

How to Uplift Human Nature-Bootstraps

by Edwin A. Roberts, Jr.

An article in a recent issue of New York magazine advises readers how to handle crank telephone calls. One of the problems discussed was the phony bombthreat call, often made by mischievous students in the hope of quickly emptying out a school building. The practice, as the magazine notes, had the effect of shortening the school day.

"Faced with this ... problem," the article continues, "the principal of a school on Manhattan's Upper West Side handled it without having to trace the calls. He simply announced that for every hour of class time lost because of a phoned-in bomb scare, the entire student body would have to stay in school for an extra hour to make up the interrupted work."

"The terrifying phone calls ceased."

Reading this example of applied psychology, I remembered the stories told by an old friend, a Roman Catholic priest, who, before changing vocations, was an Air Force colonel who saw plenty of action in World War II.

One of my friend's concerns these days is the ease with which people seem to abandon moral precepts when such a course seems likely to bring about a selfish benefit. A very effective way of combating the trend, he says, is to so arrange the situation that the human inclination to think of Number One will produce the kind of behavior most consistent with morality and/or the well-being of the group.

An example of this kind of structuring occurred, the priest remembers, at the California Institute of Technology in the 1930's. There was a great temptation to cheat on examinations because academic standards were very high and because it was Cal Tech's reputation that it flunked automatically all students in the lowest fourth of their class.

But the school devised an efficient honor system by a very simple device.

Recalls the priest, who was a Cal Tech student himself: "Individual test grades were by percentile. But from them was derived a class average. At the end of each period the student received grade (1, 2, 3, or 4) based on his performance with respect to this average. It was easy to see that any student who cheated would be far removed from the borderline of flunking. Under the circumstances, the integrity of the class average became a matter of critical interest to all students, and they could be depended on to police each other."

"And that's exactly what they did. That honor system worked perfectly."

My friend refers to such systems as "lifting human nature by its own bootstraps." And he goes on to describe another ingenious way correct behavior was indirectly assured.

In the early days of World War II, the Army Air Force was expanding so rapidly that an embarrassing problem had developed in the Training Command. There was a policy of levying quotas on establishing training units to provide experienced men for new units. But the commanders or the older units were using the quotas as a means for getting rid of deadwood, while hanging on to their best people.

The good of the service demanded a fair distribution of the best personnel, and yet it was too much to ask of unit commanders, who had to protect the quality of their

own groups, to part voluntarily with their most valuable men. So bad did the situation become that one southern Texas base found itself on opening day totally unable to operate because it had been staffed with a hapless collection of castoffs.

And then some genius in the military got an idea. Under a revamped program, each squadron commander was required to split his personnel roster into two equal lists and to present these to headquarters. One list would eventually be the roster of those to be moved out, and the other would be the roster of those left for the squadron commander to work with.

Each commander was completely free to arrange the lists as he pleased, with the understanding, of course, that he was going to have to remain with the group that was left behind. And here's the rub: The commander was not told which roster was which. Thus, unless he was a compulsive gambler, the commander was persuaded to make both rosters equal in the quality of personnel. From that time on, there were no more complaints about "too many discards" sent from older units.

The military was faced with an essentially similar problem in the South Pacific later in the war. A certain percentage of bombers were returning to base because of "mechanical trouble" before they had completed their missions. The mechanical trouble generally corrected itself just before the bomber landed.

It became clear to the brass that some bomber crews were displaying an unheroic distaste for their assignments. What could be done to get these recalcitrant eagles to complete their missions?

Because the overwhelming concern of every crew was to get home to the United States as quickly as possible, a new policy based on "points" leading to rotation was put into effect. For every month in the theater of operations, a combat mission began a half point, but for every combat mission successfully completed the man got three points. Since completed missions so outweighed other sources of points, it was practically impossible to be rotated home without a large number of completed missions - no matter how long a man had been in the theater of operations.

The bombers' "mechanical troubles" cleared up directly, the war effort thrived, morale soared, and human nature was once again used to lift itself up by its bootstraps.

Packwood Survey Report

Washington--Oregonians favor an all-volunteer Army, believe the Vietnam War and crime are the two most pressing issues and oppose construction of additional hydro-electric dams on the Snake River.

The conclusions are based on results of 10,000 responses received by Senator Bob Packwood to a questionnaire included in his newsletter.

