

## **We Can't Just Ignore the Devastation of Drugs**

Najavits, Lisa M

*New York Times (1923-Current file)*; Jan 18, 1998;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2010)

pg. 131

---

## **We Can't Just Ignore the Devastation of Drugs**

---

To the Editor:

While Milton Friedman's facts are excellent on the impact of the drug problem, his conclusion that it's up to addicts to decide whether to use drugs is absurd (Op-Ed, Jan. 11).

Drugs — especially hard-core drugs like heroin and cocaine — have an enormous biological, psychological and social pull that defeats rational thinking about whether to use them. Mr. Friedman's solution, which is no solution at all, does not seem to be an improvement over the war on drugs that he laments.

LISA M. NAJAVITS

Belmont, Mass., Jan. 12, 1998

*The writer is an assistant professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.*

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.