

Eddie Johnson: Thinking positively

By Ullyses Tucker, Jr.

This past summer Eddie Johnson of the Atlanta Hawks ran into some problems with drugs, the law in Georgia, and some personal difficulties that received national media attention.

Johnson was arrested in Atlanta driving a stolen \$20,000 car with a small quantity of cocaine under the seat that he supposedly knew nothing about. Johnson claims that the personal problems he had led him to some negative behavior. He kept finding himself in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Johnson also lost his best friend Terry Furlow, the former N.B.A. guard who was killed in a high speed auto crash outside of Cleveland. Furlow had traces of drugs in his system and a small amount of cocaine in the car. Johnson is currently under the care of a psychologist -- but he seems to have his life back together.

"I'm doing much better," he said. "I had some unfortunate things happen to me during one of the roughest times in my life. The media really blew the situation out of proportion. It was not as bad as they made it. The writers took advantage of the publicity that was given to the N.B.A. about drug use and they made me an example."

With Johnson's personal life now taking on a positive shape, he's now playing some good basketball for the Hawks who are having a roller-coaster season. Johnson is the Hawks second leading scorer with a 16.9 clip. He also leads in steals and

assists. In a trip to Portland, Johnson scored a season high 40 points against Bates and company in a losing effort.

"Eddie has had a few good games but I'm not impressed with his consistency," said a always harsh Hubie Brown, head coach of the Hawks. "He'll score 40 one night and ten the next. I want him to play good every night and not in spurts or every other game." Brown is known around the league for his hot temper and abusive motivational tactics on players.

"I'll curse a player out if it makes him play a little harder," he said. "I want them to play to their potential all the time."

When questioned about what it is like to play for a man like Hubie Brown, Johnson says that he tries to block out the verbal abuse.

"It's just his nature," said the former N.B.A. All-star. "After a while, you get use to him and he doesn't bother you. I think it affects the younger players more than the veterans. Hubie's a good coach. That's just his style."

How do you think young athletes will look up to you now that you have a drug stigma attached to you?

"Like I mentioned earlier," he said, "The situation was not as bad as the papers made it. I hope they still look up to me and respect me for being a competitive athlete who ran across a problem in life. We are all human and at some point in time, a person will confront a bad break. I did, but I'm back on the right track."



EDDIE JOHNSON

Phillips joins Governor's office

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

services coordinator by the State of Oregon, Department of Human Resources, Adult and Family Services Division's Multnomah Regional Office since 1977, Phillips is responsible for planning, developing and coordinating social services for the Multnomah Regional Preadmission Screening--Resource Unit Program.

While working for the Multnomah Regional Office, Phillips set up a nursing home for the aged information exchange and sharing system in the Multnomah Region of the Adult and Family Services Division, provided technical assistance to VISA (Volunteers in

Services to the Aging) in putting together a directory of nursing homes in the Tri-County (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas) area, and coordinated and organized a financial exhibit for a resources fair for handicapped individuals.

Phillips was chosen to be among the "Outstanding Young Men in America" for 1979 by the U.S. Jaycees for "Outstanding professional achievement, superior leadership ability and exceptional service to the community."

He was also selected to be among the Black community leaders of the 1980's by the Northwest Conference of Black Public Officials.

He received a master of social work degree from Portland State University (1975) after graduating from Oregon State University (1973) with a bachelor of science degree in Sociology. While at OSU, Phillips worked for the university minority and special services program and the OSU Oceanography Department.

Phillips is currently involved with the Northeast Senior Citizens Task Force and the Board of Urban Leagues Senior Adult Services Center. He is also chairperson of the North YMCA Management Committee, the City of Portland Youth Services Center Budget Advisory Committee, and the Inter-Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime Program.

Vancouver hosts NAACP area

The Vancouver Branch, NAACP, will host the Northwest Area Conference of NAACP Branches on January 23rd to 25th at the Quay. Early arrivals will be welcomed in the Hospitality Room, 202 at 8:30 Friday evening.

Following registration Saturday morning, at 8:00 p.m., the first workshop is "NAACP and the Economy." Panelists are Nathan Proby, Director of the Southwest Washington Association of Minority Contractors, and Marshall Hudson, Chairman of the Social Services Department of Clark College.

Judge Belton Hamilton, administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration Office of Hearing and Appeals, will be the luncheon speaker.

Panelists for the Affirmative Action workshop are: Andrew Belcher, Belcher-Torrence Consulting Firm; Willie Loud, Hill Consulting; Pam Turner, Vancouver YWCA. The panel "NAACP in the 80's" will feature: Virna Carson, Western Region Director; Judge Charles Johnson, NAACP National Board member; Valeri Joshua, President, Vancouver Branch.

A buffet banquet will be held at 7:00 p.m., during which Ms. Carson will discuss the NAACP's 18 point plan for the 1980s.

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Ecumenical service planned

Ministers and members of 12 Protestant congregations in North Portland will be guests of priests and parishioners of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 25 North Portland Boulevard, for an Ecumenical Prayer Service at 3:30 p.m., on Sunday, January 25.

"The service," says Father George Rassel, associate pastor at Holy Redeemer, "concludes the annual week of prayer for Christian unity in the community. Also, it is the second event in Holy Redeemer's year long series of social and religious activities in observance of its diamond jubilee celebration."

Choirs singing at the service will be from Holy Redeemer and the Bethel African Methodist-Episcopal church. A reception will follow the

service in the parish Cantwell Hall under auspices of the Holy Redeemer Altar Society.

Martin declines

Ron Martin, Executive Assistant for Minority Affairs at OSP, informed the *Observer* that he had not accepted a position on the Task Force to study the handling of police abuse investigations appointed by Commissioner Charles Jordan. Martin said he had been asked to join the committee but had not made a formal reply when the appointments were announced. He cited possible conflict of interest as one of the reasons for his decision.

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FROM THE FRONT DOOR

By Tom Boothe

From the Front Door, I wish to share the following with our citizens here in our local community. It appeared in the Thursday, January 8, 1981, *Wall Street Journal*.

THE DUMBEST PERSON IN THE WORLD

How dumb? Very dumb is the American who knocks what he's got. Here's what he's got: A country of unbounded beauty. Almost unlimited natural resources. A judicial system that is the envy of the rest of the world. Food is so plentiful overeating is a major problem. A press nobody can dominate. A ballot box nobody can stuff. Churches of your choice.

One hundred million jobs. Freedom to go anywhere you want, with the planes, cars and highways to get you there. Social security. Medicare. Unemployment insurance. Public School and plentiful scholarships. Opportunity to become a millionaire. O.K., Comp'ainer, what's your second choice? Go.

I agree with Mr. Gray's statement. If you think you have nothing to start with, how about starting with courtesy, humility, respect and a positive attitude.

How we perform as individuals will determine how we perform as a nation. FREE: If you would like an 8 1/2" x 11" reprint of this message write to Harry J. Gray, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, United Technologies, Box 360, Hartford, CT 06141.

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