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that homosexuals, other than very repressed ones, remain loyal to an organization that is so cruel to them.  
Michael De-la-Noy, an Anglican, former member of the Church of England's governing body.

Would you go on a Crusade if the Church were to organize one today? Would you approve another Inquisition if the Church decided to conduct one? Would you listen to a Church condemnation of a modern Gallilee or Copernicus? If America began again to burn witches, would you participate? Would you approve the interment of Japanese Americans again (but not German or Italian Americans) if we again went to war? Would you tolerate another McCarthy Commie hunt or allow your prelate to approve such from the pulpit as was done a few years back? Would you participate in the persecution of long-hairs as most of us did when the hippie trip began? Would you approve of St. Paul's advice to slaves or his chauvinistic remarks on women? Haven't we all been wrong on all of these issues or some of them because we followed the party line even if only to approve what occurred in previous generations? Is it possible, could you entertain the notion, that on the issue of homosexuality our presumptions that we know exactly how God feels about it might be as wrong as were the presumptions of the Catholics who approved or participated in the abominations listed above? I am tempted to think that were one to add up all the sufferings inflicted on all those above mentioned, it would not equal in intensity or numbers what we do to our brothers and sisters whose crime is to love one another.

Most of the greatest evils that man has inflicted upon man have come through people feeling quite certain about something which, in fact, was false.

Bertrand Russell.

Here is a typical letter:

Dear Father Paul:

I am a male at the age of 18, in my senior year of high school and also a homosexual transvestite.

I accept the fact that I am one, but the problems that come up because of being one are just unbearable. These problems control everything I do in life and have made my life very miserable. So miserable in fact it has not only affected me mentally but also physically. I cannot talk to anybody about this and when I try I just can't go on with it. I go to bed many nights praying and crying to God for help but it just doesn't seem to work.

I have kept this bottled up in me all my life and now it's coming to the point that it is just driving me mad and I know that I must talk to someone. I could never tell this to my parents and if I did they would tell me that I am sick and would try to put me away or something, and also my friends are getting to wonder about me and are asking questions I cannot answer.

I need help, Father, NOW. Please help me and write me or I could come to you for counseling or suggest someone who could please.

PLEASE HELP ME. WRITE. (I'M DESPARATE) Yours truly

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Here is a poem written by a street kid, a girl who is still in Boston.

Father Paul's Lament

My kids are loved and sheltered and spared,  
they said.  
You're blind, he said.

My kids would never be found in some broken tenement,  
Arms bleeding, full of angry holes and skin prick  
Bruises, souls leaking out onto the dirty pavement,  
they said.  
You're hiding, he said.

My son a faggot!?? They said.  
My daughter selling her body for some tasty white snow?  
Disgusting! Unheard of! they said.  
You're running, he said,  
Faster and Faster, but it's catching up you know...

You're a liar, they said - a pinko and a disgrace  
to the collar and the cloth.

So Paul took to wanderin'.  
He began to run.  
A long soulful journey ahead, he said.  
Got to move and catch all the energy I can.

But you know, the buggers chased him -  
everywhere he went their faces hung above him  
like a dark cloud.

They tried to find him and bury his mind  
But they couldn't catch up.

No, they couldn't get to him.

He was always one game ahead, one full game ahead  
and he still is, THE CONFOUNDED THING!!!

\*(C/f Page 14).

CATHOLICS AND CONTRACEPTION.

More than two out of three married Catholic women ignore Church doctrine on contraception and use artificial methods of birth control, according to a nationwide fertility study. Its findings indicate that 68% of married Catholic women use contraceptives. The survey attempted to distinguish between nominal Catholics and those who regularly receive Holy Communion and found that even among the latter, 53% used prohibited birth-control methods. Among women under 30 who had attended college, the figure was 78%.

