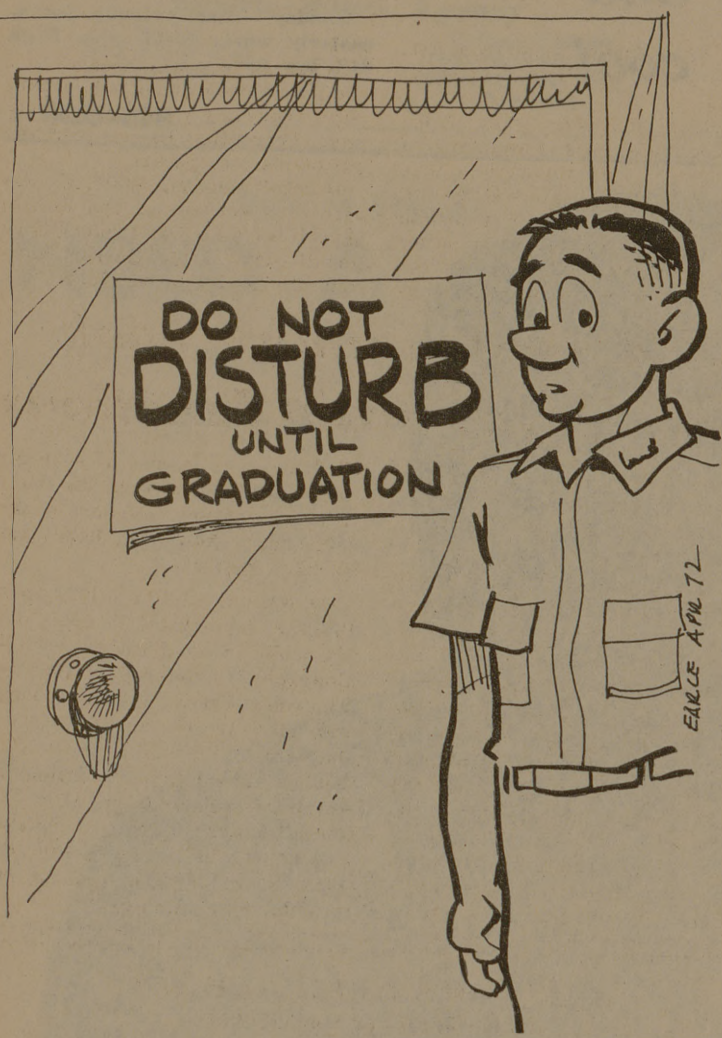


CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I hate graduating seniors!"

Legal heroin a working system for British government, addicts

LONDON (AP) — A heroin addict who mistimed his last dose walked into a London clinic, twitching.

"You look awful," a doctor said. Then he handed out a legal narcotics prescription under the tax-subsidized National Health Program.

Once again a junkie had turned up just for another fix that could eventually kill him, rejecting the chance for free withdrawal treatment at a government hospital.

But at least there was no need for him to turn to crimes of violence to raise money for illegal drugs. And with legal narcotics available, there was less profit incentive for gangsters to start mass blackmarket operations here.

He was taking advantage of Britain's system of treating addicts as patients rather than as criminals, a practice once denounced by former U. S. Atty Gen. John W. Mitchell as "the surrender approach."

There's a big question whether the British system could work in the United States, but evidence accumulates that it works tolerably well here, following some key revisions.

The number of addicts known to the government is declining. Perhaps more important, it is declining among the younger age groups.

Britain's drug situation pales by comparison to the U. S. problem. At its peak there were probably fewer than 4,000 addicts in this nation of 55 million, against perhaps 200,000 in New York City alone.

But the British addiction rate

grew alarmingly over the past decade, calling the whole system into question and forcing some major changes.

The system was riddled with abuse. Rogue physicians privately overprescribed for registered addicts, who then sold their surplus to pay the rent or buy food, sometimes hooking a new young junkie.

A new law in 1968 limited the legal prescription of narcotics to government-run clinics. By 1969 the number of known addicts on hard drugs had dropped.

Part of the drop was due to a change in the method of recording addicts. The new system, in effect a census taken on the last day of the year, eliminated from that year's figures those addicts who had died, given up drugs, left the country or for any other reason had been deregistered. Previously these categories were listed as known addicts.

Abuses continued under the new system, often because hard-pressed doctors in National Health hospitals lacked the time or training to deal with addicts.

In the early days of the clinic system doctors were known to prescribe drugs for a new addict without even checking his arm for needle marks. An addict could give a urine sample to a "straight" friend, who could then qualify for drug prescriptions. By and large such abuses are dwindling.

"They're getting craftier at the clinics," an addict says. "In the beginning you could get a prescription just by shooting water in your veins."

"Clinics have to walk a tight-

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was being a front-runner without knowing how to run like one that scuttled Edmund S. Muskie, more than the public tears and fiery temper.

He became the front-runner, and consequently everybody's target, extremely early. And right up to his withdrawal Thursday from competition in the primaries among Democratic presidential contenders he hadn't really learned how to defend himself, much less mount an offensive.

The gut of the problem seemed to be the manner in which Mus-

Refrigerators

(Continued from page 1) when returned to avoid being fined.

The day designated for each dorm is the only day and students will be fined one dollar for each additional day the refrigerators are kept out.

If the units are not returned by May 4, students will forfeit their deposit and the refrigerators will be collected from the students' rooms.

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If the assigned day is missed, units must be taken to the laundry substation at the hospital. The number of the office is 845-6342.

kie, a Maine senator, became No. 1 among the hopefuls. It was one of those sudden strokes of good luck when he was picked to speak for the Democratic side on national television on election eve, 1970.

Muskie's calm talk from an easy chair before a stone fireplace in a rustic New England setting contrasted strongly with the fire and brimstone speech by President Nixon which the Republicans chose to show.

Many Democrats who survived that particularly frightful election thanked Muskie for it, and he at once became the image of what the Democrats wanted to put up against Nixon, a calm voice, a steady hand, a healer.

But right off Nixon pulled a fast one on him and changed his own style. White House rhetoric was lowered and the whole Republican strategy for 1972 became an effort to project Nixon as a dignified president in the midst of scrapping Democrats.

Then at the same time the other Democrats did get into it, and Muskie had to run against them. He never quite made that adjustment. To the end he was still campaigning against Nixon, not Humphrey or McGovern.

Add to this the fact that Muskie's campaign seemed at times to have an absolute proclivity to-

ward ineptness at all the wrong times and his ultimate fate seems inevitable.

The most obvious conclusion observers jumped to in New Hampshire was that the tearful scene in front of the Manchester Union Leader in which Muskie denounced publisher William Loeb as a "gutless coward" was the candidate's undoing.

The real crumbling of the Muskie citadel must be attributed to some basic weaknesses which could have killed anybody's campaign:

—Muskie was spread too thin, and he cited this in his announcement Thursday.

—Muskie never had the kind of professional organization at all levels which it takes to make a president.

—Indecision caused a big image problem for Muskie because his campaign bureaucracy never developed the capacity for instant political decision.

—Muskie never developed a constituency.

—Muskie said in dropping from the active running that a lack of money forced the decision.

Muskie is down but by no means dead. He has said all along that his problem was being everybody's second choice while they voted first choice for others in the primaries.

My vote for Governor will go to BRISCOE, a man Texans can trust!

PAUL MILLER PD. POL. AD.

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