

What You Should Know About Crack

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"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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Crack: New Danger in Communities

by Ron Harris

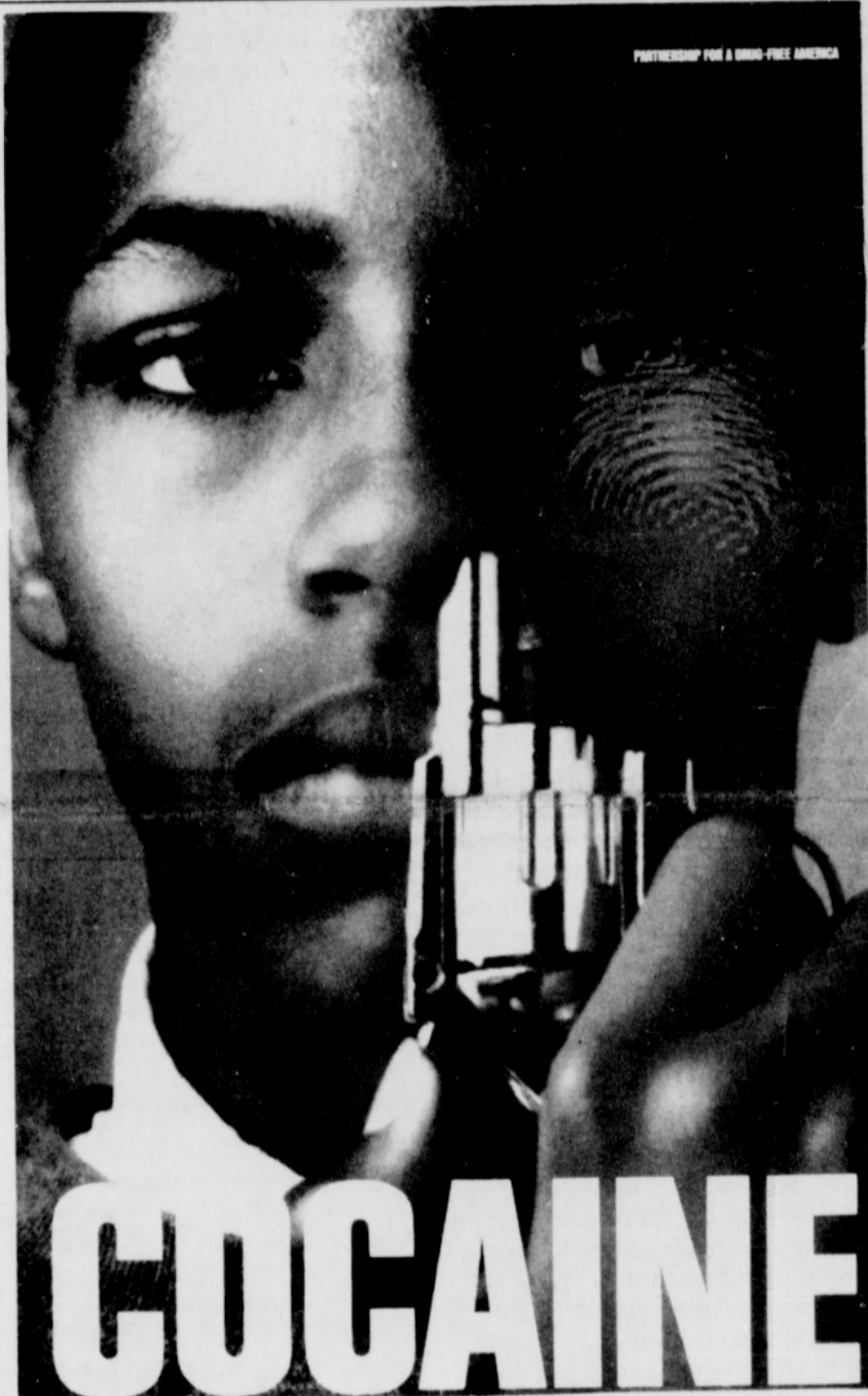
In the last three years, according to a new Drug Enforcement Administration report, crack (a highly addictive cocaine derivative) has rapidly spread to 46 states — all but the most sparsely populated areas of the country. Using such phrases as "dramatic increase," "serious problem," and "escalating to alarming levels," the 22-page document details the rapid emergence of this terrifying drug on the streets in many middle-size cities, smaller towns and even rural areas in America.

"Never before has any form of cocaine been available at such low cost and high potency," the report said of crack, a drug which is "inexpensive, highly addictive" and "physically and emotionally destructive."

The report has come just at the time when President Reagan declared that "the tide of the battle has turned and we are beginning to win the crusade for a drug-free America," citing surveys that showed cocaine abuse among high school seniors and other young adults dropped 20 percent last year.

But many local officials consider that White House rhetoric is not reflecting the whole picture at the community level. "Just saying 'no' is not enough," Peter F. Luongo, director of a youth treatment program in Maryland, told the Los Angeles Times. "We've got to do something."

The new crack trafficking organizations, partly composed of members or former members of big city street gangs, make extensive use of teenagers both as pushers and couriers. Young people, many under the age of 16, are tempted by the prospect of plenty of spending money, nice clothes, fancy cars, and the weapons that have become part of most crack operations. Individual organizations are reported to be selling up



to \$3 million of crack a day in larger cities.

