

The Capital

Annapolis, Maryland

PUBLISHED BY THE CAPITAL-GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS
AMERICA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

Founded 1727

Now In Our 261st Year

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Our say

Drug task force comes up with worthwhile ideas

EXCLUDING THE fact that six of its 14 recommendations concern drug enforcement, Mayor Dennis Callahan's Task Force for the Prevention of Substance Abuse has done a credible job. The all-volunteer group studiously spent countless hours, meeting weekly, gathering testimony and evidence from many sources.

After its hard work, the question remains, will Callahan and the City Council listen?

First, our concerns about the task force's 32-page report to Callahan. The task force spent an inordinate amount of time researching and reporting on plans for interdiction.

The task force took a tough stance opposing decriminalization of drugs, yet its own evidence indicated that legal crackdowns on drugs did little to prevent drug abuse. Its basic conclusions were that city and county police are doing the best job they can, but the courts must deal more harshly with drug dealers and city residents must know and use the police hot line numbers.

These are points that many people agree with, but education and prevention, as the task force itself agrees, are the best ways to prevent drug abuse.

To its credit, the task force advocated a strong, organized mandatory education curriculum on drugs starting in third grade. It also advocated that county public school teachers receive ongoing in-service drug education. The last time teachers received such training was in 1981, which the task force claims, and rightly so, is inadequate.

Particularly appealing is the creation of a city drug advisory council and a professional manager. Importantly, neither the council nor the manager would be responsible for offering drug prevention programs. The ideas would come from the community leaders or groups.

The drug council, as envisioned by the task force, would review programs proposed by grassroots groups or neighborhood councils and recommend whether the city should apply for grant money. The manager would help apply for state or federal grants, monitor long-term programs and coordinate efforts with other public agencies.

The task force correctly recognized that Annapolis should not duplicate county efforts, and recommended that the drug council prevent overlapping.

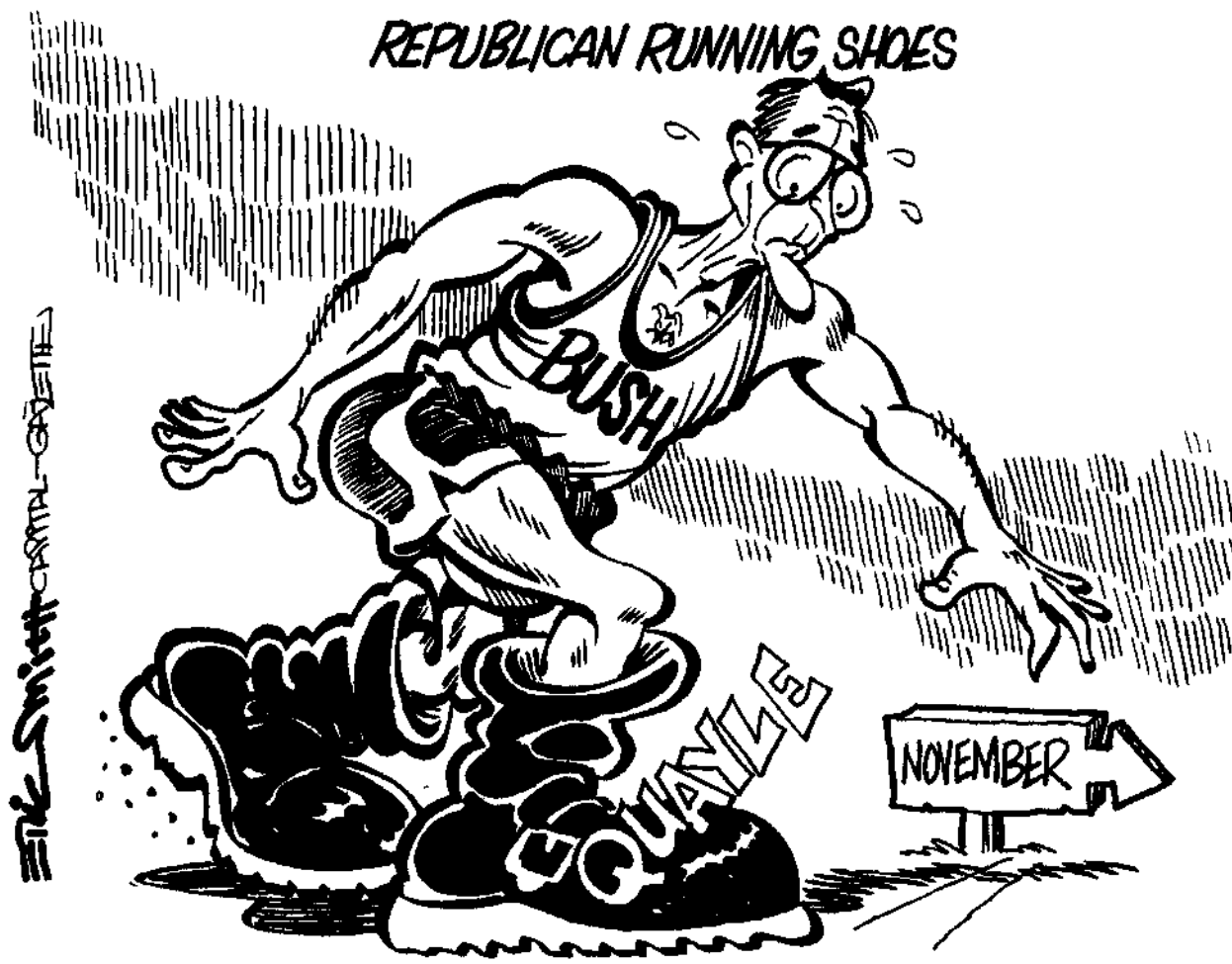
The next step is the toughest one, and will determine whether the task force's efforts are in vain. Clearly, the drug advisory council could become a political football for a mayor who is running for re-election on an anti-drug platform.

