

Most offenders are teenagers

Drug sales a 'cottage industry'

"What do you think about selling Black people death?"
"If I didn't do it, somebody else would."

Tony Batten, executive producer-host of the new public television series "F.Y.I. (For Your Information)," quotes this exchange with a teenage drug salesman in New York City. Batten spent a week in October filming in New York for the second "F.Y.I." special, "Drugs in America," airing nationally over PBS Wednesday. In Bryan-College Station it will be shown at 7 p.m. on KAMU-TV, channel 15.

The WETA-WASHINGTON, D.C. producer came away with the conviction that "We are losing the war against narcotics" and that only federal interventions can possibly check the spread of drug-related devastation.

Where once the drug traffic may have been centrally controlled by organized crime, Batten said, those days are past. "Now what's happening is much more scary — There is no control of heroin importation. People from poor communities are making their own kinds of connections. Narcotics trafficking has become a kind of cottage industry."

Moreover, he predicts the spread of the epidemic from poor Black communities to middle class white neighborhoods. At an open-air drug market in Harlem, the "F.Y.I." crew saw purchases made from cars with New Jersey license plates.

In an area of Harlem that he de-

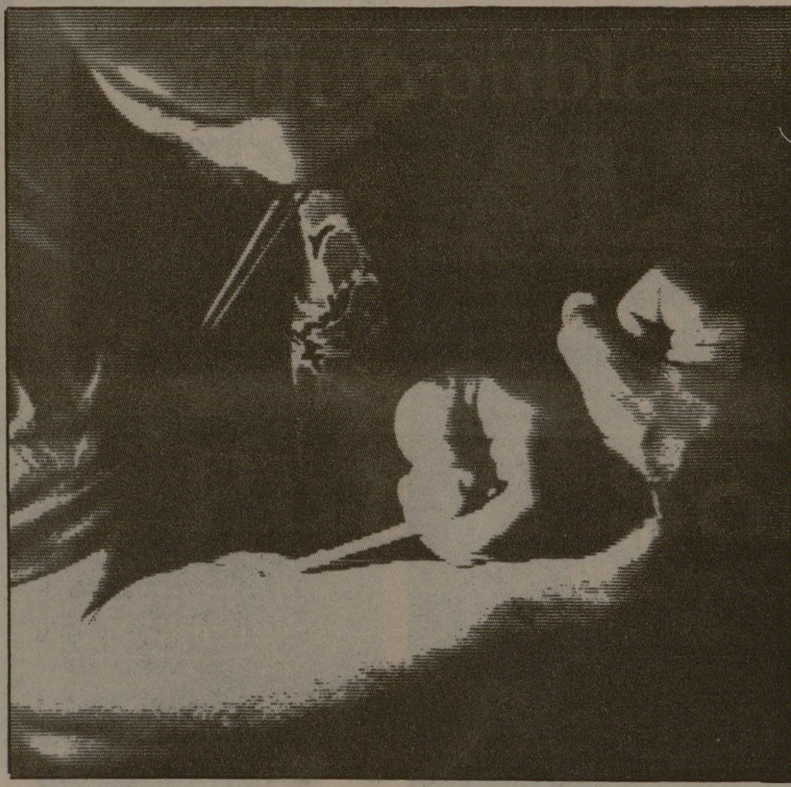
scribed as looking "bombed-out... like Hamburg in 1949," Batten was surrounded by people attracted by his film apparatus. Once they were convinced that the "F.Y.I." crew was no threat to them, they began to talk.

"What they asked for mostly was jobs," Batten said. They talked about lack of education and lack of housing. "But more importantly what they talked about was the fact that this kind of condition wouldn't exist if the federal government really took a stand and said, 'Hey, we need these people; these people are available to us and we ought to try to save them.'"

But only an all out effort to dry up drug supplies at the source can be effective, Batten believes — perhaps something similar to Nixon's payments to Turkey to stop growing opium. But by the time drugs reach the streets of Harlem, he says, the effort to stamp out sales is almost hopeless.

"I saw dozens and dozens of people involved in drug trafficking while uniformed policemen, sometimes three or four at a time, stood on a corner and did nothing. . . Low-level street traffic just goes on unbothered."

Young teenagers — 12, 13, 14 years old — know that "even if they get busted, the cost-effectiveness of a year in jail for them, if they're making \$5,000 or \$6,000 a week, is nothing. They can do a year in jail on their heads — and get back out and go back into the business," he said.



Are we losing the war against narcotics? A television show on KAMU-TV, Channel 15, tonight at 7 will take a close look at the use and abuse of drugs in America. Courtesy photo

Sadat seeks deadlock end

United Press International

President Anwar Sadat is sending his prime minister to Washington with a letter to President Carter in an attempt to break the peace talks deadlock.

An Israeli newspaper speculated that a U.S. request for economic growth forecasts on the West Bank was in preparation to give aid to what could be a Palestinian entity. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv called the report nonsense.

Syrian authorities have ordered a ban on trade with Egypt as part of the measures ordered at last month's Baghdad summit to counter Sadat's initiative with Israel, the newspaper Al Thawra said Tuesday in Damascus.

U.S. officials in Washington said Sadat's letter will allow the deadlocked Egyptian-Israeli peace talks to resume by the weekend.

In Cairo, Sadat, forging ahead with development plans, issued a decree Tuesday dividing the Sinai desert into two zones and appointing two army generals to run the areas. Egypt will get the Sinai back as part of the treaty with Israel.

The division of Sinai into two administrative zones is part of government efforts to devote greater attention to the greening and exploita-

tion of the desert after the Israeli pullout.

The appointments of the two generals were part of a reshuffle of provincial governors. Maj. Gen. Mohammed Hussein Shawkat was appointed governor of northern Sinai and Maj. Gen. Farid Ezzat Wahba of southern Sinai.

