

Mrs. R. G. Knable
9231 S. W. 50th Ter.
Miami, Florida 33143

October 10, 1973

Dear Governor Askew,

I must protest your appointment of Mr. Duran to the School Board in Dade County. This body is already woefully ignorant of - or worse unmoved by the drug problem in our schools. To appoint a former member of the Health Planning Council to it is not in the best interests of our students.

I observed a meeting of the Health Planning Council as a Seed parent and found it to be a closed minded group, unwilling to accept any conclusions but their own. They criticize Art Barker for wanting things his way or not at all. That's not accurate because it's not 'his' way but the way of 1400 Seedlings, their parents and the untold numbers of unbiased observers who have seen the truly beautiful change the Seed has made in the lives of these children. You won't find that kind of support for any of the programs upon which the Health Planning Council, for reasons known only to it, chose to confer its approval. Now we in Dade County find ourselves with an escalating drug problem and yet denied the most effective known solution to the problem.

Enclosed are copies of Mr. Steve Daily's broadcasts of 9/24/73 and 9/25/73. I believe he expresses, much better than I could, our uniquely unfair situation here in Dade County.

In all honesty I do not know precisely what Mr. Duran's feelings on the subject are - needless to say I'll be watching for some indication of this. However his former association with the Health Planning Council does not inspire confidence. Hopefully as a member of the School Board, which exists I presume to work for improved education in our community, he will realize that we do have a drug problem here and that we need the Seed as well as any other program that will truly help our children.

Very truly yours,

Mrs R G Knable

GOVERNOR ASKEW

LT. GOVERNOR ADAMS

AKERS, Milt	FORDHAM, C.L.	PHELAN, Bill
ALLEN, Lorna	HAIR, Harry	POITEVENT, Ben
ALLMAN, Ken	HARRIS, Marshall	POPPELL, Elbert
ANDERSON, Cloud	HARLING, Maurice	PRIDE, Don
APTHORP, Jim	INTRIAGO, Charlie	SCHNITT, Paul
BEECHER, Dave	JONES, Carol	STEPHENS, Barbara
BLAYNEY, Tom	L'AMOREAUX, Cappy	STEVERSON, Alex
BROWN, Ron	LANDERS, Jay	STOWELL, Doug
BRUNS, Martin	LOVE, Jane	WOODBURN, Ken
COTTEN, Harvey	MacMILLAN, Hugh	WRIGHT, Dan
DONNELL, Eleanor	McDONALD, Jim	
DUNN, Ed.	MOUNTS, Bob	
ERVIN, Eleanor	PARRISH, Bernie	
FERGUSON, Howell		

OTHER:

FROM:

Paul Schmitt

DATE:

Oct 30

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Circulate | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note & Return | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action | <input type="checkbox"/> As Requested |

REMARKS:

Here's letter from that parent in Dodd County

G-705 (Rev. 7/73)

File - See

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STEVE DAILY COMMENTARY

Monday, September 24, 1973

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Art Barker is not your ordinary politician. In fact, Art Barker is no politician at all. And that's why he's having to move the Seed program out of Dade County. Art Barker is his own man. The Seed is his own program. It's a successful program. Therefore, it seems as if most people who feed at the public trough distrust it. But then, we who knew about the Seed three and four years ago knew full well, that if the politicians tried to get their hands into it, it would cause trouble for a very successful drug-abuse program. More, after this from the Southeast Banks. (Spot.)

Art Barker ran a very successful drug-kicking program in Broward County for several years before it became known in Dade County. But his methods are unique ... and reflect Art Barker himself. And that's exactly his trouble. When people like Ed Swan, Al Sepe, Ben Shepard and George Baumgartner began to plug at the County Commission and the School Board for bringing the Seed to Dade County, I got that little knot of fear in my belly that warns you of impending doom. Then, Fred Francis did a television special on the Seed and Ellis Berger did a newspaper series. The Seed was sold. Provided, that is, that Barker knuckled under to the Dade County Government and also let in some outside advisors. That wasn't going to work, and everyone knew it. Mainly Barker and his "Seedlings." Governments, for some reason, cannot get just a little bit involved in anything. Successful or not. They insist on budgetary control ... and, inevitably, policy-control. Well, Barker's approach to drug-abuse-treatment doesn't lend itself to either one of those. His program involves kids, parents, ridicule, love and commitment. Not inventoried substitute drugs and regimented appointments with a shrink or quasi-shrinks. Barker believes you can trust someone enough to let him outside to work, provided they commit to come back to a certain

