

SPEAKING OF YOUR HEALTH

Protecting Youth From Drugs

By Lester L. Coleman, M.D.

We live in a relatively small city. Even though our community is unsophisticated and does not have the pressures of large city living, we are concerned about the definitely growing problem of drugs.

Having read your columns for so many years, I am aware of your anti-drug attitude. Both my wife and I teach in our local high school. We feel that our community should be prepared to prevent drug abuse and to rehabilitate those who are involved. — Mr. & Mrs. S.T., Nev.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. T.:

In a recent edition of a magazine, *Real World*, I devoted an entire column to the prevention of the use and abuse of drugs and to the rehabilitative facilities that are now available. *Real World* is aimed at adolescent girls and boys. It devotes itself to the physical, social and psychological pressures that often entrap them in the catastrophic use of drugs.

I wanted to share with my young friends, and now with my adult readers, my friendship with a unique person who, in addition to being a man of many accomplishments in industry and in the arts, devotes himself to saving the lives of hundreds of teen-agers who unfortunately have become involved and overwhelmed by drugs. As a talented musician and composer, he knows the special joys of personal achievement.

George Barrie is the president of the prestigious firm Faberge. In addition to directing his multifaceted organization, he spends limitless hours in an effort to learn how and why young people become involved with drugs.

With practical wisdom, he says that each

year thousands of teen-agers face one of the biggest decisions of their lives — whether to say yes or no to those who are tempting them with narcotics. Educators understand that making that decision is not easy. Peer pressure, boredom, loneliness and depression are just a few of the many reasons for experimenting with drugs.

George Barrie has surrounded himself with a vast number of experts — physicians, sociologists, educators and psychologists — in supporting a remarkable organization called **Straight Inc.**

This non-profit rehabilitative program is devoted to liberating drug users from the albatross of drugs that deprives them of happiness and productivity.

Straight Inc. now has four basic centers in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sarasota, Fla., Marietta, Ga., and Milford, Ohio. New branches are constantly being opened all over America.

Straight Inc. is one of America's most successful drug rehabilitation programs. It plays its greatest function by using peer pressure as a positive force in the total reconstruction of lives too important to waste.

City, state and federal agencies are constantly seeking dedicated people like you to lead well-established programs for the prevention of drug dependence. These are available to groups who know that the destiny of our nation depends on the strength, the inner resourcefulness and morality of the youth of our land.

Dr. Coleman welcomes questions from readers. Please write to him in care of *The Observer-Reporter*.

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