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Officer Harry Jackson shows the plaque he received for outstanding service and personal commitment to neighborhood safety to his wife Mary and son Jakhary. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Officer Honored by Crime Group

By Jerry Garner

Officer Harry Jackson, a six-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau, was honored last Wednesday at City Hall by the Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime for outstanding service and personal commitment to neighborhood safety. Jackson was presented a plaque by Sharon McCormick, program Coordinator of Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime. Besides Jackson, nine other officers were honored as part of Police Recognition Week.

Officer Jackson was asked how it felt to be recognized by citizens in the community in which he works. He replied, "I consider it an honor to receive the award, not only for myself, but for the department. What it symbolizes between the community and the Bureau is something positive in that the communication that is being developed is not during a period of crisis, such as the T-shirt, opossum, and Stevenson incidents."

Jackson was reared in Northeast Portland and attended Eliot and Benson schools. After attending one term at Portland State University, Jackson joined the Air Force, serving as a flight crew member aboard a C-130 aircraft. After receiving an honorable discharge from the service, he became interested in law enforcement.

"My younger brother was a security guard at the old McDonalds restaurant on the corner of Union Ave. and Fremont. I used to hang around the place. During this period, I met several Portland police officers and decided to get into law enforcement."

So Jackson got a job as a security officer at Fred Meyers at the same time he was working security at McDonalds and Safeway while holding down a full-time job with United Parcel Service and attending college.

After getting enough education requirements, Jackson was hired by the State Police in 1976 and was assigned to Klamath Falls. Jackson said Klamath Falls was okay, but he wanted to work closer to Portland. "However, after being there for a period of time, it became obvious to me that I would not be assigned to the Portland area under that administration."

This, plus the fact that his wife was living in Portland, convinced Jackson to quit his job with the State Police. Jackson returned to Portland and took a job with the Port of Portland police at the airport.

When talking to Jackson, one can see that he is dedicated to the community and his job. "I enjoy working in the neighborhood where I grew up and have ties (family and church). The things I see happening in the community that are negative, I feel my working in the area can have a positive impact."

Jackson said he is concerned about young people who are involved in crime and drugs; who are taking short cuts with their education.

His past involvement in the community and dedication to his job have resulted in Jackson receiving other awards in the past. Besides receiving the award by the Northeast Neighborhoods Against Crime, Jackson has been awarded the Dennis Darden Memorial Award and The Eagle Civic Award.

The Darden Award is presented annually by the Optimist Club of Lloyd Center to a police officer who has displayed outstanding personal integrity, character, and citizenship. The Eagle Civic Award was presented to Jackson in March of this year for his dedication and professionalism.

Officer Jackson and his wife, Mary, have been married for 17 years. They have one son, Jakhary, age 3½.

Drugs in Sports—A Deadly Game

Len Bias, a Maryland All-American basketball player seemed to have it all—success, happiness, money and the prospect of an All-Star career with the World Champion Boston Celtics of the NBA. At the NBA draft, Bias was on top of the World when the Celtics announced him as their first round draft choice, making his dream come true.

But the dream of a life-time turned into a horrible tragedy when Bias was found dead from an overdose of cocaine, less than two days after his biggest moment of glory. "It's the cruelest thing I've ever heard," said Larry Bird, the Celtics All-star forward.

Shock and dismay were felt throughout the sports world as investigations were ordered into Bias' tragic death. Even today, almost two months later, those investigations continue. Brian Tribble, who was charged in connection with Bias' cocaine intoxication death, has recently been linked to a gun slaying, as the tragedy continues to make the news.

Unfortunately, the cruel cocaine death of Bias was followed only eight days later by yet another. Don Rogers, a starting free safety for the NFL Cleveland Browns and the 1984 AFC Rookie of the Year, was found "unconscious and unresponsive" on the day before his wedding. A few hours

The New War on Drugs—Does It Ignore the Black Situation?

by Eldridge Lewis

The harsh irony of Reagan's new war on drugs is that those black communities most in need of help, the ghettos and regions of poverty, may ultimately be the most neglected.

From Harlem to Watts, life in the streets is cheek by jowl with drugs—the buying, the selling, and getting high for a "good time." It is often not possible to walk more than a few blocks in some areas before someone mumbles an offer to deal as you pass. Everything from marijuana and cocaine to heroin is more than available for the right price. And efforts of law enforcement officers have never dried up supplies for longer than a brief pause in the multi-billion dollar business of temporary escape, misery and sometimes death.

A key stratagem of the government's new campaign will be drug testing on the job, already a common practice within a larger number of Fortune 500 companies and something Reagan appears to have taken from big business. The problem is that those black communities where fresh strategies are most needed are the ones most ravaged with unemployment. Today, close to half of the 8.8 million working-age black men lack jobs, says a report from the Center for the Study of Social Policy. "They are either unemployed, out of the labor force, in correction facilities or unaccounted for."

