Toyota, Honda help 'Playboy' push illegal drug use

Despite the fact that the use of illegal drugs is destroying the lives of millions of Americans, Toyota and Honda continue to give thousands of advertising dollars to *Playboy* magazine via advertising to help *Playboy* continue to promote illegal drug use.

Playboy has renewed their drive for the decriminalization of illegal drugs. "Decriminalize Drugs Now" reads the bold headline on page 57 of the January *Playboy* magazine. It is *Playboy's* monthly editorial, the Playboy Forum, in which the pornographic magazine says the United States government should quit fighting drugs and make them legal.

Toyota and Honda are the only two automobile makers currently helping *Playboy* promote pornography and illegal drug use with advertising. The addresses: Pres. Y. Togo, Toyota Motor Sales, P.O. Box 2991, Torrance, CA 90509, phone 213-618-4000 and Pres. Yoshihide Munekuni, American Honda Company, 100 West Alondra, Gardena, CA 90248, phone 213-327-8280.

Playboy has for years promoted recreational use of illegal drugs. The most in-depth study done regarding *Playboy's* promotion of illegal drug use was done by Dr. Judith Reisman of Washington, president of The Institute for Media Education.

Decriminalization of drugs has been a primary editorial, legislative and financial *Playboy* commitment since November 1970. In 1970, the Playboy Foundation formally underwrote the creation of NORML (National Organization for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws, subsequently called National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws).

A short chronology of *Playboy's* push for legalizing drug use reads:

Sept/66—"Pigskin Preview" issue, interview with Timothy Leary, proponent of drug experimentation.

Oct/67—editorial identifies future drug policy and begins ongoing editorial and financial campaign to decriminalize marijuana use.

Jan/68—begins "Forum Newsfront" which then carries (from 1968-1986) approximately 35% of the drug information previously presented in letters and advisor columns.

Late 70—supplies $5,000 "...to attorney Keith Stroup to establish the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)." *Playboy's* continuing financial support of NORML is part of the magazine's commitment to the reform of oppressive U.S. drug laws. (1/79, p.387)

Nov/70—"After nearly three years of reporting on and criticizing U.S. marijuana laws and enforcement tactics, *Playboy* becomes the first national magazine to editorially advocate the removal of criminal penalties for private marijuana use." (1/79, p.387)

May/71— publishes drug game "Feds 'N Heads," a board game directing players to spin and win marijuana. (High school users were identified as part of the game.)

Late 71—contributes $100,000, first of many grants, to NORML for 1972 drug campaign. (2/77, p.152)

Sept/72— "Pigskin Preview" issue, publishes first Playboy Drug Chart, proposes to decriminalize marijuana.

Oct/73—NORML/*Playboy* efforts result in first state decision to decriminalize marijuana use in Oregon.

May/75—NORML/*Playboy* efforts result in Supreme Court judgment for private marijuana use in Alaska.

Sept/76—"Pigskin Preview" issue, letter to Playboy Advisor from cocaine user does not receive advice to cease cocaine use, but rather how one tests for cocaine purity...

Nov/76—editorial advocates decriminalization of all drugs: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, et al.

Dec/76—efforts result in successful judicial decision to decriminalize cocaine laws in Massachusetts.

Feb/77—interviews Keith Stroup, Director of NORML. Stroup thanks *Playboy* for funding NORML and publicizes NORCL (National Organization for the Reform of Cocaine Laws). This article is in concert with all *Playboy* articles on marijuana in that it reflects an editorially biased, pro-drug position. (2/77, p.152)

Feb/77—NORML/*Playboy* efforts result in charges against suspects being dropped in Montana "marijuana raid." (1/79, p.387)

Mar/77—NORML/*Playboy* efforts result in decision to decriminalize marijuana for "medical" purposes in Washington, DC.

Feb/78—NORML/*Playboy* efforts result in decision to decriminalize marijuana use for "medical" purposes in New Mexico, three other states.

Sept/78—"Pigskin Preview" issue, publishes "The Famous Playboy Drug Chart" with illustrations of drug using celebrities.

Dec/79—"Cocaine Defense" article identifies Playboy's funding of legal and technical defenses in cocaine prosecutions.

