

Wellsville Pharmacist Speaks Out On Drug Abuse

DRUG SPECIAL: "Unrealistic solutions, half-truths and gross exaggerations are making the problem of drug abuse more and more difficult to handle," Pharmacist Roy Alden said yesterday.

Some parents are beginning to panic, and politicians have grabbed this as a popular issue and the result can be grab-bag laws that only hamper the prevention and cure of drug abuse," he said.

The problem is a serious one throughout the United States, but there are signs that the wave has created in the centers of drug abuse on the East and West Coasts. This could mean that the non-medical use of drugs will level off nationally.

Roy Alden quoted Dr. Sidney Cohen, of Los Angeles, who recently suggested there is now less peer pressure on adolescents to experiment with drugs. As a matter of fact, the youngster who has "stayed clean" is admired for resisting drug users pressure.

It is even fashionable to be an ex-user, Dr. Cohen suggested, and for those on the lecture circuit, it may pay better. Former addicts have been found more persuasive in turning young people away from drugs.

"Part of the national decline may stem from well-organized community programs dealing with prevention and cure," Mr. Alden stated. "More people are facing the situation soberly, realistically and with concern. They aren't using scare tactics which don't work anyway."

Experts assure us the epidemic of drug abuse can be stopped if we act calmly and before we become involved personally and emotionally.

"The most worrisome part of the problem may be the drop in age of those using marijuana, LSD, Amphetamines, barbiturates and "hard drugs," Mr. Alden said. "We may have to start our drug education program at lower levels reaching our children before the pushers do."

"Elementary and Junior High School youngsters aren't turning to drugs because of mysticism or mind-expanding theories," he said. "They expect immediate pleasure, an escape, a magical solution to every minor social ache and pain."

Fortunately, these youngsters respond well to rational explanations of what drugs are and what they do. "They are worried about the environment, and can be persuaded not to pollute their own minds," Alden said.

"Such educational programs may draw on informed health professionals," he noted, "but every teacher and parents must have the facts needed to support the attack on drug use."

Assemblyman Frank Walkley Reports

In an effort to ease the fiscal crisis on the local level, the Legislature has removed many of the state mandates.

"The existing law mandated not only basic salaries, but regular increments in pay. Essentially the new legislation provides that all such salaries received will be obtained through the collective bargaining process, as outlined by the Taylor Law," said Mr. Walkley.

Local school districts will have their own say in principals' salaries and the legislation provides that the state mandate calling for a principal's salary being 50 percent higher than that of teachers has been rescinded because principals historically are a part of management. Tying their salaries to salaries negotiated with academic employees has caused a conflict of

people. "Some people will probably be unhappy with specific reduction, but I am confident that essential services will be maintained and, more importantly, that the State is being put on a much sounder fiscal interest for them as supervising course," said Assemblyman Walkley.

Assemblyman Frank Walkley (R-Castile) announced that the Governor has signed legislation removing smokeless powder from the licensing provisions of the Labor Law.

The legislation sponsored by Mr. Walkley is based on an analysis by the Labor Committee of federal and state explosive control laws and, at the urging of thousands of sportsmen around the state was submitted early in the current legislative session.

Under the old law, all hunters and sportsmen had to be licensed to use powder to reload their own shells. Applying for the license included paying a \$2.50 application fee, obtaining notarization, undergoing fingerprinting, and then wait-

ing three weeks to three months for a police record check and approval.

The license was obtained annually and limited the licensee to only 10 pounds of smokeless powder a year, while most skeet shooters and some other sportsmen require much more to pursue their hobbies, according to Assemblyman Walkley.

According to Labor Committee Chairman, Frederick L. Warder (R-Geneva) the new legislation removes from the licensing provisions smokeless powder, which is much less effective as a component of a bomb than numerous other readily available materials not classified as explosives. Also it brings the state law into closer conformity with federal legislation.

The new law eliminates provisions that serve as an annoyance to hunters and sportsmen but would not effect the restrictions designed to stop the acquisition and use of explosives by bombers and terrorists.

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