We are also leery about creating another administrator who reports directly to the mayor. Callahan's circle of paid help has more than doubled from three to eight during his short tenure.

Callahan and the council need to the \$100,000 already allocated to the task to support drug prevention programs at the local level. Then it must form the drug advisory council with clear goals to pursue with the aid of a professional manager who has the authority to appoint his staff.

After that, the politicians should just step back and let the good work begin.

REPUBLICAN RUNNING SHOES



The ruining of identity

Who is the real Quayle?

Why is this man smiling, this man in the Indianapolis Colts V-neck sweater, faded slacks and ancient sneakers? Yes, he has spent a pleasant Sunday with his children. But it is dusk and another week of bear-baiting is about to begin, with him cast as the bear? So why is Dan Quayle sipping 7-Up, not something more fortifying?

He is a human eye of a hurricane, preternaturally tranquil. But elsewhere this has been just another manic Sunday.

The newspapers are full of stories about how Quayle is Dukakis' last, best hope. On a morning interview program he has been compared, not for the first or even just the 101st time, to Bob Forehead, an airhead congressman in a comic strip.

On the same program there was comment on a Vanity Fair magazine article quoting a former classmate of Quayle remembering Quayle as a law student.

Quayle and he, said the classmate, saw Robert Redford's movie, "The Candidate," together. Afterwards, over a steak dinner and for 11 hours, they discussed the movie. Quayle, according to the classmate, said he is more handsome than Redford and that with skilled packaging, he, Quayle, could go far in politics.



George Will

Quayle says the story, like much written about him, is rubbish. He did not see the movie until years later, a few weeks before he won election to the Senate.

Does the constant drizzle of criticism, to which I have contributed, bother him? "Sure it does, but these people do not know me." But actually what bothers many, like me, who know Quayle, and know him to be better than he has seemed, is that he seems to have passively allowed himself to be putty in the hands of handlers.

The Quayle of the campaign trail and the debate with Bentsen is not the Quayle of the armed services committee on the Senate floor during the INF Treaty ratification.

Regarding direction from the top of the ticket, a running mate's duty is clear: take direction. But the diminution of Dan Quayle has been accentuated by the operatives in the Bush campaign.

Quayle is weary of the "handwringers" in the Bush campaign and has told his wife, Marilyn, "We're just going to have fun these last four weeks." Too much fun has been wrung from politics by handlers who snuff out a candidate's confidence.

Politics is like a sport in that a politician, like an athlete, needs room for the spontaneous, instinctive action that is a sign of confidence. The Bush campaign, after being terrified in New Orleans, surrounded Quayle with hordes of hired guns, like a piece of glass packed in styrofoam peanuts. This is a good way to convince the candidate, and the public, that he is fragile.

A vignette: Wednesday evening, New Orleans convention. The press is baying in pursuit of Quayle concerning the National Guard. Jim Baker, Bush's head handler, is in ABC's anchor booth with David Brinkley and Peter Jennings, waiting to be interviewed. ABC's cameras are covering Quayle's arrival at the Superdome. Baker, off camera, tells Brinkley and Jennings that when Quayle walks past the waiting journalists, he will say... and Baker recites virtually syllable for syllable what Quayle does say moments later. The pupil on the short leash gets a gold star.

