

Editorials

Question Of Values

Rarely have we found it easy to agree with the ideas and philosophy of President Reagan's Secretary of Education William Bennett. However, in a recent meet of the Education Writers Association in Baltimore Bennett said something that we wholeheartedly agree with and hope that the parents and teenagers of America will agree with. Mr. Bennett told the writers that school-based birth control clinics are in effect an "abdication of moral authority" and is therefore an idea that is or should be repugnant to our society.

Bennett said further, "birth-control clinics in schools may prevent some births. That I won't deny. The question is, what does it teach? What lesson does it teach? What attitudes does it encourage? What behaviors does it foster?"

These questions should be thought provoking reminders of what such public school "health clinics" really represent - that is - an abandonment of our basic moral values of what is right and what is wrong. Such clinics, which already exist in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and a few other large northern cities, in effect wave a flag that says, "If you must engage in sex don't get pregnant; here, take this contraceptive device to avoid the problems of motherhood."

Providing contraceptive devices of any kind to single girls or boys is simply to encourage and expand the sexual promiscuity so prevalent in our society. These "clinics" appear to be saying be damned morality and what is decent and healthy spiritually and physically, have fun, have sex and don't worry about the consequences because we have something for you to prevent the possibility of pregnancy.

Furthermore, the assumption of those who support those immoral clinics is that if young people are going to engage in sex anyway let's at least help them to do it right, that is, don't bring any unwanted children into the world.

What Mr. Bennett and some right-thinking people on this subject are saying is that the only advice to offer youthful people about sex before marriage is don't do it because it is mentally, physically and spiritually wrong.

Undoubtedly, some adults reading this column may wonder what is going on, why have some public schools found it necessary to assume that they need these so-called clinics and what has happened to our sense of decency?

The answers are two-fold. First, the whole issue of sex education and now these clinics in the public schools have arisen largely because of the apathy and or inability of parents to discuss in candid terms the issue of sex in the personal lives of their children. Secondly, the open and uninhibited sexual attitudes of American society as evident in our television programming, magazines, the personal lives of too many movie and TV stars and the design of women's clothing with emphasis on revealing more and more of the human body.

In summary, uninhibited nudity or provocative half dress has become the accepted norm of modern fashion. Television is crowded with lewd sex, either implicit or explicit and homosexuality has been recognized by some psychiatrists as normal sex behavior.

The permissive sex values that the public school clinics can only compound in the long run is the already deplorable fact that 54 percent of all black babies are born out of wedlock. Parents, teachers, school administrators, church and civic leaders and, yes, many of our youth too must work to revive morally right values or the two-parent family will become less than the norm and millions of children will wander throughout life with no sense of identity.

This then, a return to traditional values, is the new American challenge, and the only hope for saving our children.

The Washburn Case

Bo Jackson, the All-American Auburn University football player, said upon being the number one pick in the National Football League (NFL) that after the Major League Baseball draft, a sport he excels in, he will make his own decision about which sport to participate in and under what conditions. He added that it won't be necessary for anyone to second guess what he ought to do with his life and his career.

Jackson's latter remark was apparently in reference to much of the press coverage being given to N.C. State basketball player Chris Washburn's decision to turn professional after less than two seasons of college level roundball play. Sport columnist Ron Green noted this when he wrote recently, "So disturbing was Washburn's decision that it has moved off the sports pages to the editorial pages. An editorial in the Observer regretted the decision. A Raleigh Times editorial, in effect, said good riddance."

What all the comment about Washburn

came down to are a few simple hard facts. First, N.C. State University accepted Washburn supposedly as a student with a full awareness of his questionable academic abilities because of his basketball skills. These skills, the university knew could quite possibly lead the school's basketball team to an NCAA national championship. Not lost in the minds of the Wolkpack supporters too is the fact that Patrick Ewing's four years at Georgetown University netted the school over \$12 million and quadrupled their freshman application interest. In addition, the Atlantic Coast Conference's basketball prestige will slip a notch with the loss of Washburn.

Undoubtedly, Washburn like any other 20 year old youngster may need to be more mature before leaping into the world of work. After all, if he were a non-athlete who had had a run-in with the law and eventually left school to go to work it would have not merited one line of newspaper copy.

ARE WE GOING TO SIT AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MUST EMERGE TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT AND DECAY.



Crime Is A Pressing Problem In The Black Community

Fruit Loops Or Special K?

By Sabrina Johnson
Special To The Post

A walk down the cereal aisle of the supermarket can be a lesson in decision making. Stacked high and deep on the shelves with their colorful boxes and zany characters or simple boxes with a sprig of wheat are hundreds of choices in cereal brands. All are competing for the consumer spending dollar and to do that the cereals are targeted. From 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on weekday mornings, one can view any given number of "adult" cereal advertisers; Saturdays are saturated with "children's" cereal advertisements.

