

Black Newspaper Publishers Condemn Attempts to Ban Tobacco Advertising

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nation's principal organization of black newspaper publishers has condemned recent proposals that tobacco advertising be banned in the print media.

The 165-member National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) termed such efforts "an infringement upon first amendment rights," and the publishers described themselves as firmly committed to "the enforcement of all constitutional rights."

In a resolution approved in principle by the membership in January and made public recently, the black newspaper publishers argued that smoking issues should be addressed through "increased education and not by the elimination of advertising in newspapers and other publications."

In addition, the resolution said "to-

bacco products have already been banned from radio and television advertising without any appreciable reduction in sales."

The American Medical Association's (AMA) recent call for a Federal ban on tobacco advertising in all media had been the object of considerable discussion during the NNPA's recent Mid-Winter Workshop.

Christopher H. Bennett, President of the NNPA and publisher of "The Seattle Medium," appointed a special committee to prepare a resolution that would express the concerns of the publishers about proposals to ban tobacco advertising.

The resolution said: "The production of tobacco in the United States is legal and the manufacture and sale of tobacco products are legal. Products that can be legally sold in our society

are entitled to be legally advertised."

Founded in 1940, the NNPA's membership comes, for the most part, from the larger of the nation's more than 400 black, weekly newspapers. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Association functions to keep its membership up to date on a variety of industry matters, including marketing techniques and printing technology. It functions, as well, to provide the publishers with a network for the exchange of ideas.

Since the founding in 1827 of "Freedom's Journal," an anti-slavery publication, black-owned newspapers have played a significant role in the struggle of American blacks for equal rights in the U.S. Black newspapers have been consistently praised within the black community for their leadership role in helping to end discrimination in America.

Teen Health Clinic Continues in Controversy

by Bob Lothian

Controversy surrounds the new teen health clinic at Roosevelt High School.

At a hearing in the Portland Building last week, irate parents and others opposed to the birth control services available at the clinic demanded that the clinic's continued existence be put to a vote.

Several parents charged that the clinic was started by the county without their approval. They worried that their children would become sexually promiscuous by being able to use the family planning services available at the clinic without parental permission.

"It is a question of having immorality imposed on my child," said Wayne Lund, a member of the board of deacons of the Neighborhood Church.

"You shoved this thing down my throat," said Richard Spady, a Roosevelt parent.

Herman Petrick, father of four children at Roosevelt, and a member of a group called Citizens for Parental Rights, testified that students had told him they were being pressured to use the clinic by administrators and teachers. Petrick said he was against only the family planning aspect of the clinic, and he asked that it be suspended.

"If you guys really cared about what you said, you'd put it to the voters," Petrick told a panel made up of school board members. Portland School Superintendent Matthew Prophet and Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury.

After Petrick's emotional testimony spurred many in the audience to shout, "Vote!" "Vote!" "Vote!" chairwoman Kafoury called a recess.

The Roosevelt clinic provides family planning counseling and writes prescriptions for birth control pills, diaphragms, and contraceptive foam, in addition to providing comprehensive health care for students, said clinic coordinator Susan Imbrie, RN. The prescriptions can be obtained without parental permission and must be filled at a pharmacy, not at the clinic, she said. Imbrie added that birth control services made up only 6% of the clinic's caseload during its first two months of operation.

Testimony in favor of the clinic referred to the valuable role such clinics in other states have played in reducing teen pregnancies and keeping students in school.

State Health Administrator Kristine Gebbie said that the clinic is valuable if it helps children stay in school and avoid welfare, drug dependency and crime. "Making family planning available to these kids is not going to introduce them to sex, but it may reduce the number of teen pregnancies," Gebbie said.

Paul Erickson, a member of the Metropolitan Youth Commission, reported that a similar clinic which has been in operation in St. Paul, Minn. for 15 years, has dramatically reduced teen pregnancies, "by perhaps as much as two-thirds over time," he said. "This commission applauds your efforts to establish the Teen Health Clinic at Roosevelt High School," Erickson said.

"The schools can help," added Dr. Charles Schade, Multnomah County health officer.

According to information provided by the county, one reason Roosevelt was picked for the clinic is the relatively high incidence of teen pregnancies in the area. In 1984, there were 176 births to teenagers 18 years old and younger in the Roosevelt area, about 21% of countywide teen births. Roosevelt is located in the St. Johns area of North Portland, at 6941 N. Central St.

Imbrie, school administrators and students interviewed last week thought the clinic was serving a useful function, but that the issue was getting blown out of proportion in the press.

Smoking, drugs and alcohol abuse are greater problems than teen pregnancy, according to Imbrie, who added that the clinic provides comprehensive health care for respiratory infections, injuries, and other "normal" health problems. Imbrie has

started a weight loss group, a stop smoking group and a stress reduction group for students, she said.

"I think it helps because if girls don't get pregnant then they aren't going to drop out of school," said Roosevelt 9th grader Charnell Roberts. "It's not making students more sexually active, it's just making them wiser about what they do," said senior Scott Brooke. Tenth grader Mike Moon said he liked the clinic because he can have his athletic physical examinations there for free.

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children, 31 great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren. Above the Winchesters are shown with their youngest great great grandson, five-month-old Joshua Bradford.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Symposium Eyes Nuclear Proliferation

Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield will be the featured speaker at the breakfast session of a day-long symposium on the global spread of nuclear weapons Tuesday, April 1, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Mt. Hood Community College Town and Gown Room.

Hatfield will address nuclear proliferation and other national security issues during his one-hour speech from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., following the presentation of a half-hour film, "The Other Nuclear Arms Race."

Sponsored by the Roosevelt Center for American Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., the symposium is one of a dozen nationwide April 1

events that will inaugurate the center's Wildfire month, promoting community-based education on nuclear proliferation.

Noon and evening sessions of the MHCC symposium will begin at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., respectively. The noon session will feature Earl A. Molander, an associate professor of business at Portland State University and the executive director of the Ground Zero Resource Center, who will lecture on the international black market in nuclear materials. Molander's talk will be preceded by a reshooting of "The Other Nuclear Arms Race."

The evening session will be highlighted by community participation in Wildfire, a role-playing game. The game puts participants on country teams in the midst of a proliferation crisis involving the United States, Russia, China, Pakistan and India.

The symposium will conclude with a dialog from 8 to 9 p.m. on key policy questions inherent in the proliferation issue. There will be a \$2.50 charge for those attending the breakfast session; other sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the MHCC Office of College Advancement at 667-7204.

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