Handlers relish the role of intermediaries between the candidates and reality, meaning the media. Candidates fade into the wallpaper as handlers and journalists feed each other's self-esteem, the handlers handing out bits of inside baseball, the journalists interpreting these nuances which attest the cleverness of the handlers. Journalists have privileged insight into the working of the little motor of history, and the handlers are portrayed as the rubber bands that make the motor whir.

If this is Tuesday, this must be Toledo, and if this is 1988, this must be Quayle's plane. However, four years from now, just as four years ago, the candidates will be different (they are almost dispensible), but the permanent part of the process, the handlers and the media, will be back at the same stand, doing business together.

Quayle anticipates a Bush victory and time for "rehabilitation" (his word). But for now the nagging question is: Did his campaign have to be so diminishing? Could he have done worse if, instead of being handed over to rented handlers who are not inclined to respect the people who rent them, he had been sent out to be more than an echo of Bush's dismal campaign for the office of national sheriff?

When on his own in the Senate (where he does not employ a speechwriter), he has shown more mastery than Bush has of arms control and other national-security matters. But instead of allowing us to hear the best of him, he has been sent baying after Dukakis in the Bush-league manner, "helped" by handlers who have taken too much to heart a famous movie — no, not "The Candidate." "The Manchurian Candidate."

The CAPITAL (ISSN 1284-720) is published daily including Sunday by CAPITAL-GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS, 2000 CAPITAL DRIVE, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401. Second-Class Post Office: ANNAPOLIS, MD. Postmaster: Please send address changes to THE CAPITAL, P.O. Box 911, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21404. Classified Advertising: Call Direct, 535-7000. Advertising: Call 535-7000. Circulation: Call 535-7000. Second-Class postage paid at Annapolis, MD.

Readers' views

Snowden thanked

Sir: This letter was originally sent to Alderman Carl O. Snowden.

Thank you for your very kind recommendation on behalf of Warren B. Duckett, Jr. You know by now that I have appointed him to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Your support and that of many others in the community played a major part in my decision.

Without question, Warren brings eminent expertise and experience to his new office. His record of service to the profession, and to the community is one we both admire and respect. He has a special dedication to public service, and I believe the people of the county will be well served by the knowledge, diligence and good temperament he will bring to the court.

It was a pleasure for me to be able to select Warren for appointment, and I thank you once again for taking the time to express your support.

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER
governor

Teen-age drinking problem

Sir: I believe there is a real problem with teen-age drinking. As a teen-ager I go to parties and see people throwing up or passed out by 9 p.m. The main reason for this mishap is that alcohol is too easy to get. Liquor stores accept almost any type of identification, as long as it says you are 21. The government made the drinking age 21 because they don't believe people under this age can drink responsibly.

Many kids go out and drink a few beers with their friends then get in their cars and drive home. Drinking and driving is becoming one of the main causes of accidents these days. Everyone seems to say that they can handle it, until it comes

time to prove it.

One way to stop the sale of alcohol to minors is to enforce tougher laws on places that sell it. Tell them they will be fined or even put in jail for selling to underaged kids. Anyone drinking and driving should be penalized greatly too.

Even though our DWI laws have been cracked down upon, it was only after many accidents and deaths did they decide to take action. People should be informed that the laws are being enforced more severely than before. This way you can stop those daring the law because they aren't sure of their punishment.

HEATHER MAYR
Sherwood Forest

Half truths

Sir: On Sept. 20 staff writer Scott Harper wrote an article regarding Arundel on the Bay that reflects adversely on the community and maligns the integrity of its officers. His article was based on information supplied to him by a small group of malcontents. It is fraught with half truths, no truths and distortions.

Petition signers, in some instances, were individuals who have never attended an association meeting. As a result they and new residents are unfamiliar with the history of the erection of barriers at two sites. Some residents of the community were not petitioned.

At one site, a barrier was erected after a resident's home was torched in 1980 and vandals "chainsawed" the wooden bulkhead to facilitate landing fish. The other was installed to relieve the virtual terrorization of another resident by outsiders fishing and engaging in illicit activities. Both areas have been relatively trouble-

free since these actions.

The most damaging statement refers to the use of tax money "to erect steel bars" which is absolutely false. This sends the wrong signal to taxpayers implying misappropriation of tax funds. The barriers were erected at no cost to the association.

Pertaining to security, Phelps protective services provided security weekends and holidays, May 28 through Sept. 11. This encompasses the vacation season, fishing season and major holidays.

