

The antidrug campaign: Where do we stand?

"Just Say No" advertisements and Presidential television addresses are new approaches to an old problem — drug addiction.

In recent months since the death of famed basketball star Len Bias, cocaine, crack, and other addictive drugs have received air time nightly.

Studies have shown drugs to be the nation's number one worry, but is it the nation's number one priority? To me, it seems as the campaign against drugs, intensifies, the rate of drug abuse continues to escalate.

Random drug testing, television documentaries, and President and Nancy Reagan's campaigns are all important acts aimed at solving the crisis, but to me the stand against drugs in the United States does not run deep enough.

For one, I'm not sure what the U.S. wants to accomplish with these campaigns. Are they trying to save lives or capture the pushers? On the other hand, I'm not certain as to how much can be done to stop the abuse.

I think it is great that today's children have access to vast amounts of litera-

ture spelling out to them the dangers of cocaine use. I would like to see another campaign reorganized the one against the drug pushers or suppliers. They are directly responsible for ruining the lives of the people in our society and all the while I haven't heard any strong measures being taken against them.

I think we, as a nation, need to take to the streets and catch these suppliers. There ought to be a task force set up in every city in every state designated to go out and apprehend these criminals.

I am not saying that nothing is being done because federal seizures of cocaine have increased; however the street supply has not been affected.

The Administration has nearly doubled its drug enforcement budget from \$853 million in 1982 to \$1.5 billion this year, but has overlooked efforts to reduce the demand for drugs, according to *Time* magazine.

Politics also plays an important role in drug intervention. Reagan would like to see private business and local government handle the problem or at

least pay for measures to stop drug abuse, but local government in turn wants the same thing on the national level. Meanwhile, as they debate the drug pusher continues to peddle his wares.

I think until we find a way to mobilize these drug pushers we will always be faced with a drug problem and a crime problem.

Both problems are linked together because drugs do not come free; some of them have a pretty hefty price. Once one is addicted no price is too high and anything may be chanced in order to get money to support their habit.

The random drug testing and Presidential campaigns may have a significant effect over time. Maybe society will develop a social tolerance to drugs and consumption will be labeled as undesirable.

The question is how much time do we have until this time bomb destroys our whole society?

Vanessa Goodman
Editor



SGA OFFICE HOURS

Donna Wilson, President
9-10 MWF 2-3 TH

Bettie Shipp, Vice President
2-3 MW 11-12 TH

The office is located on the second floor of Cate Center.

MEREDITH ENTERTAINMENT ASSOCIATION

Doreas Hostetler, President
Elizabeth Hornthal, Vice President
Julie Hicks, Secretary
Jennifer Steifel, Treasurer

Office Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekly.
Office Phone 829-8599

Corrections

In the September 18, 1986 edition of the *Meredith Herald* in the Art and Entertainment section of the paper, an article written on the Bathtub ring was credited to Martha Ann Brawley. The article was not written by Brawley. Paula Tomlinson was responsible for the article. We regret the error.

Also, there are three more new additions to the business department omitted in last week's "New Faces" article Dr. Cliff Baker, Mrs. Theresa Spencer, and Dr. Doug Wakeman.

...published weekly
...Meredith College
...The paper is
...and through adver-
...will not pay material
...articles, books, photo-
...All letters to the
...signed unless dis-
...expressed on the editorial
...necessarily reflect those of the
...administration, faculty or student
...criticism and will
...to any submitted in writ-
...the writer
...Policy
...welcome articles and
...from any student,
...faculty member or administrator. We will
...print articles and letters, but we adhere to
...these guidelines:
1. We require all articles/letters to be in
the Herald drop box located in 114 Heil-
man by noon on Thursdays.
2. We require all articles/letters to
signed by the writer and to include his/her
title, if representing an organization. This
should be in the upper right hand corner
of the first page.
3. We require all articles/letters to be
neatly written or typed and double-spaced
on a 55 space line.
4. We require all writers to count the
number of words in the article/letter and
place it on the first page.
5. We reserve the right not to print
material that:
(a) functions as advertisement;
(b) does not follow the Editorial
Policy;
(c) does not meet the above
requirements; and
(d) list minutes to meetings held.