Out of work, and often with precious few prospects for any kind of job without leaving their homes, young black males frequently turn to the hustle of the street economy to make ends meet, peddling drugs, mugging the few passers-by and even "cattle rustling"—stealing meat from a grocery store. While blacks form 12.1 percent of the population, 46 percent of the occupants of state and federal prisons are black. This statistic highlights the prevalence of a crime-oriented lifestyle in some black communities.

Falling prey to drugs is all too easy when life on the street is rarely planned beyond tomorrow and where hope for change lies in the dream of the big score. And in this environment, the threat of drug testing on the job becomes a ludicrous joke. What job?

If there is any part of the stepped-up campaign that offers some hope for success in ghetto areas, it will be the expanded drug education programs. But again, the black communities most in need may be the ones least influenced by such programs. "The point is to convince people that drugs like cocaine are harmful," says Robert Stutman, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York field division. "It's more a question of frightening people than giving medical facts."

Yet in ghettos, where drugs are part of the fabric of street life, where illegal drugs are seen day in and day out, such scare tactics have in the past proved virtually meaningless. John Duff, co-author of the book "The Truth About Drugs" who has lectured on drug misuse in schools and colleges across the country as part of the "Drug Ed" program, says drug education has drastically missed the mark. Not only is the information inadequate, but scare tactics tended to discredit the programs. "Books were written with the most horrifying of facts," he says. "They told gruesome tales of someone getting caught in drugs' evil grip."

Duff says they have impact at first. But then as kids meet drug users and see that they are not all drug crazed and degenerate, the drug education becomes suspect. Kids start to think that the drug education has lied. "The main sources of drug data for all the kids, namely the schools, have lost all credibility," says Duff.

Duff suggests that a more effective approach lies in factual examination of "a better way than drugs." Perhaps the biggest mistake is to look upon drug education as divorced from general educational goals.

As Jesse Jackson said recently: "The call to our children to prepare themselves to go through the doors that are now opening is critical... We cannot reach maturity if we watch five hours of TV at night and choose entertainment over education, or if we put cocaine in our membranes and our bodies are too weak and our minds too destroyed to make a contribution."

"The function of education... is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically," said the late Martin Luther King, Jr. "The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals... We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—this is the goal of true education."

Such words of wisdom provide a key to how more effective drug education programs must be developed, ones which have a reasonable chance of curtailing drugs in the ghettos and elsewhere throughout society.

The real battle against drugs, certainly in the ghettos, is not so much a campaign against drugs but a fight toward a better life. Only when we begin to see the situation in this light will educational programs reach effectively into the ghettos and even into middle class black communities as well.

later he was dead from the abuse of cocaine. A day later, his distraught mother suffered a stress-induced heart attack and was hospitalized in critical condition. A time for family celebration had suddenly turned into a time for mourning and grief.

Short of outright killing, drug abuse has also ruined athletes' lives and careers. Michael Ray Richardson is out of basketball because of his drug abuse. Steve Howe couldn't even make it with a minor league baseball team because of his drug problems. Even whole teams, like the NFL New England Patriots, have been devastated by the abuse of drugs.

Any way you look at it, drugs are a serious and deadly problem in sports, not to mention their proliferation throughout our society.

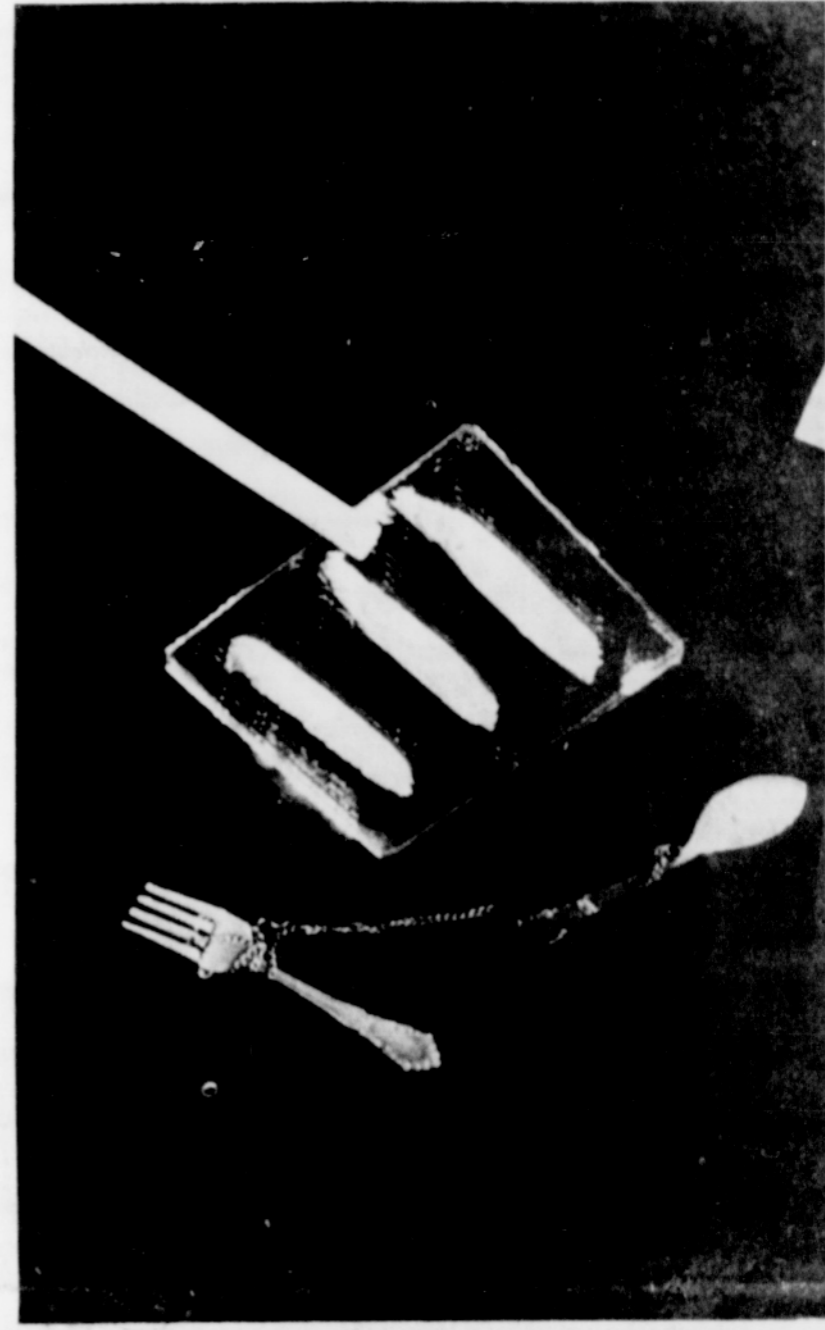
It's brutally evident that something needs to be done, but that creates a whole new set of problems starting with the question—"What Works?"