In Mexico, Catholic bishops have issued a carefully worded statement that appears to support the government's family-planning program, which includes the distribution of free contraceptives. A Message to the People, signed by 80 bishops, avoided the term birth control in favor of family planning, but said, "This decision of husband or wife about the most important thing - to have another child or not - implies the right and the responsibility to decide upon the means." Concerning the means, the message said only that the decision must be one "loyally following what their conscience dictates." Forum Newsfront, Playboy Magazine

A Prayer for Christians to Say

Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
     I'm trying to show love to the hated Faggot.  
 Where there is injury, pardon;  
     Can he pardon us for the incalculable injury  
     gratuitously inflicted by Christians and done,  
     God help us, in Your Name?  
 Where there is doubt, faith;  
     Now that his doubts are overwhelming  
     Can I bring him faith?  
 Where there is despair, hope;  
     Is hope possible for him in the  
     canyons of despair I have dug for him?  
 Where there is darkness, light;  
     Can I help him from the closet of darkness  
     to the light of self-acceptance?  
 Where there is sadness, joy;  
     Can I, the persecuting Saul,  
     Become the joyous Paul of Good News?  
 O Divine Master, grant that  
 I may not so much seek to forgive as to be  
     forgiven by my Gay Brothers and Sisters,  
 Especially for telling them that You  
     despised and condemned them.  
 To be understood as to understand;  
     The horror to which I have consigned them  
     by my aloof, intransigent and uncaring morality;  
     Dare I ask them to love me?  
     Can they believe that I love them?  
     I became, finally, a nigger-lover;  
     I am a faggot lover.  
     How long it took.

A Prayer for Faggots to Say

Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 Where there is injury, pardon;  
     where there is doubt, faith;  
     where there is despair, hope;  
     where there is darkness, light;  
     where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that  
 I may not so much seek to be  
 consoled as to console;  
 to be understood as to understand;  
 to be loved as to love;  
 for it is in giving that we receive;  
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
 and it is in dying that we are born  
     to eternal life.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Here is an article I wrote recently for one of the Gay publications:

As a street priest a few years ago my main concentration had to be on the runaway. But there were a dozen other types of street people. To name a few there were the throwaways, the deserters, the draft dodgers, the weekend hippies from local suburbs, the escapees from reform schools etc. One of the groups was the gay kids. I really agonized over their plight and promised them that some day when the 40,000 runaways a year who were then pouring into Boston subsided, I would be back. Well I am.

I am concerned about a lot of things that are happening. There is the kid who gets caught up in a type of White Slavery and gets bundled off to New York and pimped around and doesn't know how to extricate himself. There is the new sexual runaway--just a trickle, who has a lot in common with yesterday's freak. Then a kid would grow his hair long and smoke a joint, thus becoming a felon and was put down by his parents and his teachers and friends for what he was saying about the myths of Church and State. He had to run away just to find people who understood where his head was at. Today a kid in suburbia who discovers his sexual ambivalence can likewise find no-one who will not convict him of sin or sickness and so he is often constrained to run away to the gay ghettos of the major cities. His average age is 15. While it is true that most of the predatory adults I have come across are heterosexual, it is also true that the gay community is not without its share of predators waiting to receive him.

One of the most bizarre cases I ran into was that of a 14 year old boy who met an older hustler on the block. The hustler called me and said: "You won't even remember me but you did me a favor a few years back when I was 14. If you get down here right away, I'll hold onto this kid for you. He is just being handed around from one to another." The boy and I talked for a couple of hours and he left. Next day I received an hysterically happy call from his mother in another state. He had returned home and told her that I had talked him into it. I hadn't. I simply discussed the several options he had. But it was evidently the first time in years that he had conversed with someone who didn't want to use him or abuse him. It helped him to assess his own possibilities. God knows, I would have liked to take credit for that return but I really didn't talk him into it. How would you have felt as a mother if your 14 year old son walked in the door whom you hadn't seen since he ran away AT AGE SEVEN?