On the question of "Do you favor an all-volunteer Army?" 56 percent responded "yes," 39 percent said "no" and 5 percent had no opinion. The response represented a dramatic switch from results of a similar question included in the Senator's newsletter two years ago when only 30 percent favored the concept of an all-volunteer Army.

The Vietnam War was listed by 25 percent of those participating in the poll as the issue which concerned them most. Crime was second with 25 percent, the economy received 18 percent, taxes 14 percent and others 6 percent.

Construction of additional hydro-electric dams on the

The Contact Center is providing a dual service to the Portland community. Firstly, we are providing training in the highly specialized area of streetwork. Secondly, we seek to determine the needs, trends, and problems of the youth community; to create programs and projects to meet those needs; and to communicate the situation to the Portland community with suggestions on how to improve it.

Our training program consists of a week-long intensive orientation at the beginning of the summer, and weekly evaluations and training sessions throughout the summer. During this summer orientation week, we covered various crisis situations such as drug overdose, L.S.D., bad trips, suicides, psychological breakdowns, etc. We dealt with these simulated situations using such techniques as role playing, psychodrama, and small group discussion, utilizing the knowledge and experience of our senior staff. We listened to an informative tape of Dr. Sam Irwin, discussing the relative dangers of street drugs and their physical and psychological effects. We had a two-hour discussion with Captain Reiter of the Portland Police Department led by staff member Sue Dickson, (ex-W.P.D. staff member) concerning problems with the relationship between youth and police. Calvin Zuck from the Human Relations Bureau discussed problems between youth and the greater Portland community. To give the new streetworkers a first-hand knowledge of the street community, the orientation included a two-day on-the-street experience, incorporating activities which are a regular part of the street youth life-style, such as selling youth newspaper, panhandling, searching for a temporary place to stay, etc.

This experience proved to be very valuable in understanding the frustrations, fears, and attitudes of the alienated youth community. Finally, we spent a day and a half discussing the agency and personal resources available to youth, because a complete knowledge of these resources is necessary to be effective street workers.

We have developed a self-evaluation procedure which consists of weekly questionnaires and group discussions concerning the problems and trends of the youth community and the effectiveness of our staff in meeting those needs. The procedure has given us valuable information about the areas in which we need training (such as legal rights for low income youth).

Situation: Because of the lack of funds, many youths are forced to look for a temporary place to stay. To begin with, they ask their friends; however, many times they are new in the city and know no one. They ask other members of the "hip" youth community, but this too often yields nothing. They are left, thus, with only illegal means to find a place to stay. Many, for example, sleep overnight in the forests of city parks. This leads to a hostile situation when they are questioned or arrested by the police for park curfew violations. The more often this happens, the higher the level of tension between the youth and the police.

Program: We have a temporary housing service which is offered for up to three days for youth over 10 years of age. We started the program using private homes donated by concerned individuals. These people will take youth into their homes for a few nights each week. We have found, however, that even with this facility, we are unable to meet the total need. So we have established the Youth Outpost Camp. This ten-acre facility is located 20 miles outside the city in a wooded area on land donated by a private individual. We have received 2 eight-man tents from the National Guard as well as 2 field kitchens. We have worked closely with Russ Peyton from the Human Relations Bureau, Ed Westerahl from the Port of Portland, Bob Davies from State Government, in locating land and the necessary equipment to establish the Outpost Camp. We hope that the addition of this facility will meet the total temporary housing needs, and ease the tension of the present situation. A bus has been donated to transport youths to and from the Camp, but we have been unable to locate the needed funds to insure and repair the bus for our use. Help in this area is desperately needed.

Results: Using the private homes in our program, we house 20 to 25 persons per night. Though our Outpost Camp project is too new to have results at this time, we will submit a report at a later date.

Need: Creative well-organized recreation.

Situation A: Over the last several years, many Rock music concerts have been staged in the city parks. Due to the number of neighbor complaints received by the park department, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain park permits to hold legitimate musical concerts. As a result, many youth have brought amplified recorded music to the parks. This has caused tension with the park neighbors and the police have been called in, creating more problems.

