Forum

What about the unwanted child's rights?

As I watched this nation divided over the abortion issue with each side campaigning to influence the Supreme Court's ruling in the Missouri vs. Webster case, I was somewhat surprised by the relatively small number of Afro-Americans visibly involved.

Let me say up front that on the abortion issue - like the death penalty - I have trouble playing God. So if someone else wants to make that call, I gladly defer. (I must admit, though, that I often wonder how many who are pro-life are also pro-death penalty.)

My intent here, however, is not to address the decision but to examine our awareness of the possible adverse effects of the decision, even now after the Court has thrown the ball back into the court of the states.

Many states immediately began working toward enacting legislation to either severely restrict abortion or to make it illegal.

My point: Have we considered the effect this could have on Afro-American teen-agers and the children the law would say these teenagers must bear? Have we considered this within the context of public assistance programs that were either eliminated or drastically cut under the Reagan Administration?

Lloyd N. Cutler, former counsel to President Jimmy Carter, wrote in The New York Times, "The cruelest irony of the abortion movement is that many of its proponents have so little interest in the health and welfare of the resulting children after they are born."

I agree. To abort or not to abort is not the question. The question is, if we decide legally not to abort,

will we assume the financial responsibility for the health and welfare of the unwanted children? Will we assume the responsibility of placing those children in loving homes where they are wanted?

be involved in the pro-choice movement express support for women's rights. With that I have no argument. Those involved in the rightto-life movement express support for the life of the "child." With that

JULY 20, 1989



AGAINST THE GRAIN

By ROOSEVELT WILSON

As Afro-Americans this should concern us greatly. We should demand something here. If abortions are going to be made illegal, or if federal and state financing will be denied for those seeking abortions, then we should demand that federal and state financing be made available to the mothers who give birth to these unwanted children. If the government will not do that, then we should demand that the government leave the abortion option with the mother.

Certainly, the pro-choice advocates argue the fundamental issue of freedom of choice in abortion, but within that fundamental issue we as Afro-Americans must not forget that we have the highest rate of unwed and teen-age mothers of any ethnic group in this country. We must not forget that we have the highest percentage of mothers as heads-of-household.

We must understand that if our government virtually mandates that our babies continue to have babies, our situation will be greatly exacer-

The Afro-Americans I know to

I have no problem.

But we all have a problem if we address only half the issue.

We must take off our blinders and look at the big picture.

Or better yet, look at a small picture: Despite all our education and awareness programs, a poor, unemployed and unmarried 18year-old discovers she's pregnant and insists on having an abortion. We have but two choices:

1. If abortion is legal, we should provide for that teen-ager a means for a medically safe abortion.

2. If abortion is illegal or no government funds, personnel or facilities can be used to aid in abortion, our government must become the "father" at that point and begin to provide for the health and welfare of the unborn child and the mother, and when the baby is born, its health and welfare remains the responsibility of the "father."

The baby has that right.

Roosevelt Wilson is working with the Chronicle this summer as the T. Thomas Fortune fel-

On the nature and extent of drug use

The extent of illicit drug use and addiction has existed under varied and changing conceptual umbrellas. Assumptions about their nature have differed among professional segments as well as between them and the federal government.

Before 1900, there was an outcry against morphine and cocaine, but the public was mainly tolerant or unaware of the amount of these drugs available in nostrums and even physician-dispensed medicine. Starting with the Pure Food and Drug Law in 1906, there was greater awareness. The Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914 concluded a decade or more of debate over the wisdom of considering addicts as either criminals or victims of a disease. In the 1920s and until the 1960s, the hard line

drug use or abuse."

little or no dispensing to addicts,

the government's narcotic farms

were virtual prisons, and manda-

tory sentences became legal in

1956. During the Kennedy admin-

istration, public attitudes and poli-

cy took on a medico-psychologi-

cal flavor, and in 1970 a new law

corrected some inconsistencies in

problem has been a recurrent

theme of political and social com-

mentary in the United States for

most of the past decade. The

apparent increase in drug use --

itself defined as the problem --

has precipitated a serious inquiry

into its causes, a massive invest-

ment of social efforts to contain it,

and a mobilization of medical and

para-medical resources to treat its

nomenon. Drug use includes a

variety of substances which are

used independently, sequentially,

or concurrently, and with varying

degrees of intensity. Factors

adding to the diversity of the drug

Drug use is not a unitary phe-

The need to solve the drug

existing law.

GUEST COLUMN

By CARMEN P. MOTEN, Ph.D.

use phenomenon stem from the heterogeneity and interplay of cultural, environmental, and socioeconomic factors in the United States which generate distinctly different patterns of drug use. Socioeconomic status within groups is probably one of the most significant factors. The types and routes of administration of drugs are also remarkably subject to acculturation within a cohort.

Researchers point out that there had been relatively little effort to distinguish drug use from problem use or drug abuse. Most attention has been focused on initiation and addiction, with relatively little attention given to fac-

nance, or cessation of drug use.