Because there are so few to whom parents can turn for counsel about these sexual matters, I spend a lot of time digging kids out of mental hospitals, trying to convince parents to refrain from disowning them or from advocating shock treatments.

Last week a gay friend of mine brought a 17 year old boy to see me after they had had a sexual encounter and the boy announced he was going to take his own life. It turned out that he had a girl friend in his North Shore town, that they were relating sexually and with no problems but that he found a growing attraction within himself toward his best male friend. Therefore, he thought he must be homosexual and began to hang around a gay establishment where he was picked up and that night had his first homosexual relationship. After two hours of talking with me, he went away walking on a cloud, no longer suicidal, not because of any exceptional counseling on my part but simply because this was the first time in his life he had actually talked about his feelings with another human being. He had never heard of the Kinsey report, or of

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bisexuality and he had all the stereotypes and fears of homosexuality that lead to depression for so many.

I am concerned about the little 16 year old boy who is a transvestite and who has fallen into the clutches of two pimps who pick him up in their Cadillac and sell him around. So far I haven't been able to get him to talk with me. Police? For a lot of reasons that I can't go into now that is out of the question.

A juvenile judge told me some time ago when he heard I was interested in starting a half-way house for gay kids that my problem would be that every juvenile justice in the country would be banging on my door. "They simply don't know what to do with them." If you put them in reform schools they are raped. In half-way houses they are at best the object of derision and contempt.

Then there are the many kids who are in the homosexual community who are in reality bisexual. There is a bias often found among gays and laid on the bisexual that you are either homosexual or heterosexual, but that there is no such animal as a bisexual. If you relate to the same sex at all, you are homosexual. I know of no responsible leader of counselor in the gay community who believes this, yet the myth persists and can be influential in locking a kid into an exclusively homosexual pattern. Which is fine for a homosexual. But is as wrong for a bisexual as it is to encourage a homosexual to enter a heterosexual marriage.

There are those I am sure who will think I'm putting down homosexuality. I'm not. But like heterosexuality it can be abused. A husband can abuse his wife sexually even though they are married. Rape is an abuse of sex no matter if the partner be of the same or the opposite sex. Lying promises used for the purpose of seduction are reprehensible no matter who uses them.

I am hoping that soon we can organize to buy an apartment house for those of varying sexual preference. I meet especially transvestites or more effeminate gays who are plagued by landlords and other tenants and who need a supportive environment. We also need a gay employment service since not a few have to resort to welfare with all the grief that entails.

I am trying to find some way around the law which keeps our gay organizations from counseling with minors without consent of parents. As in everything the parents are the last to know and the least apt to understand. We had to find a way to treat VD in juveniles and we did. Parental consent is no longer required.

We have the funds and the personnel for a free Gay Medical Clinic and are now looking for a building to house it. Moral medicine was the kind dispensed in more than one of our hospitals to the hippie of yore and required us to set up the medical van and free clinics. Gays have some of the same problems and a few new ones. It's awfully difficult to explain to a straight nurse that you suspect oral or anal infection.

We are trying to get together a group of Parents of Gays since they have a special ability to reassure the parent who has just learned of preference of son or daughter and is sucking on the gas pipe.

Gay couples have the same problem of heteros: when you marry most of your single friends start to fall off. Heteros make friends from two sources: work and neighbors mainly. But often these are the two groups

about whom the gay couple must be most circumspect. And the bars present a threat to the Union. So, often, they become isolated. Yet they need each other not only for companionship but for the help an older gay couple can be to the young couple facing all the problems of life together. And the younger gay singles need to see that many couples have really made it for long periods of time. They need models, heroes. But such couples are not to be found in the bar scene. We need to make them visible.

We need a strong group for younger gays who are unable to frequent the regular gathering places of gays, and who are isolated in every way, physically, emotionally, culturally, etc. Soon we will have a weekly Mass where gays will feel welcome.

