



For the children of Atlanta and for all children who are hungry, suffer and live in fear.

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The street life: A thousand parts to play

"I play the street life
Cause there's no place I can go.
Street life, it's the only life I know.
Street life, there's a thousand parts
To play.
Street life, until you play your
Life away..."

by Lanita Duke

In 1980 the Crusaders topped the charts with a theme of fast life and quick money. This theme is lived by a small group of women who hustle on the same block where elderly people wal and where young children play. The problem develops when the ladies of the evening come out in the afternoon and parade their wares for all to see. Not only

have their activities become an eyecore to some, but their clientele (tricks) look upon every woman - young, old, Black and white, as women ready to accept pervert propositions.

The angle this report is taking is not to condone or condemn, but rather to summarize the life of a street prostitute. One street lady told Grassroot News her motives. "I was just down for the money. I've been in institutions all my life and ain't never had no public education, so it would be damn near impossible for me to get a job. And I'm not working for no \$3.50 an hour for nobody. When I come out here and bring home a couple of bills a day,

I'm to have the best for my daughter and don't care what nobody says. If you know how to keep yourself in shape, you're not going to have a problem with anybody. If you know what you're doing you won't have a problem."

Another woman who's not in the fast life anymore discussed what the life was all about. "You know when they call it the fast life, well, that's what it is. It's fast! If you get turned out at 13, by the time you're 15 you look a good 21 or 22. The fast life is pure hell. You get laughs and some of the different ladies you work with are real cool. But the different changes you have to go through to get paid aren't worth it. You're not

always going to make some money, especially a street women because the streets are different from a house. In the streets you are in constant fear of running into a zip nut or getting your throat cut or getting busted."

The street lady has that fear of never coming back from a date. A recent victim told how a trick (sometimes called Johns) pulled a switchblade on her but fortunately she got away. Another told of a different scene with the same theme. "One trick took me way out and took my stuff for free, and then dumped me. Once a nut who lived in a trailer court pulled a big gun on me and this other girl, and it was

either him or us. So we wrestled the gun away and pistol whipped him. That was the only way we escaped. When you're out there you have no shame."

Many street ladies get turned out to the street by a pimp. "I was in an situation where we all lived in one house and the other ladies were called my stable sisters. Some of the women were really nice and we didn't try to cut down one another; which we all did on the sly. Others, you just couldn't get along with. You would have to accept it if you wanted to be with that man."

"An outlaw (a street lady without a pimp) is not really in the life (Please turn to Page 3 Col 1)



Every woman walking on Union Avenue is assumed by tricks to be a prostitute.

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ROBERT JANISSE

Janisse: Defying 'Black cop' stereotype

Grassroot News N.W. - We are living in a time when the corrupt of Portland's so-called finest are receiving top billing. There's an element within our police force that doesn't go along with the program. These Black men didn't march on City Hall or wear a blue ribbon for their comrades in blue.

One Black uniformed officer did drive up to pickets at the Walnut Park Theater and compliment the Black United Front for its efforts and added that it was long overdue. There is a subsection of individuals on the force who can be called contemporary Black police officers. Robert Janisse is one of them.

Janisse has been on the force for nine years and was imported from Oakland. "Initially, when I first came to Portland and got on the Police Department, there were only two other Black officers. I knew that historically police work was closed to Third World people. I came in, unfortunately, with the perception that I was going to be mistrusted by the Black community -- viewed as being part of the establishment, also part of an organization that was seen as oppressive to Black people. I must admit that I carried that perception to the extreme by isolating myself and it took some time before I realize that I am going to have to

take some aggressive action to demonstrate that although I was a police officer, I was still Black. I tried to make people aware of my reasons for becoming a police officer, and the main one is to help people."

Janisse relayed his response from the community. "There are people who know I'm sincere and at the same time there are those who suspect my motives. They fail to recognize that I see some injustices in the system and that I'm concerned about doing something about the problems."

"We are in a time when people are demanding more accountability from their public officials. People are concerned about the crime problem and more important, they're concerned about justice. And that's where my concern is, with justice as opposed to 'law and order'. I want to see a system that deals with people as individuals so that there's no disparity in the way people are treated by police officers, the court system or the corrections system."

Janisse gives new meaning to cool, calm and collected. How do his fellow officers feel about an officer as outspoken as he? The reaction was mixed. Prior to my becoming so vocal, the ones who were sincere then are still my friends. Now, there is a large group of in-

dividuals who view me as militant because my views disagree with theirs."

Current headlines are filled with police corruption and rodent throwing. "The first thing I established when I came on the force was that I was a professional. All police officers ought to act as a professional. These types of acts that were uncovered did damage to all the work I did to establish my professionalism. People remember the bad and forget the good. It will be a long time before we re-establish ourselves in the eyes of the community."

"The opossum throwing put me in the position, as a Black individual, where I had to make a choice of whether I was going to go along with the majority of my peers or stand by and support the community. I chose to support the Black community. The incident gave evidence to support what some of

our leaders were saying about the department. It makes you wonder if that was an isolated case or if that attitude is pervasive with the Police Department. The public has a right to demand more from their department. Those are the kinds of people who don't belong on the police force."