In Tel Aviv, a request by the U.S. Embassy for economic growth forecasts in Israeli occupied territories up to 1990 touched off speculation by the paper Yedioth Ahronoth that the information was to be used for granting aid to the region when it becomes autonomous.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman called it "nonsense."

Israeli observers said the speculation was part of the fears about what peace with Egypt would bring — a theme that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman had touched on in explaining Israeli touchiness over every development.

In Jerusalem, government sources said Tuesday Israel was also worried about Egypt's support of a U.N. resolution calling for an arms embargo against the Jewish state.

"This is not in the spirit of the Camp David accords but we haven't signed anything with Egypt yet," one source said.

Clements claims Carter in trouble

United Press International

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Governor-elect Bill Clements, the first Republican to be elected governor of Texas in a century, says President Carter is in trouble in Texas and ready to be upset.

Clements, in Virginia for the Republican Governors Association winter meeting, told a news conference Monday there are a couple of Republicans from his home state who would measure up to the task — former governor John Connally and former CIA chief George Bush.

"The President only has a 26 percent favorability rating in my state," Clements said. "He was in trouble before I was elected — and he's in

more trouble now."

Other Republican possibilities are former President Gerald Ford and former California governor Ronald Reagan, he said.

"All four men were active in my campaign, so I won't say which I would prefer," Clements said. "I'm on the horns of four dilemmas."

Asked which candidate would be most likely to win, Clements said, "I didn't come all the way to Williamsburg to put my foot in my mouth. I've carefully avoided that question in Texas."

A wealthy industrialist who once worked the oil fields as a roughneck, Clements, 61, broke the Democratic stronghold on Texas' statehouse

Nov. 7 by defeating state Attorney General John Hill.

Denying that he bought the election by spending \$6 million on the race, Clements said Texas is so large that any political newcomer must spend huge sums to win name recognition.

"It's just not possible to do it any other way. We had to cover 17 dif-

ferent media markets in our giant state," he said.

Clements, refusing to rule out his own candidacy as a favorite son in the 1980 presidential election, said he would be busy learning the ropes as governor.

"I have my work cut out for me just doing my own knitting," he said.

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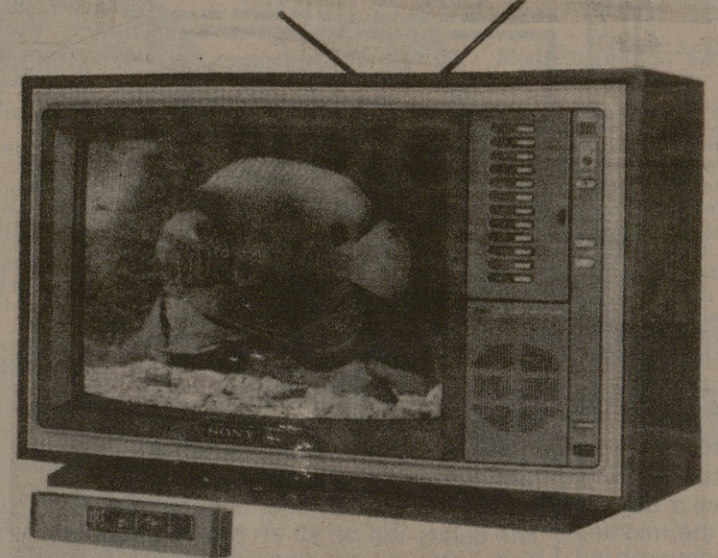
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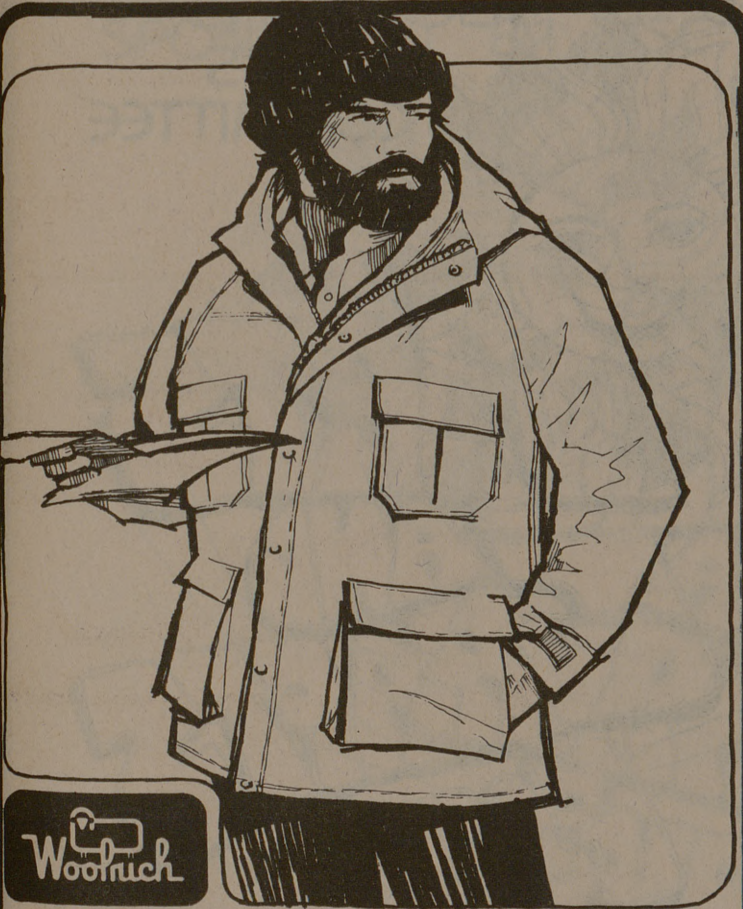


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