We are striving to educate the clergy, guidance people and other youth-serving counselors who get spooked when a kid turns to them in these matters. It seemed incredible years ago that youth workers could listen to Dylan and not hear what was happening. Rock music both sums up and influences what is happening. It is a reciprocal thing: it is influenced by what is happening and influences what is happening. There it was all laid out for them in the music yet all were amazed when it hit their town. It has been said that those who fail to read the mistakes of history are doomed to repeat them.

We don't treat people for homosexuality. It isn't a disease. Any more than we treat people for bisexuality or heterosexuality. But on the other hand just as hetero. people have problems, in growing numbers, of impotence and frigidity, so those who relate also or exclusively to the same sex have problems of guilt, isolation, loneliness, fear, black mail, alcoholism, harassment and rejection. These are brought on not by their sexual preference but rather by what society does to them. It simply isn't true, Ann Landers notwithstanding, that most homosexuals are neurotic any more than are heterosexuals. But some are and it is astonishing that more are not.

If you are gay and together then reach out to some of these less fortunate. It seems absurd to complain about the bigotry and prejudice visited upon us from the straight community and then for the more masculine gay to put down the effeminate, the effeminate to put down the drag queen, the drag queen to dump on the transsexual, the transsexual to deplore the S and M, the S and M to put down the elderly, etc. etc. Prejudice is not the peculiar possession of the straight.

In closing this covering letter, dear friends, I am aware that some of you will be perhaps disturbed by the contents and may wish to "cancel your subscription". Hence I am asking all once again, if you wish to continue receiving these notes to inform Miss Eileen Mulcahy, my trusty secretary who devotedly and doggedly grinds them out. It seems that each time I come out with some new, controversial topic, my mailing list dwindles proportionately. I want to be sure that we don't offend unnecessarily by mailing to those who have no wish to read them. So, if you don't get any more notes in the future, it is because you didn't write or call Eileen to be kept on the mailing list. In which case thanks for sticking with me this far and for old times sake, pray for me and for mine.

Father Paul

## Ex-Addicts

I have many ex-addict friends. There are the liberals and the conservatives on drugs. The conservative tends, like many ex-alcoholics, to believe and to teach that no one should take any drug, not even a joint. I long ago stopped speaking on panels with ex-addicts. This type become enraged at me, use violent language and usually end up with the audience believing I was irresponsible or wanted kids to do drugs. I don't mind disagreement. It's healthy. Violence is not.

When you and all your friends, acquaintances, and patients are addicts, living or dead, you tend to think everyone is like you. Many alcoholics, knowing that they cannot safely take one beer, become crusaders. Six million alcoholics and they all started with one drink. Therefore, no one should take the first drink and there will be no alcoholics. Reasonable. But we know, don't we, that prohibition was a failure? The truth is that most Americans take a drink and don't go on to become alcoholics. America is a drug-using country.

Ex-addicts tell kids "pot leads to heroin. Every addict I know began with pot." Well every addict I know began with beer. But you say that is ridiculous. There's no causal connection between beer and heroin. Is there one between pot and heroin? The media has so convinced you. We have tried for five years to get NIMH to disabuse the public of that notion. Finally they have said publicly that this is a fable. "80% of marijuana users never go on to any other drug - let alone heroin." "Among chronic pot-smokers less than 5% go on to heroin." This from NIMH and the National Clearing House on Drugs.

Why is it that I have never found one person in one audience who has heard either of those shocking statistics, especially considering their arch-conservative sources?

In addition I might say that I know a number of heroin addicts who started on heroin!

One of the two parochial high schools who dared invite me to speak failed to tell me ex-addicts would be on the program. Ten minutes before the end of the program, one addict who had hogged the stage, condescendingly asked if I wanted to say anything. I did, inasmuch as I had come for that purpose. My opening remark was "you have heard Gerry say that you shouldn't listen to anyone who has never had a spike in his vein. I haven't had a spike in my arm. You have heard him say in response to the question "which is more dangerous pot, acid or heroin" that "it doesn't matter what drug you take, they're all the same." I would certainly hope that if a niece or nephew of mine was determined to take a drug that such advice would be disregarded. "I left, in disgrace, while Gerry was still posturing, showing off the rippling muscles in between which he inserted phantom spikes and I recalled the day I sat in a classroom among fifth graders and heard one wide-eyed boy say to another regarding the ex-addict speaker - "Wow, some day I want to be an ex-addict like him."

