

Boyle Defends Teen Ager Despite Backroom Habits

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK — (AP) — The problem for today seems to be to see what the high school boys in the back of the classroom are having — heroin or algebra?

The question is being explored in a state inquiry into student dope peddling in the schools here.

The inquiry has put back on trial my favorite hero of our times — the teen-ager. Well, is he a little saint or a young monster? Many people across America will take the inquiry as evidence in support of their belief he is a brash brat, afflicted with vices unknown to his elders when they were young.

The situation admittedly is shocking. The city school superintendent has said he would accept police estimates that 1,500 high school students here are possible users of narcotics.

But there are 300,000 students here. That means only one out of 200 has puffed the marijuana cigarette or sniffed heroin. The other 199 appear to be able to suffer algebra without the aid of a hypodermic needle.

None of the reported 1,500 young victims is accused of inventing heroin or importing it. They got it from grownup peddlers—former teen agers themselves presumably—and they were inducted into addiction by these grownups. If the problem had rounded up these grownups earlier, there wouldn't be the present problem among the young.

Recently I wrote a defense of the teen ager. It brought a lot of mail, pro and con. Today I'd like to present a defense of my defense of the teen ager, still the best kid in history.

Let's hear from a teen ager—seventeen-year-old Ruth Ellnor Howell of Marysville, Wash.:

"When I hear people bemoaning the state of today's youth," she wrote, "I always wonder if they have thought just who made us what we are. Who promotes all the things to tempt teen agers? Not us—it's the adults."

"I for one have never known a day when our world was not in strife, either major or minor. We teen agers aren't allowed to criticize the adults of today for their poor management. Yet we are expected to save the country from disaster by giving our lives in warfare."

"If we had our way, there wouldn't be any warfare unless the adults did the fighting. It isn't fair for adults to start a war and expect youth to fight and win it."

"So to the adults of today I say: Don't criticize us—criticize yourselves. We're watching you closely and honestly trying to do our best. Can we help it if your examples for us are no better than they are?"

The defense rests.

Neon was discovered back at the turn of the century by Sir William Ramsay while he was distilling liquid air.

Soldier's Heroic Death Earns Medal Of Honor

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Medal of Honor has been awarded posthumously to Sgt. George D. Libby, who used his body to shield his comrades from enemy bullets while evacuating wounded through a Communist cordon.

Libby was an army combat engineer from Casco, Me.

This is the official account of the deed that won his nation's highest award for heroism:

Libby had loaded some wounded soldiers onto a B-5 artillery tractor, near Taejon, Korea, last July 20.

The tractor sped through Communist road blocks. Libby stood between the driver and the enemy,

absorbing round after round of bullets. Even after he was too weak to fire, he held his body erect beside the driver. Libby died, but the tractor got safely through the lines.

When he died, Sgt. Libby was 31 years of age.

Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, will present the medal at the Pentagon on June 21 to Libby's sister, Mrs. Gladys Hillert of Linden, N. J.

The metal columbium was isolated by a British scientist in 1801 from a shipment of ores from New England.

Marriage Career Fails, Gives Baseball Tryout

BUFFALO, N. Y. — (AP) — Howard Kriegbaum, 26, has tried marriage. Now he wants to try professional baseball, his first love.

Kriegbaum was granted an annulment on grounds that his wife, Joan, refused to have children.

He testified that she also refused to let him try out with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds when he received offers from the two clubs in 1948.

"I've decided to go back and try for a baseball career," he commented.

Willie WATT



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