

Editorial

How to make your child a dope

For several years, we have warned of the dire consequences of the outcome-based education (OBE) curriculum, which has replaced academic standards with manipulative social work practices, which rely upon encouragement of deviant sexual behavior and brain-washing sessions using transcendental meditation and other hypnotic techniques.

Worst of all has been the deliberate undermining of parental authority by these so-called educators, who have told children to keep secret what is going on in their classrooms. Now we are confronted with a situation in which school authorities are being legally permitted to drug rebellious children into submission to their authority.

Over-worked parents are being coerced into allowing this, with the threat that otherwise their children will be expelled from school. Many times the children are "acting-out" in school, because they lack adequate supervision in the home. There are also children who are merely bored or disgusted with the New Age curriculum being dished out to them, in place of education.

In any event, what are symptoms of a social problem are now being labeled as evidence that children are suffering from a brain disease, for which a chemical remedy is needed. They are being prescribed a dangerous stimulant drug, Ritalin, the brand name of methylphenidate (MPH), as a means, in reality, to pacify them.

Ritalin, although a stimulant, supposedly quiets hyperactive children, and helps them to concentrate. Like amphetamines, it has a euphoric, and addictive, effect on users. Shockingly, it is now being medically administered to over 2.5 million Americans. According to a report released by the Narcotics Control Board on Feb. 28, American children are literally being fed drugs *on school property*.

The Narcotics Control Board, a Vienna, Austria-based institute, says that methylphenidate is being so over-prescribed in the United States, that 3-5% of all U.S. schoolchildren are taking this drug. Boys between

the ages of 6 and 14 years appear to be the population most targeted by teachers, who single them out as disruptive.

The Board's report states: "According to some reports, ADD (Attention Deficient Disorder) may be diagnosed too often as other causes of attention and behavioral problems might be overlooked." It complains that ADD is a very vaguely defined disorder, and that Ritalin in America is overused as an easy solution for any troublesome child.

The U.S. representative on the International Narcotics Control Board, Herbert Okun, said that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other agencies, had requested that the International Narcotics Control Board investigate the potential dangers of this prescription drug: "The board is looking at this at the request of the United States. It is putting up a yellow flag. It's saying: 'Be careful, go slow, check it out. Our concern is overprescription.'" Methylphenidate production worldwide has gone from less than three tons in 1990, to more than 8.5 tons in 1994. *Ninety percent of this is consumed in the United States.*

There is no question but that Ritalin has serious side effects, such as insomnia, loss of appetite, nervous tics, growth suppression, and dizziness. It has also become an increasingly popular drug for abuse by youth, who snort it to get high. A report verifying this problem has been prepared by the DEA.

In addition, there is a movement afoot to downgrade the danger classification of Ritalin as a drug, in order to make it easier to obtain. Reportedly, one influential parents' group supporting the use of Ritalin is receiving significant financial support from the drug's manufacturer, the Swiss-based Ciba-Geigy company.

While drug pushers caught in the vicinity of school buildings are given harsh sentences, similar practices by teachers and other school officials who push drugs on the children in their charge, are condoned and encouraged. All drugs are evil, but the use of institutional authority to force children to take drugs is a far more hideous evil.