When questioned about the effectiveness of having former drug addicts talk to teenagers about the dangers of drugs, Robert Anastos, who conducts a drug program at Framingham North High School, said that he doubted the value of such programs. He quoted a recent B.U. survey which indicated that more students took drugs following talks by former addicts.

The young people were impressed by the addicts who tend to glorify the drug taking, he explained.  
 Marjorie Horton, City Post, Marlboro, Mass.  
 April 30, 1970.

I find adults are bullied and intimidated by ex-addicts and tend to give them their heads.

"Don't you know anyone who experimented with pot and didn't go on to heroin", a little girl asked the weeping, near hysterical, ex-addict speaker. "I do", she snapped. "And do you know why they didn't go on? Because all five of them died in the electric chair." That's the kind of crap shown all over America which has thrown drug education into a basket of chuckles for more sophisticated kids.

I would also suggest to you that you get this type of ex-addict and the cops out of the schools. Years ago we warned that these two groups were the least likely to succeed. If proof be needed: Donald Luria, Drug Commissioner of New York City claims we are going to have heroin epidemics in every Junior High School, High School and College in America. Things couldn't be much worse, could they? If you were going to do sex-education in your school, you wouldn't call in the local ex-sex pervert to do it, would you? And certainly not Sergeant Smith. To have abused drugs does not necessarily qualify you on use of drugs, or how to refrain from using them.

Ex-addicts are indispensable for drug rehab. Addicts can con anyone else. But the other half of drug education: prevention, is not necessarily their bag. Some times they excel at both.

Many "cured" addicts still have the personality problems which led to or were caused by their addiction. They tend to be highly dramatic, intensely intolerant of any other approach but theirs. NYC is a rat's nest of infighting; internicine warfare saps the strength of the half-way houses and divides the effort.

Ex-addicts tend to have a conservative, simplistic philosophical approach to sin, error, evil and human failings. You have free-will, therefore anything you do is your own fault. There is no room for environmental conditioning, no allowance made for the forces which impinge on free will and which led Jesus to warn us never to judge. Ex-addicts judge everyone and find no mitigating circumstances, make no allowance for sickness, weakness, etc. The ghetto-dweller is as free as the scion's son.

Of course this point is the classical divider of society. Cops, prison guards, D.A.'s, etc. are all for capital punishment. Sociologists, psychologists, social workers, penologists are against it. Pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps-approaches to life may be helpful in therapy but lead to inhuman violence when extended to the world and its problems. Christianity has a bias against this philosophy - judge not lest you be judged. At the same time Jesus allows for free will, admits sin and evil, reward and punishment.

By analogy: I cannot expect from a 5 year old the same responsibility as I can from a 15 year old. Blame and punishment must be meted out accordingly. Addiction often involves a reversion or regression to childlike emotional states and with the subsequent need to adjust one's expectations accordingly. Some people have to be brought along to the



point where they are ready to be treated as responsible free adults. Only then can the boom be lowered with beneficial rather than destructive consequences.

My major indictment of the ex-addicts and cops who were allowed to take over the drug education of our kids is their resort to scare programs. They above all should have known better.

"Maybe you don't die when you use marijuana but we believe you may damage your brain cells and can't ever get those cells fixed," said Peter E. Carr, who heads Norfolk County District Attorney George Burke's drug education program recently which he spoke to a group of fourth, fifth and six graders at Quincy's Montclair School.

Carr's statement was utterly without any medical or scientific basis. When those kids try grass, as they surely will some day, they will learn that Carr wasn't telling the truth. One can only speculate what effect that will have on their attitude toward hard drugs.