Project: In an attempt to provide musical events for youth, and at the same time ease the number of complaints from park neighbors, we are utilizing a different approach to park concerts. For example, in our latest concert in Lair Hill Park on July 18, we canvassed the Lair Hill neighborhood several days before the concert. Many of the complaints received by CI-

ty Hall are due to the fact that the Rock concerts catch the park neighbors totally by surprise, and the loud music is irritating to them. They do not know if the event is legal, how long it will last, how well it is supervised, etc. So, we attempted to relieve the fears of the neighbors and let them know that the concert would be well organized and it would last for only four hours. This gave them ample time to plan their Sunday afternoon if they did not wish to be around during the loud music.

In addition to the canvassing for the benefit of the neighbors, the concert itself was well-organized. The performers were well scheduled; the musicians and the announcer set an atmosphere of relaxation and enjoyment; and the streetworkers circulated and talked to people explaining the nature of the concert.

Results: Mrs. Pat Bell from Commissioner Ivancie's office reported that her office received no complaints from neighbors. Usually they receive 25 to 30 irate complaints. The police department (Central Precinct) generally receives 20 to 25 complaints about a concert such as the Lair Hill concert. They received only 10. Furthermore, the complaints were usually of a hostile, belligerent nature, but due to our canvassing efforts, the calls were more of an inquisitive nature. Thus, in both Commissioner Ivancie's office the Police Department, complaints were reduced 50 to 100%. Finally, the atmosphere at the concert was congenial, friendly, and relaxing. The crowd tenseness, which usually accompanies these concerts, was totally missing. We feel that this was due to the well-organized nature of the concert.

Need: Creative well-organized recreation.

Situation B: Most of the youth who congregate in Washington Park spend most of their time idly. There is little to do except talk to friends. Their idleness leads to restlessness which can and has resulted in fights, minor vandalism, and other problems.

Project: In an attempt to involve park people in active recreation and help create a stronger sense of community, we organized a softball game between staff members of Contact Center and several of the park youth. The other team was organized by a park regular who gathered friends who were also interested.

Results: The game took place in the Archery Range at the Park on Tuesday, July 27. The spirit of the game was of high competition and fun. All that participated enjoyed themselves greatly. The game gave the staff a good chance to develop a stronger relationship with several park youth, and it will help a great deal in soliciting their support for future activities. Regular games are being planned.

Need: A sense of pride and participation in the park.

Situation: It seemed to us that many of the youths who gather in Washington Park see the park only as a gathering place and feel no responsibility in the park, we organized a park clean-up. Food was donated from various stores so that those who participated in the park clean-up work. Several streetworkers with donated gunny-sacks and rakes went to the Park and solicited help from the youth in the park.

Results: Unfortunately, only five persons became involved in the clean-up besides the streetworkers. Those who participated enjoyed the work and the donated refreshments; however, we were disappointed that more people were not involved. We hope to sponsor a park clean-up

on a regular basis with more publicity and better equipment, and hopefully more people will become involved.

In addition to our various programs, we also seek to ease tense situations which might lead to non-productive youth-police confrontations. For example, we were concerned about the situation in Washington Park which was planned for July 4th. The rumors which our streetworkers were picking up in the park suggested that a possible explosive confrontation might happen. A group of people put out a flier inviting the youth population to play hide-and-seek with the police the night of the 4th, starting at 12:01 (Park curfew). Letters were sent to Commissioner Ivancie, the Chief of Police, and the Tac-Squad inviting them to come to the affair. Some of the youth who gathered at Washington Park told a few of our streetworkers that they were ready for a violent confrontation and were going to be there. We spent several days attempting to locate the people who were organizing the event. During this time we communicated to Pat Bell of Commissioner Ivancie's office and Jim Sittman and Russ Peyton of the Human Relations office. We also contacted Captain Reiter of the Police Department, to find out what the police tactics would be. He told us that they would not show up at all unless the event became violent, or destructive.

When we located the people who were organizing the game, we found out that they had intended it to be a non-violent protest against the park curfew. We met with them in the park and communicated the hostility which many of the park youth have toward the police, and that this fact could turn the organizer's event into a violent confrontation.

Funeral services will be held today, August 12, for Earl Jones, 76, of 5840 NE 16th Ave., at 1 p.m., at the Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

Mrs. Jones was born June 5, 1895, in Morris County, Texas and moved to Portland in 1947. He was employed at the Veterans Hospital until he retired. He was a veteran of WW I, when he served in the Army. He died at his home August 7.