The ability to differentiate the eti-

ological origins which pertain to

various patterns of use and to var-

ious cultural and ethnic groups is

limited. The ability to differentiate

patterns of risk is critical if vari-

ous drug abuse phenomena are to

be understood clearly and if pre-

vention programs are to be appro-

priate and targeted toward their

changing phenomenon. The extent

of use and attitudes toward drug

use change over time. Presumably

the meaning and etiology of use

greatly from use in the 1960s, the

1970s, and the 1980s. For exam-

ple, drug use in the 1950s was

highly aberrant behavior, whereas

experimental use of heroin in the

Americans. However, trends

through the 1970s and the 1980s

have shown a drastic increase in

Drug use in the 1950s differs

are also subject to change.

Drug use in America is also a

intended audiences.

"The age of onset is also important. ... Youth

who begin marijuana use early, before age 15,

are at especially high risk for dysfunctional

prevailed. Physicians carried out tors related to escalation, mainte-

In the 1980s the drug of choice among a large segment of Americans is crack cocaine. There are also reports of multiple substance abuse such as heroin, crack, cocaine, and alcohol. Also, the patterns of drug use in the 1980s were characterized by the use of designer (laboratory-created) drags such as PCP.

Not only does the cultural context change over time, it can also differ from one place to another or from one socioeconomic, racial, or ethnic group to another. Obviously, drug use must be considered within its cultural and environmental context, and all findings need to be carefully qualified in terms of their generalizability.

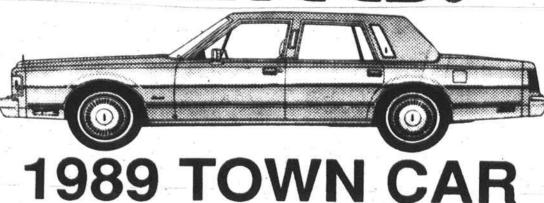
The age of onset is also important. Researchers point out that the age of onset of alcohol use strongly influences the probability of initiating use of marijuana and the age of onset of marijuana use influences the probability of initiating use of other illicit drugs and of using prescribed psychoactive drugs. Youth who begin marijuana use early, before age 15, are at especially high risk for dysfunctional drug use or abuse.

No one can deny that a drug problem exists. An apparent rise in crime and other antisocial behavior may be related in part to drug-using or drug-seeking behavior. Of great concern is the attraction to drug use by large portions of this nation's youth, particularly when such use is indiscriminate and apparently oblivious to its risks. The lives and futures of our young can only be hurt by such

The frustration which comes from knowing that drug use spreads by example is intensified with the continuing growth in the using population augurs no better 1960s and late 1970s was behav- for tomorrow -- the youths of ior typical of a large segment of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

> A Winston-Salem native, Dr. Carmen P. Moten is a research psychologist.

PLACESI



• 5.0 B-8 • AM/FM Cassette Stereo • Auto Climate A/C • Power Windows • Power Door Lock • Interval Wipers • Rear Window Defroster

· Corning Lamps · Auto Log Clock · Power Antenna · Speed Control

• Tinted Glass • Full Size Spare Tire • Power Seat • And Much More!

LIST PRICE \$26,352 LIBERTY DISCOUNT \$3,863 **FACTORY REBATE** \$1,500

* Rebate assigned to dealer. Tax and tags extra.

SAVE THOUSANDS NOW! ONLY A FEW IN STOCK! LIBERTY

LINCOLN • MERCURY • MERKUR PETERS CREEK PARKWAY 725-0411



SUMMER SAVINGS

Prices Good July 12, 13, 14 & 15

Service, Selection & Savings - From "The Prescription People"

Galaxy Oscillating Fans

16" 3 Speed #2151

\$**22**⁹⁷



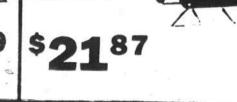
Umbrella

Men's or Ladies' **Automatic** Umbrella

\$999

Sunbeam PatioMaster Gas Grill

Sunbeam PatioMaster® Table Top Gas Grill #8205



FILM PROCESSING Bring you Film to Crown Drugs For Processing and get a 2nd Set Of Color Prints FREE!

2 Beautiful Color Prints for the Price

of 1 -Everyday! or You May Choose

the PRODSYSTEM



Your 35mm **Processed Photos Returned Already** Bound in a Mini Photo Album.

8. Lewisville, 6499 Shallowford Rd

9. Stanleyville, Old Hwy. 52 North

10. King, Colony Centre

11: Walkertown, Hwy. 66

 4"x6" size - 37% large than standard 35mm prints Exclusively at Crown Drugs

Visit One of These Convenient Crown Drug Locations:

ek helkmal

2. Reynolda Manor Shopping Center

3. 3075 Kernersville Road

4, 301 Acadia Avenue



Motrin

Arrid

Roll-ons

4 oz. Sprays, 2 oz

Roll-ons, 1.5 oz

Your Choice

\$499

Tablets or Caplets 24's Reg. Price \$199 Less Mail-in Rebate -150 Final Cost 49¢



One Touch Depilatory

One Touch Roll-on Depilatory

We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities Visit a Crown Optic Shop today,

Hanes Mall Winston-Salem

634-6216

· Davidson Plaza Leangton, NC 249-6732

5. Hanse Mall 12. 4917 Country Club Rd. 6. Oldtown, 3716 Reynolds Road 13. Bermuda Quay 7. Clemmons, Westwood Village 14. New Market Plaza - Kernersville

Also in; Salisbury, Yadkinville, Mocksville, Newton, Taylorsville & Lexington.

located in Crown Drug Stores at the following locations: · Willow Oak

NC 768-9322