May/81—letter to the Playboy Advisor received technical directions to remedy negative cocaine effects, advice promoting higher quality cocaine.

Apr/82—Dr. Ronald Seigel, *Playboy* cocaine expert, writes of his testimony in the "...*Massachusetts v. Richard Miller* case, which was supported by *Playboy* and which first declared the cocaine/narcotic classification unconstitutional. ...**As it stands now, the most dangerous aspect of cocaine use is getting caught and suffering the criminal penalties for a narcotic offense**." (p. 63; author's emphasis)

Sept/83—"Pigskin Preview" issue, Don Rogers is "All American Team defensive back; prints an "expert" article by philosophy professor Dr. Richard Sharvy, who states that if we "Legalize heroin, cocaine, marijuana homosexuality, teenage sex...prostitution, public nudity, pornography..." society will be safer/better. (p.52) *Playboy* supports Sharvy's conclusions regarding the public's "right" to drug use.

Sept/84—"Pigskin Preview" issue; "Cocaine: A Special Report" on the 10% addiction solution; publishes major article decrying horrors of cocaine abuse but suggesting that only the "addictive personality," will be traumatically impacted by cocaine use.

This notion is maintained throughout the article by experts such as Seigel (cited in 4/82 above) that "personalities" tend to account for the problems of drug abuse. Drug *use* is not seen as the problem. Widespread use of drugs by athletes strongly indicates that many in the athletic community view themselves as part of the 90% of society suggested by *Playboy* as persons able to control and enjoy the benefits of cocaine use.

Dec/85—"Why Drug Enforcement Doesn't Work" argues that since "(t)here is more money in illegal drug traffic than in any other business on earth," the efforts to legally control drugs should be abandoned. *Playboy* supports the author's conclusions regarding, in effect, legalization of all drug use.

Jan/86—"Collegiate Basketball Preview" issue, Len Bias is "All American Team" forward. Drugs are mentioned positively several times in this issue. In "Killer," a fictional story with a non-white hero, difficult feats are accomplished under massive drug influence. One drug-taking scenario concludes with the stoned hero celebrating himself as "a new man, for a new season." (p.206)

The above information is condensed from research compiled by the project, "The Role of Pornography and Media Violence in Family Violence, Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, and Juvenile Delinquency," supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Dr. Judith Reisman, president of the Institute for Media Education, was principal investigator for the study which was carried out at American University, Washington, DC.

A complete report and packet of material on exploitation of children in *Playboy, Penthouse* and *Hustler* may be obtained by sending SSAE and $6.95 to Dr. Judith Reisman, Institute for Media Education, P.O. Box 7404, Arlington, VA 22207.

Jerusalem patriarch: Israelis violate human rights

By Ivan Kauffman
Our Sunday Visitor

Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the Roman Catholic bishop of Jerusalem, spent an entire month in the U.S. and Canada this fall. His purpose, he said, was to inform American Catholics of conditions in the Holy Land, and to seek their help in ending the violations of human rights taking place under the Israeli occupation.

In an interview with *Our Sunday Visitor,* given at the Vatican embassy in Washington shortly after his arrival in the U.S., Patriarch Sabbah confirmed the story published by *Our Sunday Visitor* last March, reporting that Israeli troops fired on the Catholic Church in Ramallah one Sunday morning last January, and actually entered it while Mass was being celebrated. "It is correct," he said of the story.

The day prior to the shooting at the church in Ramallah, Israeli troops had come to the parish and beat the associate pastor, Father Faisal Hejazin, he said. Ramallah is a town in the Occupied Territories just north of Jerusalem.

The shooting and beating in Ramallah—which occurred only days after Patriarch Sabbah was consecrated by Pope John Paul II as the first native-born Palestinian Patriarch of Jerusalem—produced an unprecedented joint statement by all the Christian bishops in the Holy Land, Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant. The statement, however, was immediately censored by the Israeli government and was not allowed to be distributed.

