicts.

Dr. James P. Carter, chairman of the department of nutrition of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, said that each subject
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