Janisse's evolution in the force "started as a recruit, worked in North Precinct and in Traffic. Later I worked in intelligence and my case load was working on organized crime. Currently, I'm a detective assigned to Robbery/Homicide detail."

His advice to the young. "Our youth needs to be leaders instead of followers. The young Black kids who come through here got involved in criminal activities because they were going along with a group; so it's more important that they develop their own leadership skills."

Jordan, Ivancie get IA report

The 13-member civilian task force appointed by City Commissioner Charles Jordan in January to investigate the Portland Police Bureau's procedures for handling complaints of police misconduct will report to Commissioner Jordan and Mayor Frank

Ivancie today, July 16th. The report on the six-month study focuses primarily on the Bureau's Internal Affairs Division, the office that receives and investigates complaints. Based on their study, several changes will be recommended in the citizen complaint process.

Capital vigil supports prisoner, family visits

Members of the Inmates' Family Visiting Committee held a five day prayer vigil on the steps of the State Capital, praying for a change of heart by Senator Fred Heard. A spokesman reported the vigil ended following harassment by guards.

HB 2998 would allow the Corrections Department to establish a program for private family visits with Oregon State Penitentiary inmates. Inmates who have proposed the program will lease trailers and pay for costs. The bill passed the House with a 44 - 15 vote, then was referred to the Senate. Although the bill involves no state funding, Heard referred it to the Ways and Means Committee where it is expected to die.

Mrs. Chris Durand, spokesperson for the Inmates' Family Visiting Committee, believes the bill was sent to Ways and Means to kill it, since the majority of the members of the sub-committee to which it was assigned oppose it. "We have the votes necessary to get through the Judiciary Committee and we have enough votes to pass in the Senate. It's unfair for one man to use his power to stop our bill when the majority of the legislators are for it."

Currently wives can visit their imprisoned husbands for fourteen hours a month in a public visiting room. Short embraces at the beginning and end of the visit are allowed, but during the visit

husband and wife sit across a table from each other and can touch only below the elbow. Children and other relatives are limited to seven hours a month. The close proximity of other inmates and their visitors precludes discussion of private family and personal matters.

Interest in family visits is growing in the United States, and those states where it is allowed have had favorable results. One of the most common practical arguments for visits is social control. The denial of sexual activity to thousands of confined young men creates a tense situation that leads to homosexual and aggressive behavior. Family visits not only allow for the release of sexual tension in a positive way, but also are an incentive to conform to institutional regulations.

Another practical argument is that family visits would prevent isolation and would prepare the inmate for release into society. Denying involvement with his family cuts off family ties that are needed to help adjustment into society. Research demonstrates that inmates who maintain active family associations while in prison are more successful after release.

Another consideration is the effect of family visits on the family. Prisoners who have family visits are more likely to maintain family stability. The typically high rate of prisoner divorces - and the resulting (Please turn to Page 5 Col 1)

Mitchell joins international track meet



EDGAR MITCHELL, JR.

Edgar Mitchell, Jr., is one of two Oregon students who has been selected to participate in an International Sports Exchange track meet in Seoul, Korea in August. Approximately fifty male and female athletes - 19 years and under - from the United States will compete with their peers from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, India and Kenya.

The 6-2, 250 pound junior attends Central Catholic High School, where he participated in track and football.

Mitchell broke the school shot put record of 58-5 this spring, then bested the defending AAA state champion with a throw of 60-7½ at the KFLY-Pepsi International in April. Mitchell and Brian Crouser split the season with two wins each. Crouser again taking the state championship. Mitchell came in second with a 59-6 throw.

Mitchell won the AAU meet for the 17-18 year age group (Crouser is in the 19-20 age group) with a throw outdistancing all other competitors

by seven feet. He will compete in the Regional AAU in Seattle this weekend. His 61-9 is second in the nation for his age group.

Mitchell plans to best the 64 feet state record next year, and his coach believes that if his current progress continues he could reach 70 feet.

Mitchell plays offensive and defensive tackle for the Rams and hopes to make All-State this year. With another year of high school ahead, his college plans are unsure.

His athletic talent does not outweigh his academic interest, and he regularly has a grade average of 3.5 (B plus) or above. Major universities - including Notre Dame - have expressed an interest.

The American team will spend a week in Korea and will stop in Hawaii on the return trip for a week of relaxation.

Each participant must provide his/her own expenses - an estimated \$1,500. Contributions would be greatly appreciated and can be arranged by calling the *Observer*.

City bans parking

Parking has been removed from Northeast 19th and Jarrett Street, adjacent to Alberta Park, by request of neighborhood residents. The petition for no-parking posting occurred following an incident in the park on June 29th.

In addition to questionable activities in the park, the neighbors

complain that park users litter and abuse their yards and that parking and heavy use of the streets blocks the street and extends the use of the park across the street and into their yards. Some of the residents who prefer to be unnamed, would have preferred no parking have been for (Please turn to Page 7 Col 5)