He is survived by the widow, Louie, Portland; sons: Edwin E. and Stanley L., both of Portland, five grandchildren, two brothers and three sisters.

Interment will be in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland.

ROSALINE A.J. ANDERSON

A retired World War I Army nurse, Rosaline A.J. Anderson, 83, died August 8 in a local nursing home.

Mrs. Anderson was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., June 26, 1888.

Graveside services will be held today, August 12, at 1:30 at Willamette National Cemetery under the direction of the Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

She is survived by two sons: Richard A. Anderson, Hood River, and Lloyd E. Anderson, Portland. Eight grandchildren and one great grandchild also survive.

RAYMOND HARVEY

A longtime Portland painting contractor, Raymond Harvey, 73, died in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, August 4.

Funeral services were held Monday at the Killingsworth Chapel of the Chimes with burial at Skyline Memorial.

He is survived by the widow, Maud, daughter, Mrs. Margaret Foley, Two Rivers, Wisconsin; grandson, Capt. David Foley, US Air Force, Beale AFB, and two great grandchildren.

Contact Center-It's place in Community

Obituaries

JAMES LAMBERTH

A charter member of Allen Temple CME church, James Lambeth, died August 6.

He was born December 4, 1897 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He served as president of the Lay Dept., Trustee, Steward and choir member of Allen Temple. He was active in the development of the Oregon - Washington District of the CME church. He was chaplain of Veterans Barrack No. 53, (World War I).

Funeral services will be held Monday, August 16, at 1 p.m., at Allen Temple, 4236 N.E. 8th Ave.

Mr. Lambeth is survived by his widow, Katherine Lambeth; daughter, Cautel Thornton, Champaign, Ill.; two sons: James L., Los Angeles and Leonard W., Portland; a foster son, Sgt. Joel Wilson, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and four grandchildren.

ALGINA PRIMEAU DOUGHTY

Funeral services were held August 9 for Algina Primeau Doughty, who died at her home August 5.

Mrs. Doughty was born October 7, 1907 in Rolla, North Dakota. She had been a resident of this community since 1950.

Survivors are: son, Ronald J. Doughty, Portland and two grandchildren; five sisters: Ida Equall, Winnifred Dionne, Frances Cottier, Lorina Vandergift, and Delores Turner; and one brother, Leo Primeau.

Services were held at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, with interment in Gethsemani Cemetery, under the direction of the Little Chapel of the Chimes.

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Shop Fred Meyer And Save More

Prices good thru Saturday, August 14th

MY-TE-FRESH Grade AA Large Eggs 35¢ Dozen

Center Cut Rib Chops 78¢ lb.

MY-TE-FINE Tomato Juice 46-oz. \$1.00

MY-TE-FINE Apricots 30-oz. \$1.00

MY-TE-FINE Pork & Beans 30-oz. \$1.00

MY-TE-FINE Bakery Savings Banana Nut or Chocolate Cake 39¢ each

Delicatessen Savings Del Monte "Sweetheart" Wieners 49¢ pound

Produce Savings Large, Tree Ripened Peaches 4 \$1.00

Tootsie Pop Drops 10 for 39¢

Dep Super Protein Hair Spray 77¢ each

Listerine Antiseptic Mouthwash 20 oz. 76¢ each

Coleman Fuel 79¢ gallon

Velour Values Boys' Plush Velour Shirts Reg. \$4.99 \$3.96

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CITY OF PORTLAND IS NOW RECRUITING WATER SERVICE INSPECTORS

Applicants must be able to walk long distances under all types of weather conditions. The work involves the reading of commercial and residential water meters. Salary starts at \$655 per month with a raise to \$737 after one year. City paid family health plan plus many other fringe benefits. For more information call 228-6141 ext. 350.

Applications may be attained at the

PORTLAND CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE

115 S. W. 4th ROOM 400.

Snake River	Yes	46
	No	48
	Un.	4
Issue		
Crime		27
Environment		10
War		29
Economy		15
Taxes		13
Other		6
Nixon Foreign Policy		
Excellent		16
Good		27
Fair		29
Bad		24
Un.		4
Volunteer Army		
Yes		61
No		31
Un.		8

Here's a defensive driving tip from the Portland Traffic Safety Commission: When you're moving fast on an unfamiliar freeway pay attention to the speed limit signs on the exits. The limits may seem low after 70 mph, but they're posted for a good reason - your safety.