That walk down the cereal aisle becomes a lesson in memory and decision making. If the ad stands out in the mind or the jingle is hummed, more than likely that is the box that will be chosen. The battle is won.

Well, maybe not. The big idea being marketed by cereal manufacturers is nutrition. It seems as though someone decided it's nutrition consumers want in their cereal primarily which is followed by taste. Today's consumers, health-conscious consumers,



Sabrina

want more from their cereals than snap, crackle and pop. They want the breakfast of champions.

Granola, the once super popular cereal, has been replaced with high-fiber and calcium-enriched cereals. The manufacturers of cereals are answering the call. Kellogg has moved to a campaign linking its high-fiber cereals to a high-fiber diet that reduces cancer risks. Post, Inc. has introduced a calcium-enriched cereal that hopes to appeal to women concerned with enough calcium in their diets. Nutri-Grain is selling

the idea that cereal can be good for you and taste good, too.

Granola has lost its ground because it is high in saturated fat and brown sugar, and contains added salt and low amounts of vitamins and minerals. Today's consumers want to know what's in the bowl.

Not only have cereal companies added new products to their lines, they have modified others. Kellogg's ever popular Sugar Frosted Flakes changed its name to Frosted Flakes - different name but the 2.8 teaspoons of sugar in an average one-ounce serving remains the same. The company also changed the name Sugar Smacks for Honey Smacks - sugar, not honey, is still used as the sweetener. General Foods' Post Super Sugar Crisp has a new name too, Super Golden Crisp.

Cereal companies are aggressively marketing the high-fiber cereals, the low salt-sodium cereals and the fitness cereals - but they are also marketing the old standbys such as Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, and Frosted Flakes.

Old reliable Quaker Oats Company has added a new product called Ohs which is oat rings with honey-graham or crunchy-nut centers and its selling well despite its marketing of taste and not health benefit.

Among the debate of the cereal bowl is the debate of hot or cold cereal. Hot cereal oatmeal, has no sugar or salt, oat fiber can help reduce serum cholesterol levels in a low-fat diet. Nutritionists believe oatmeal is one of the best breakfast cereals along with Shredded Wheat.

Nutritionists also state if one does not have time to eat a cooked breakfast cereal (i.e., oatmeal) then chose a cereal low in sugar and salt but high in fiber. Breakfast should be high in carbohydrate-starch and fiber, not sugar.

Maybe a compromise can be met here. If adults and children eat high fiber cereal Monday through Friday with skim or low-fat milk and no added sugar; watch the news - will it then be okay to pop open a box of Cap'n Crunch, Fruit Loops, or S'mores on Saturday morning, pour whole milk on them in a bowl, watch cartoons and plague the body with all the stuff that is bad for it but tastes so good in the mouth? Will nutritionists go along with this? Besides, if the sugar cereals were not selling why would the companies manufacture them?

Miller Says:

Kean's Recipe: Control Of The U.S. Senate

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

I often feel that the modus operandi at Republican Party gatherings exclude rather than include lower socioeconomic groups. Speaker introductions are skewed towards depicting people as the shakers and makers. These pedantic introductions often leave me wondering if these speakers had any real understanding of the needs of the poor.

Each time I come away from one of these Republican gatherings I lament a bit because I feel that black America may never be included in their agenda. But recently Governor Thomas H. Kean of the state of New Jersey gave me renewed hope. He received over 60 percent of the black vote in his reelection effort.

I felt compelled to understand what Kean did differently from other Republican candidates, so I asked him to comment on his reelection effort.

"We spread the message... (that) opportunity should be there for everybody, and we have to foster in government, whether it is state or federal government, that kind of message," said Kean. Kean also felt that one



Sherman

should not make empty promises but they ought to have substantive programs to help minorities progress.

"We had programs to carry it out. Whether it was fostering urban enterprise zones in the cities which gave small business an opportunity, having set-asides for minority business on state contracts, helping some minority business people who were having a hard time get over some hurdles. In any number of areas, we tried to promote that, to show, first of all, not only in the black community but every community, we are willing to stand behind opportunity and where barriers existed, state government was there to break down those barriers," contends Kean.

I sensed that Kean had first-hand experience work-

ing with disadvantaged people. Since he understood the black community's priority, I asked Kean to offer guidance to Republican candidates across the United States.

"First we've got to remember that the Party was founded by Abraham Lincoln on the idea of opportunity for all. Sometimes I think we have forgotten that in the past; we can't forget it in the future. Secondly we simply have got to reach out. One of the things that seems to surprise people is, I don't (think I missed) an opportunity to meet with leaders of the black community to try to answer their concerns. Mayor Ken Gibson, in Newark, said once, 'I go where no other governor has ever gone before.'"

Kean went on to argue that the black community will respond to Republican Party overtures.

"What I hope is that we are sending a message out from New Jersey to the rest of the country...if you reach out for the black community, the black community will respond. The black community does understand that leaders in both parties can have a message," claims Kean.

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