

July 26, 1970

Mr. William F. Buckley,
New York Post
New York City

Dear Mr. Buckley,

I have read your columns with interest and for the first time decided to answer what may have been an appeal. In your column yesterday, you write that the drug problem is literally engulfing us and "not one living soul has suggested a program the results of which would guarantee a diminution of the curse . . ."

There is one program which is nascent and which has the promise to reduce the addiction rate in much the way that other immunization processes have reduced the incidence of infectious diseases. I refer to the use of opiate antagonists in the treatment of opiate dependence, and the feasibility of developing a long term, injectable or implantable antagonist which would be particularly useful in "immunizing" susceptibles, particularly among the very young.

The program is generally ignored by Washington and industry, although there has been some support from the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission. There has been little written in the press so that the only data that is reliable is in the scientific press. The summary of the meeting held in New York on June 4, summarizing the available data, is to be published in a forthcoming issue of Science.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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