Parker Donham, Boston Globe, 1970.

Q. Dr. Feldstein - how do you recommend that parents deal with the drug problem when they are talking to their children?

A. First and foremost, parents must know what they are talking about. If they proclaim that marijuana is an addictive narcotic, or if they say that it leads inevitably to heroin, or if they try to hard sell on the basis of emotion rather than facts, they will quickly lose their credibility with their children. The soft sell is much more effective. There are simply no clear answers yet to some of the questions about drugs, particularly marijuana.

Heroin is a special case. There is absolutely no doubt that it is a viciously destructive addictive drug. Morphine also Hashish, while not addictive, is so concentrated that it can cause severe psychotic episodes with possibly lasting effects. LSD is a high risk drug. No one knows just what sort of "trip" it will induce. There is the possibility that it can cause chromosomal damage, although some researchers say no. The amphetamines and barbiturates, used in excess, are dangerous - some times extremely dangerous.

Dr. Aaron Feldstein of Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology.

Gazette, Worcester, Mass. March 27, 1970.

Some more liberal ex-addicts knew better:

The generation gap was a living entity in the auditorium of Canton High School Dec. 17, 1969, when a young, personable ex-addict discussed drugs with a mixed crowd of parents and teenagers. The burden of Mr. Robert Moorman's message to Canton residents was that kids

won't listen to lies; to attempt to keep them from "trying drugs with scare films, misinformation or edicts will only "turn them off". A "turned off" kid isn't listening to anything adults have to say, and only a dialogue based on truth will make any impression.

Mr. Moorman's flat statements that he "did not preach" and would never exaggerate the effects of marijuana were greeted by applause from the teenagers in the audience, while many parents reacted with apprehension that he was "condoning the use of marijuana". In turn, parents applauded statements from an adult in the audience that the speaker "shouldn't make marijuana sound desirable." He said, "The old lies don't make it." Stiffening the drug laws and locking them all up, lectures to high school audiences by the uninformed, drug movies which are "complete disasters" factually, are all impotent to convince young people.

Although reiterating that he would never say drug use is harmless, Mr. Moorman commented that spurious evidence would never convince youngsters. "misconceptions can be cleared up, but only by the truth." It is a "serious error" to keep pushing the same myths, that marijuana use leads inevitably to heroin addition, that marijuana is addicting. Boston Globe.

It wasn't as if we had no alternative educational programs: Listen to one:

What has been done? Almost uniformly, the recognition of a drug problem in our society has produced no "solution" better than roundhouse condemnations of users and purveyors. Education programs rarely go beyond visual identification of drugs and "reports" of subjective experience combined with severe warnings. Is the problem of drug abuse really so new and overwhelming that the only means to fight it are loud oratory and reflex legislation?

The answer is not fast talk, but straight talk. In a word, education. Evidence leads us to believe that fear propaganda and polemics, however well meant, tend to destroy rather than facilitate the positive impact which must be made. The express purpose of the program is to teach, to explain; to make rational and believable with facts and case histories the overwhelming gains to be had in every area of maturation by foregoing the spurious "highs" offered by the subculture of drug abuse.

Again it must be emphasized: the purpose of the program is to teach established facts, not prejudices. The course, therefore, makes every effort to describe the helpful and legitimate uses of drugs as well as the abuses to which some are put. With a sound understanding of what each of the drugs under study really does, both in medical and psychological terms, the

student is well equipped to face the question of why certain people become drug abusers.

The Creative Learning Group, Drug Education Program, 5 Boylston St., Cambridge, Mass.

But it was not until 1970, 5 years later that we heard:

James Allen, Commissioner of Education, said that emphasis will be put upon "the facts of drug abuse among youth. We have been preaching too much to them...preaching doesn't do much good. They're sophisticated, and they see the hypocrisy of what adults do. I think youngsters will respond to the facts.