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amount of hours a week to work in the Seed. He figures getting a kid's head on straight is far more important than substituting drugs or filling red tape budgetary forms at the courthouse. This approach confuses the politicians and the questionable records-keepers at a dozen or so of Dade County's 30-odd other drug abuse centers. All of which depend heavily on the government subsidy. In fact, drug-abuse centers have become such big business on a competitive basis in Dade County that, recently, one sued another to get its clients back! They love that government subsidy.

But, you'd think that the primary aim of a drug abuse program would be to cure addicts and experimenters, wouldn't you? Well, that's the way Art Barker feels, too. He doesn't want to have to explain all the time to people who don't understand what he's talking about anyway. Therefore, a lot of people don't trust him, like we said. It's too bad, too, because ninety-nine percent of the criticism of the Seed and Art Barker comes from people who simply can't believe that his system works. But it does. And its loss to Dade County is a crying shame on those who talk out of both sides of their mouths about treating victims of drugs. Like we said a couple of years ago, when Barker and the Seed were considering coming here: politics and drug treatment just don't mix.

Studio Announcer: The opinions expressed by Mr. Daily are his own and not necessarily those of the Management of WVCG or its sponsors.



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STEVE DAILY COMMENTARY

Tuesday, September 25, 1973

Yesterday, when we commented about Art Barker and the Seed program leaving Dade County, we talked only about the Seed. But perhaps there's some value in looking a little further into the efforts to kick drug-abuse in Dade County. As we mentioned, there are more than thirty such programs. They range from family consultations to "cold turkey" approaches ... and are concerned with drug abuse all the way from the kids who are tentatively experimenting with grass and pills to trying to help the hard-drug addicts. Trouble is, the governments have gotten involved ... and as we keep saying ... you cannot have governments a "little bit" involved in anything. Result in Dade County is that, instead of the dollar contributed to drug abuse going to fight drug abuse, it dwindles to about eighty cents. Because of the bureaucracy which has turned the entire system around, to the detriment of the programs ... and the drug addict. More, after we hear from the First National Bank of Miami. (Commercial)

Time was, way back when hardly anyone wanted to believe we had a drug abuse problem in Dade County ... and this radio station was the only medium talking about or reporting on it, that there were only a very few treatment programs. And what they were were pretty much volunteer outfits who solicited help in the way of money and food and facilities to help drug addicts kick the monkey. 100 cents of the dollars went to treat addicts. Then, one day, it dawned on the community that there were a whole bunch of these programs ... and one frightening number of people in Dade County with drug problems. So, here came the cry: "Something ought to be done." That almost always translates into: "Let the government do something." So, they did.

The way it works now is that a drug-abuse treatment program no longer receives grants-in-aid directly from the Federal Government. They receive federal money by way

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of Tallahassee and the Dade County courthouse. They also do not receive advance operating grants. They receive after-the-fact money. Drug abuse programs must spend the money first, then apply to the governments for reimbursement. This results in several negatives, in my opinion. One is that drug-abuse programs are only getting about 80% of the allocated money ... when they get it at all. One prominent program I know of is owed no less than \$70,000 by the government. Secondly, drug-abuse programs are having to pay interest on money borrowed against that government money. Third, they are getting bogged down in administrative costs ... again to the detriment of the addict ... the object of the whole program in the first place. A further result is that too many people badly needed for counseling and helping victims of drug-abuse are wasting their time wading into, through and around governmental bureaucracy. So, while Art Barker and the Seed are getting the publicity over the frustration, there are dozens of other legitimate drug programs facing ... and fighting ... the same problem in Dade County: Government involvement. And there is simply no way around it. When you filter money for any people-oriented program through government agencies ... the filter inevitably consumes more and more of the product. Which, remember, is your money. Too much of which is wasted.