Let's Go To The Zoo

Nov/Dec.: Family and Youth Programs, Washington Park Zoo. Zoo experience for kids and their parents, endangered species tag class, career exploration for high school and college-age students. Call the Zoo's education division for information, 226-1561.

Nov. 18: Wildlife Lecture Series: Endangered Species at Front Royal, presented by Dr. Chris Wemmer. 7:30 p.m., Miller Hall at the World Forestry Center. Front Royal, the National Zoo's huge breeding center in rural Virginia, is the home and last hope for a number of species on the brink of extinction. Dr. Wemmer, curator, will provide an overview of the strategies zoos are using to save these species. Sponsored by the Friends of the Washington Park Zoo. Admission at the door, \$3 adults, \$2 seniors.

Dec. 30: Children's Holiday Free Day, Washington Park Zoo. Free admission for children 11 and under. Special activities and clowns between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



Teens Banding Together to Say No to Drugs

American teen-agers have been the most drug pervaded youth in the world. A recent survey of some 40,000 youngsters revealed that over one in 10 seniors and one in 13 juniors use cocaine occasionally to daily; one in 20 seniors uses marijuana daily.

Despite these alarming statistics, tens of thousands of young people are banding together to fight drug use in what is described as a major national movement.

By participating in anti-drug rallies, conferences and forming national organizations with names like Just Say No, World Youth Against Drug Abuse and College Challenge, along with a host of state organizations, teen-agers are taking positive steps to rid their lives of drugs. The first bylaw of most of these groups is: no illegal drug use and no alcohol until you reach the legal drinking age.

Those involved in the teen movement say their role is to counter the enormous pressure faced by teens to take drugs, to act as a support system and to teach their peers how to say no. As Rick Lautman, 23, head of Teen Connection in Mississippi, said, "Parents don't begin to fathom what peer pressure is. Today you find kids who get wasted on alcohol, pot and speed. Ninety percent will say, 'I really didn't want to, but I was afraid everyone would call me a wimp.'"

The leaders of the teen-age anti-drug groups are anything but nerds or wimps. They are, in the main, popular youngsters, respected by their classmates. As 17-year-old Billy Coletti, founder and president of Florida's Informed Teens, said, "Even the druggies don't resent me that much, because I'm making a stand."

Many of the groups use a simple approach to combating the drug scourge. "The best way to fight drug abuse is with the three E's: Educate, Educate and Educate," said Lori Smith of PUSH (Prevention Using Student Help).

Another successful approach is to provide activities that are drug- and alcohol-free. STOPP (Students to Offset Peer Pressure) in Hudson, N.H., holds high school dances, which in turn serve as fund-raisers for even more events—such as midnight cruises, mountain climbing, cookouts and bowling.

Each success seems to spawn additional teen groups. Said Mary Cobbs of Atlanta-based PRIDE (Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education): "The youth groups are multiplying faster than we can keep track of them."

Dr. Donald Ian MacDonald, Administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, feels the teen-age anti-drug movement bodes well for the country. "Those kids who do learn to handle peer pressure and think for themselves may well be the strongest, most responsible, finest youngsters that we have seen in this nation."