



“The Best Prescription is **KNOWLEDGE”**

Former Surgeon General Gives Inspiring Lecture in Health Science and Technology Class

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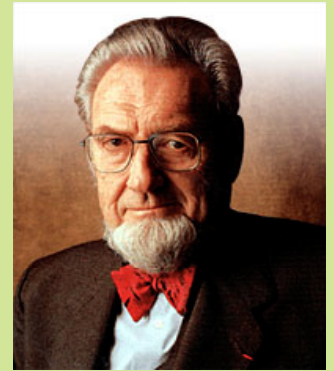
Say the name **C. Everett Koop** in a classroom full of high school students and the majority of them, if not all of them, will give you blank and bored looks. Mention this man's name in a room full of adults, however, and you'll immediately find yourself hearing conversations about AIDS, obesity, conjoined twins, the tobacco industry, abortion, and any other hot ethical topic that plagues today's newsstands and televisions. Dr. C. Everett Koop is the former Surgeon General of the United States of America. It's an impressive title but the man is far more fascinating than the label. And even though he's been retired from office for over seventeen years, he's still as controversial as ever.

And why are we mentioning Dr. Koop? Newport had him as a guest speaker. On November 7, 2006, the man and legend graciously made an appearance at Newport Middle High School to speak with Mrs. Wilkie's Health program to an audience of roughly sixty people.

Dr. Koop is no spring chicken. He's seen more than most people in his 90 years. When he entered our classroom, he walked slowly and with caution using a dark wooden cane with an elephant head as a handle for support. Later, he told us that he got it because the extended trunk of the elephant provided a good hold of support. However after purchasing it, he realized that the figurehead might look subconsciously like he was taking a political side. The former surgeon general wore a dark blue suit and his signature red, white, and blue medical signa bowtie. This man looked as if he had seen the world twice over and even fought with it a few times which he certainly has.

In a forty-five minute lecture, Dr. Koop answered questions previously presented to him by the students on topics including AIDS, obesity, stem cell research, and abortion. To give an example of how foreword and bold he was about his views and beliefs on these topics, he said that if he picked any topic and chose to discuss it, chances were that the room would divide right before his eyes. He promoted sticking to your ethics and living up to them fully, as he did when faced with disobeying his government and country and sending out the notorious pamphlet about AIDS against the will of Congress. "Situations alter," he told the room in a deep voice, "but ethics never change."

"I took an oath to protect the American people and inform them of disease," he said and even though his two terms as Surgeon General ended in 1989, he continues to inform and protect the American people the best he can to this day.



Dr. C. Everett Koop

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