Although complete details of these incidents were published by *Our Sunday Visitor* and several other Catholic papers earlier this year, no national newspapers or television networks have reported the beating of Father Hejazin, the shooting at the church in Ramallah, or the suppression of the joint Christian statement

Patriarch Sabbah said he wrote a letter to the president of the state of Israel protesting the shooting of the church at Ramallah immediately after it occurred. "It was my first letter to the president of the state," he said.

The Israeli president answered the patriarch's letter, acknowledging the shooting had taken place, but justifying it with what Patriarch Sabbah called "excuses—saying the soldiers were ignorant, and we are sorry about it. That's all."

Since then, the Israeli military occupation has become even more severe, the patriarch said. "The violence of the reprisals is worse now than at any stage in the uprising," he said. What the patriarch calls "organized violence" has become "a normal thing" by the Israeli military.

In an incident that strongly affected the Catholic community in the Holy Land, a 16-year-old boy from a Catholic family in Jerusalem was killed by Israeli troops this summer.

Several Christians from Bethlehem—including a father of four killed while standing in his doorway after returning home from Mass one Sunday morning—are among the almost 300 Palestinians known to have been killed by Israeli Occupation forces since the uprising began.

Many Catholics and other Christians were among the estimated 18,000 Palestinians arrested by the Israeli military in the first 10 months of the uprising. Many are being held in detention camps without any legal rights and without any charges having been filed against them. "And the conditions in those detention camps are terrible," the patriarch said.

The patriarch himself was caught up in the military occupation last summer when he attempted to visit one of his parishes near Bethlehem. When he arrived at the town, Israeli troops told him he could not enter it because a military curfew was in effect.

When the patriarch pointed out that his car carried the Vatican flag and thus had diplomatic immunity, the Israeli troops relented and allowed him to pass. The patriarch then proceeded to the parish and began speaking with the pastor, but "we talked with him only about two or three minutes, when the military came and told us we must go," the patriarch said.

"Everything and everybody is subject to military reprisals," he said. "The military—you have to deal with them every day."

Bethlehem University, a Catholic college founded by the Vatican with major financial support from U.S. Catholics, has been closed by the Israeli military since October 1987. Armed guards have been placed around the university, and not even faculty members are allowed to come on campus.

The university remains closed, Patriarch Sabbah said, and will almost certainly not be allowed to open during the current school year, meaning that the student body and faculty have now missed two entire academic years.

Patriarch Sabbah, who was president of the university before being named patriarch, said he hears the Israeli government will never allow the university to reopen, and that it will remain closed permanently. Military guards continue to be stationed at the entrance to the campus.

Even Catholic grade schools in the Occupied Territories have been closed by the Israeli military. "All the students are at home or on the streets," the patriarch said. "Even private lessons at home are forbidden. Not only are the schools closed, but those who want to instruct at home are threatened with jail or the detention camps."

When asked if he thought the American news media were giving the American people an accurate picture of what was happening in the Holy Land, Patriarch Sabbah answered, "No, no. If you had an accurate picture, a real picture of what is going on, you would behave differently."

Because of U.S. financial support for the state of Israel—more than $10 million a day—in addition to strong diplomatic and military support, Americans are deeply involved in the Holy Land.

And yet, the patriarch said, "you do not speak, you are quiet here." Americans seem to think, he said, that "everybody is okay, that everybody is happy in the Holy Land, that there is no problem. Well, there is a problem."

"The problem," the patriarch said, "is whether the Palestinian people will one day be recognized as human beings or not, either by the Israeli government or by world opinion."

When asked to compare the situation in the Holy Land to South Africa, the patriarch replied that in both nations people are being told, "You are a human being, but you have no rights."

In South Africa the government says, "You are black, you have no rights," and in Israel the government says, "You are Palestinian; you have no rights," the patriarch said. "It is the same."

What can American Catholics do to help bring about peace in the Holy Land? Patriarch Sabbah answers, "To have an objective view of the situation in the Holy Land." That means, he said, recognizing there are both Jewish and Palestinian people living in the Holy Land, "that both are human beings" and "both have the same rights."

When told that some American Catholics have said they believe we should not criticize Israel for fear of appearing anti-Jewish, the patriarch answered, "If the American people care for the Jewish people, they must also care for the other side."

"As long as the Palestinian people have no peace, that means there