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Seed's Retreat: Kids the Losers

Dade County is going to lose The Seed — unless there is an 11th hour reversal of Seed Director Art Barker's decision to pack up and go back to Broward County.

Barker's somewhat huffy departure makes Seed supporters unhappy, Seed foes quietly glad — but the people who will lose are the hundreds of kids who won't have their problem ended by Barker's mass approach to drugs.

The problem has been that The Seed has never torn loose from a storm of controversy since it came to Dade County. Many sincere people questioned The Seed's method of attacking the drug problem. But much, maybe most, of the opposition to The Seed came from other drug programs.

To put this in perspective, consider: The Seed handles hundreds of young people and claims a 90 per cent cure rate, the other programs involve far fewer people and many of their cure rates are nominal.

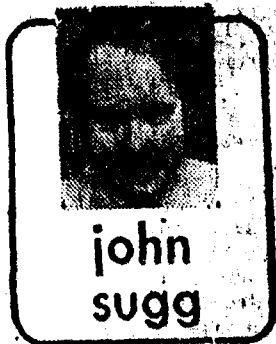
Or: One has to be a little suspicious of the motives of Seed critics. Their criticism often is a self-serving attempt to undercut the highly successful Seed.

Which isn't to say The Seed is faultless. Barker's recent action is typical of his unwillingness to do things other than how he alone feels is right.

Charlie George, an attorney who lives in the Gables, called me up shortly after Barker's announcement of departure. George is an articulate champion of The Seed.

"Art Barker was tired of officials from the other drug programs harassing us," George said. "They have encouraged the county to not let us use Tropical Park."

George also criticized the attempt to create a central intake bureau to decide where people with drug problems would be placed. The Seed enjoys the favor of many judges and officials and it exercises considerable control over the young people in the program. To have a group, probably dominated by other drug programs (i.e. Seed foes), supervise who goes where, would hamstring The Seed.



john
sugg
Editor
Times-Guide

"Also," said George, "Seed opponents have done everything to hamper funding. Dade passed out \$3 million to drug programs and The Seed didn't get a dime."

The explanation given by officials for this situation is that The Seed didn't have a license in Dade when the federal funds were applied for. Which may be a reason, but it does sound a bit thin and spiteful.

The federal funds amount to \$2,000 to \$3,000 per participant. The Seed spends about one-tenth that per individual in its program. So, it would seem that a little money sent to The Seed would have been more productive — especially considering The Seed's claimed success rate. Or, so Seed people say.

I asked George what it would take to get The Seed back in Dade County.

"First," he said, "it would take getting off The Seed's back. Then we want to be provided a facility and equal treatment with respect to funds."

Actually, the whole thing stands pretty much where it did months ago — except that there are no Seedlings at Tropical Park. The Seed wants virtual autonomy and the financial benefits enjoyed by other drug programs. Seed critics want either to alleviate what they perceive as errors or, in some cases, they want to "control" The Seed to the point where it no longer threatens their balliwicks.

Barker's move out of Dade is seen as an attempt to club the county into submission. Critics say that he is hoping popular support of The Seed will reach such a crescendo that officials will be forced to bow to Barker's demands.

There doesn't seem to be a way out without one side capitulating. Although it may fall on deaf ears, I'll rephrase what this newspaper advocated months ago.

You can't argue with success and The Seed is successful. The other drug programs in Dade and the state should recognize that fact and study those elements that make the Seed successful. The Seed treats almost as many Dade young people as all the other programs combined.

However, The Seed has to learn that it is dealing with the public. Its lack of professionals, uncooperative spirit, controversial methods, and, most of all, belief that it is the best judge of its own actions — these only give Seed critics fuel.

Recognizing that the fight against drugs must take many forms, and accepting comment, criticism and help, would bring The Seed what it wants: Facilities, funds and the silencing of sour-grape critics.