Drug Abuse by Peter Lisagor, Times, Pawtucket, R. I. March 16, 1970.

Dr. John Costello, Dean of Students at Springfield College, said that if drug education is to help anyone or to stem the spread of drug abuse, adults must cease using "scare tactics" in place of honest, informational programs. "The kids would have to have a brain like a beebie in a boxcar to believe some of the things they are told about drugs." He mentioned that all the worst symptoms of drug abuse are brought out in most "educational" programs. Costello said that when the kids see others taking the drugs and nothing bad happening in most of the cases, they cease to believe anything the adults say on the subject. Speaking of some of the films used in school programs, he said that almost inevitably, they show some kind of major physical or spiritual deterioration. Dr. Costello said the youngsters know that the extremes shown are exaggerated truths. He likened using this type of "scare movie" to using pictures of automobile accidents to teach driver's education. He emphasized that drug education should rest on factual information and said, "if the information doesn't exist, don't make it up" and added that if fabrication was discovered, the kids were likely not to believe anything at all.

Hampshire Gazette, Northampton, Mass. 3/13/70

The adults had their way, shouted down the voices of reason and lugged in the big guns of ex-addicts and cops. Soon it was too late.

A report sent to Mayor Kevin White of Boston should be hung in the homes or offices of every school teacher, principal or parent who is alarmed about the drug problem. The report states that "when the young and inexperienced are told to expect devastating bodily and mental damage from the use of marijuana, they soon enough discover that these things don't come about and are then likely to discredit everything that is told to them about 'drugs' generally, and to feel that if marijuana didn't hurt us, nothing else will.

If anything is a logical first step in the effort to

truly help young people avoid the potential hazards of drug experimentation, it is to heed those words and abandon once and for all the ignorant and insulting posture of the anti-drug crusader who substitutes zealousness for information and moral righteousness for sensitivity.

It is still preposterous, in the view of Robert L. Levy, to hold to the primitive logic that sees marijuana, per se, as merely a prelude to a life of drug addiction, but in a society that maintains a fiction about the undifferentiated evil of a large group of illicit drugs that are so different. It is not hard to understand how a questing or rebellious youngster could apply his own equally spurious standard of undifferentiated good to all drugs.

Boston Globe, Dec. 8, 1969

Untruth drugs mind: by Robert L. Levy

I had enough hassles and disagreements with people outside, as you can see from previous chapters. I was fighting with everyone from doctors to cops to clergy to medical examiners to politicians. I certainly had no need to start fighting with people who were working for and with the kids and sympathetic to them. Ex-addicts were the very people I needed for rehab. and so it was a real sorrow for me to have to publicly disagree with them on prevention.

One of the scariest nights of my life on the streets came when I was invited to North Reading to address a public gathering. I brought a bunch of street kids with me and they took up a half row up front. On the same platform was James Alonzi, an ex-addict who came to the mike after my brief talk and announced in angry tones that he had never heard such an irresponsible statement in his life (pot is not addictive, does not lead inexorably to heroin, etc.) and went on to berate me and the likes of these "gypsies" in the front row. Now all of the kids with me were freaks but none were doing drugs. Despite the fact that I was in a Roman collar in a Christian town, with a long list of qualifications announced to the audience when I was introduced, the audience chose to approve the more vitriolic and jejune simplicity of the ex-addict. They roared approval of his condemnation of me. That didn't frighten me. But when he began to attack personally the kids with me, I started to become alarmed. I watched as the anger and violence he was stirring up spread throughout the audience. I leaped to my feet and grabbed the kids and fled as fast as I could from that town. Mr. Alonzi was later to be removed from his job and exposed for what he was. North Reading was to go on to experience serious drug problems among its kids. And I stopped taking kids with me when I spoke and never again appeared on a program with ex-addicts.