The planning and development committee evaluated the petition. They recommended retention of the barriers because they were serving the purpose for which intended, prohibition of vehicular traffic. The association approved their recommendation at the July meeting. Pedestrian access is available to the water on all street ends.

I invited reporter Harper to a personally conducted tour of the community to point out discrepancies, but he declined. The offer is still open.

JAMES C. SPEARMAN, chairman
Board of Directors
Arundel on the Bay

Another work

Sir: My compliments to Eric Smith for a fascinating search for literary Annapolis. He did, however, miss one reference, albeit not a flattering one, in a major 20th. century work: "The Man Who Loved Children" by Christina Stead. Although the town does not play a major part in this novel published in 1940, the work does throw some light on how Annapolis was perceived, at least by some, about 50 years ago:

"The despised Eastport was considered to be altogether unmarketable the town was progressing towards the west where the high school stands, with modern bungalows and new highways. The officers at the Naval Academy were soon to be taken out of their apartments in private houses in the town and housed in special buildings, and government and state officials from Baltimore were to be moved down here into special new buildings. The old town around the Academy was dying. People were dubious about the fate of St. John's College, and the old part of the town could look for nothing but visitors in June Week, visitors for the August fishing festival, and a possible revival in wartime."

FRANK B. MOORMAN
Annapolis

Letters continued on Page A9

Quayle's dad ought to check his wallet

A lady at the Huntington Herald-Press newspaper said publisher Jim Quayle was no longer giving interviews.

Apparently Mr. Quayle was tired of answering questions about his son Dan and how the lad got into the Indiana National Guard during the Vietnam War.

That was unfortunate, since I was calling in hopes of doing a favor for Dan's dad.

Being a newborn Republican, I was hoping to save him and his son from possible harassment by the jackals of the media.

As we all know, these are dangerous times for people who are card-carrying members. You ask: members of what? Well, who knows? Right now the focus is on card-carrying members of the ACLU, the most notorious of whom is Michael Dukakis.

But that could change. Who knows what evil old cards lurk in the wallets of men?

We shove something in our wallet, forget about it, and then someday someone might point at us and say: "You are a card-carrying member of the PTA." Or: "You are a card-carrying member of a library."

And that's what I wanted to talk to Jim Quayle about. I was going to suggest that he look through his wallet and make sure he wasn't carrying any old cards that could be embarrassing to him or his splendid son.

The card I had in mind was one for the John Birch Society.

It's a fact that Dan's dad used to be a card-carrying member of this organization, which was once viewed by its critics as the wackiest of the right-wing wackies.

According to news accounts, the elder Quayle was proud of his membership and



Mike Royko

cherished the memory of a meeting he once had with Robert Welch, the rich candymaker who founded the Birch Society.

You don't hear much about the Birch Society anymore, although it still exists.

But in its prime, during the 1950s and 1960s, it was the best known right-wing organization in the nation.

It was convinced that communists were everywhere in this country. I mean, the Birchers thought those nasty Red buggers were in our government, our military, the schools, the churches, libraries, hiding under our beds, in our closets and coming down the chimney disguised as Santa. The threat was worse than in the "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" movie.

How bad was it? Well, the commie threat was so terrible that at one point Welch, the Birch leader, warned that President Dwight D. Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the communist conspiracy."

At the time, that was a real shocker, especially to the GIs who served under Ike

when he commanded the Allied Forces against Hitler. And all the Republicans who twice gave him landslide presidential victories. It was even a shock to the communists, who had never thought of Ike as much of a fellow traveler.

Later, Welch sort of changed his tune. He said that he really didn't think Ike was a card-carrying, conscious commie agent. He said Ike was just an unwitting communist tool. In other words, Eisenhower wasn't a subversive. He was just dumb.

Welch has since died, and the membership and influence of the Birch Society has declined. But it's still around, and it still sees commies all over the place.

In fact, you would be shocked if I told you who they consider one of the biggest dupes.

It's Ronald Reagan. Yes, they say he is selling us out by having relations with the Chinese. And they're mad at him for dropping the "evil empire" routine and trying to reduce tensions with the Soviet Union.

Anyway, I tried to do my bit. When I couldn't get through to Jim Quayle, I called his son's staff and asked if Dan's dad was still a card-carrying Birch.

They said, no, he dropped out some years ago, although he was a member when Welch said Ike was playing footsie with the Rooskies.

But if Jim Quayle happens to read this, he ought to go through his wallet and make sure that old Birch card is gone.

There are still a lot of guys who are fond of their old Ike jackets.