

# Parent Warns of the Dangers of Child drug Abuse

by Richard Marks

Gary started on drugs when he was 10 years old. He hid his drug dependency from his parents for more than five years. By the time he reached high school, Gary was addicted to cocaine. His parents did not know he was hooked on drugs, but his mother was beginning to suspect that something was very, very wrong. When she found out, it was almost too late.

Gary's story is not an unusual one. By current statistics, 61 percent of all American high school seniors have tried illegal drugs. All too often, the parents of these students are either unable to recognize their children's drug problem or unable to do anything effective to handle it.

Gary's mother found out about his drug problem after Gary began failing in high school. His grades were poor, he skipped classes and sometimes never bothered to attend at all.

At home, Gary went through mood swings—up one minute, down the next. His schedule was erratic, money disappeared from around the house and he wrecked his car.

These were all, however, symptoms of a much larger problem. Even before he reached his senior year, Gary had tried every kind of drug he could—marijuana, alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, LSD, peyote and PCP. In his late teens, he turned to cocaine.

At first, he either snorted or injected the drug, but later he took to using crack, a concentrated and highly addictive form of coke.

The need for drugs led to a need for money and Gary dropped out of school to take a day job while trying to continue his education through extension courses.

"I had a pretty good 8-to-5 job," he says. "I'd make about \$400 a week."

Of that, \$350 a week went to buy drugs.

Gary's drug problem was by now too big to hide. His parents suspected the problem but didn't know what to do about it.

Through a friend, Gary's mother heard about Narconon, a detoxification, rehabilitation and education program based on the research and writings of author and educator L. Ron Hubbard.

Best known for his self-help bestseller, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," Hubbard developed a drug handling and detoxification method that is currently one of the most successful in the world. It is the Hubbard Method that enables Narconon to not only help drug users but to help their families and friends as well.

When his parents finally confronted Gary with the fact that he had a drug problem, he was resistive.

"What do you want me to do?" he asked. "Quit or split? If that's the choice, I'll split."

Later, he realized that he wanted to stop using drugs, and that he was unable to do so on his own. His life was being controlled, in his words, by the desire to "get another bag of dope."

Instead of leaving, he decided to take his parents' advice and get help.

"When I came to Narconon, I thought it was impossible for anyone to get me off drugs," he says. "I was very wrong about this. The program I went through was very effective in getting me off and helping me stay off drugs."

"They not only got me off drugs but also helped me to learn that no problem in life is too big or too bad to handle," he concludes.

Today, Gary is going back to school and planning a new future for himself, a future that would not have been possible without Narconon and the Hubbard Method.

Gary's mother is quick to note that it is also vitally important for parents to recognize the warning signs of drug abuse before it becomes too late.

"As painful as it was to confront Gary's actual drug problem," she says, "it was nothing compared to the pain of avoiding it."

## Finding "Mr./Ms. Right"

The Personal Ads section in many publications is often followed more avidly than the ins and outs of Gary Hart. Now you can make this section of the newspaper work for you.

Fulton Park Community Center, 68 SW Miles, is offering a one-session workshop "Finding Love Through the Personal Ads". You'll learn how to decipher these ads, how to compose and place them to ensure a large number of responses, plus get tips for that crucial first meeting.

The session meets Tuesday, October 13, from 7 to 8:30 P.M. The fee is \$3.00.

## YWCA Hires Program Director for Northeast

Constance G. Carley has been selected as Program Director for the newly-opened Northeast Center of the YWCA of Portland, Executive Director Sheryl M. Warren has announced.

A graduate of Washington State



University, Carley worked for several years at Tektronix, and more recently served as Director of Social Services for Highland Community Services.

She is an active community volunteer, as business manager for

PassinArt: A Theatre Company, a crisis counselor for the Portland Womens Crisis Line, a program committee member for the Portland Black Womens Gathering, and vice-chairperson for the Northeast Emergency Food Program Steering Committee.

At the YWCA's Northeast Center, Carley will administer and direct all programs and operations, including fiscal and personnel management and development of community support and relations with other service agencies.

Carley begins her job amidst renovation at the center, recently opened at 5630 N.E. Union Avenue.

The YWCA acquired the building after several years at rented facilities. A grand opening is scheduled for December 4.

Carley, with Case Manager Vicki Neland and Teenage Parent Program Coordinator Sandra Golden, are offering after-school tutoring, teen parent classes and counseling and adult women employment and personal support.

Carley will work closely with members of the community to develop further programs according to specific needs and interests of the local area.

## Black Colleges Annual Conference

Dr. JoAnn Weaver Brown-Nash, Senior Vice President, Prescription Learning Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, will be the keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Black Colleges Conference which will be held Octo-



Dr. JoAnn Weaver Brown-Nash.

ber 24, 1987, at the Red Lion, Columbia River from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The conference will feature speakers and representatives from many historically Black Colleges, and workshops on many topics including financial aid, tips for test taking, and careers of the future.

Additional information regarding the conference may be obtained by calling 284-7930.

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