It was also at this time that I began to receive death threats. Letters and calls would come in from then on threatening my life if I didn't stop what I was doing. This is the first time I have mentioned this publicly. Police friends of mine suggested protection at one point but how could I have negotiated my customary haunts with a cop in tow? They warned me not to mention the threats to anyone since it might give the idea to some who hadn't yet thought of it. I lived with the constant expectation of assassination until I left the streets years later.

The single most important thing I've ever learned was that I'm going to die, he said. For once you accept your own death, all of a sudden you are

free to live. You no longer care about your reputation, what people say, whether you've got security, all that jazz. You no longer care except so far as your life can be used tactically - to promote a cause you believe in.

Taken from Newsweek, June 26, 1972 by Saul Alinsky.

Epilogue:

On March 22, 1972, the National Commission on marijuana and drug abuse issued the first of two reports mandated by Congress in 1970. The report, entitled "Marijuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding" (Signet \$1.25) significantly advances the cause of legalizing marijuana by its findings that the drug, as presently used by most pot smokers in this country, is harmless, and by its recommendations that the private use, possession and casual transfer of marijuana not be the object of any government restraints.

The 13-member Commission, nine of whose members are Nixon appointees, has issued an impressively objective and sophisticated analysis of "the marijuana problem". The report commences with an historical review of our society's ambivalence about drugs. It quotes an 1885 editorial from The New York Times which warned that, "the decadence of Spain began when the Spaniards adopted cigarettes and if this pernicious habit obtains among adult Americans, the ruin of the Republic is close at hand." And it says that in recent years some of the same fears prompted opposition to the use of marijuana. "The net effect of racial unrest, campus disruption, political assassination, economic woes and an unpopular war was widespread uneasiness. Attending a general fear that the nation was witnessing its own disintegration was a desire to shore up our institutions and hold the line. That line was easy to define where drugs, particularly marijuana and its patterns were concerned."

The report goes on to evaluate the scientific data on marijuana and its patterns of use. It concluded that "there is little proven danger of physical or psychological harm from the experimental or intermittent use of the natural preparations of cannabis, including the resinous mixtures commonly used in this country." The report also points out that no evidence exists to support the popular notions that marijuana is addictive, or that smoking pot leads to crime, or to the use of hard drugs.

From Docket, August 1972.

Since 1970 the Government has produced 40 million pamphlets and posters, 43 radio and television spot announcements and 20 films to fight illegal drug use by young persons. And to little avail, according to two major studies conducted by a counterculture research team and an Establishment-oriented research firm. Both studies, commissioned by the Dept. of Health,

Education and Welfare to evaluate its 174 drug-education programs, deliver the same basic message: multimillion-dollar programs will not stop drug use, and the Government should drop prevention as a primary goal.

Most users, the studies content, are more knowledgeable about drugs than the "educators" are. Despite what the scare literature says, psychedelic drugs have positive effects on many users; and, in cases of self-destructive abuse, educational programs are not effective. Forced intervention, whether by psychiatrists or police, is counterproductive and "potentially harmful."

Dennis Jaffe and Ted Clark, former drug users who started the Number Nine Youth Crisis Center in New Haven, Connecticut, did one of the studies. Their report, "Drug Use and the Youth Culture," concludes that "the search which young people pursue with psychedelic drugs can be a highly moral, productive, and personally fulfilling one." It adds, "The use of drugs may be dangerous, and eventually self-limiting, but at worst drug use may be the wrong thing done for the right reasons."

In place of prevention as a reachable goal, drug use on the part of youth could be accepted - especially marijuana use. HEW could abandon drug education as a "single-issue concept", Martin Kotler, director of the Macro study says, and develop programs recognizing that drug use by young persons is "woven into their total life-style."

Even better, the Government should "attempt to reinvigorate the high schools of America, raise the quality of teaching and provide more realistic valuable activities enhancing the self-worth of our young people." Psychology Today, Jan. 1973.

So you see, dear friends, I wasn't so radical after all. Even Mr. Nixon's friends now agree.