Apart from lowering prices to bolster crack use, big business marketing techniques are now being adopted in some areas to increase customer sales, everything from packaging crack under brand names (like "Airborne" and "Sudden Impact") to sales com-

petitions within trafficking organizations.

The initial response to the sweeping crack wave has been to call for increased law enforcement resources to effectively drug networks and the violence and killing that follows them. But, as we have learned through years of escalating drug abuse, this

alone will not lead to a drug-free America.

Even in a police state as tightly controlled as the Soviet Union, there is a drug problem. "There has always been every type of drug available in Moscow," recently said a medical doctor who defected to America. "At night on streets near Red Square, you can get anything you want — women, men or drugs."

For those who work with drug users at the street level in American cities, there is broad agreement that we cannot eliminate a social problem like drugs simply by making it also a criminal problem.

To fully handle why someone takes drugs now, it is often necessary to resolve what was wrong before they took them.

The war-to-end-all-wars on drugs, the only one that has a hope of truly brining about a drug-free America, cannot just attack drugs and their pushers. It must also focus on better ways of dealing with those problems that lead to drug abuse. Trying to punish those who use drugs has more than proven to be an ineffective, incomplete solution.

While drug abuse is rampant in America, reducing efforts to stem the flow of drugs into the country might be disastrous. But without a more direct attack on those factors leading to drug abuse, crack and other drugs will be a part of the American landscape for many years to come, available to any teenager or adult alike who cares to seek them out.

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Oregon Bank Scholarship Established



Dr. Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, shakes hands with Joseph H. Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Oregon Bank, who has established a scholarship fund for members of minority groups with an interest in a career in financial services.

Oregon Bank announced April 11 that it has established an Oregon Bank Scholarship Fund to provide two scholarships annually to be awarded to graduating Portland School District High School seniors. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist graduating seniors from minority groups who have an interest in and the potential for a career in financial services.

Dr. Matthew Prophet, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, said, "I am very pleased to welcome the Oregon Bank Scholarship into our financial aid program for graduating seniors. It expands the opportunities in higher education for our students, while it encourages our highly qualified candidates to study in Oregon."

According to Joseph H. Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, "We are excited about the potential this program provides for attracting minorities into the financial services field. At the same time, we are endorsing the Oregon public education system for its ability to educate and prepare individuals for banking careers. We are pleased that the possible opportunity to work at Oregon Bank during summer vacations will not only provide additional funds for the student's

education but also provide hands-on experience in the Bank."

The scholarships provide the equivalent amount of a full year's tuition at a public four-year college or university in the State of Oregon and is renewable over a four-year period. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of:

1. Personal and academic achievement and potential.
2. Membership in a racial or ethnic minority group.
3. Record of participation in extra curricular activities, both in school and/or the community.
4. Grade-point average of 3.0 or combined SAT score of 1050.
5. Availability for employment at the Oregon Bank during summer vacations while on scholarship.

Application forms may be obtained from the college counselor at any Portland Public High School. Finalists will be interviewed by the Oregon Bank and recipients will be notified by June 1, 1988.

Oregon Bank has assets of \$1.2 billion and 56 branches throughout Oregon. The Portland-based commercial bank is a subsidiary of Security Pacific Corporation, based in Los Angeles, and is administered by Rainier Bancorporation headquartered in Seattle.

The Other Type of Gang: Skinheads

by I.R. Macrae

Crips, Bloods and Asian gangs have got officials and citizens worried, and with good reason. Well-organized, sophisticated and armed with deadly weapons, they have been linked to drug-pushing, prostitution and numerous other crimes. While often

One type of gang member is a different breed, however, motivated not by greed but by hatred, pure and simple.

Violent, most gang activities are motivated by desire for fast, large profits to be made by dealing in illicit drugs, pimping or trafficking in stolen goods. One type of gang member is a different breed, however, motivated not by greed but by hatred, pure and simple.

Well informed sources describe the skinheads as young adults who hate "everything and everyone..." but have a particular grudge against Jews and racial or ethnic minorities — especially

Asians and African Americans. Their activities range from passing out hate literature and scrawling graffiti to harrassment, assault and, in at least two cases in Portland, murder.

Neo-Nazi groups such as the Aryan Brotherhood are known to be actively recruiting among the skinheads. It seems the young punks find the ideology of hate provides at least the pretense of a rationale for their violence. Not that they need a rationale to attack or harrass. Among recent incidents: two skinheads approached a white person waiting at a bus-stop, asking for money. When the person refused, he was beaten with an umbrella. A white youth was "cut-up" by two skinheads, and a white street corner preacher was beaten when he refused to assent to the superiority of the white race. Most victims, however, are minorities. They include a security guard at Lincoln High School, an African American woman attacked near Lloyd Center, and most recently, an Asian man beaten as he emerged from a

Chinese restaurant in Old Town.

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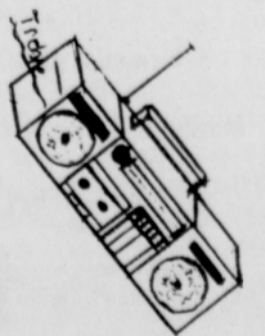
One of the most serious skinhead incidents to date occurred in 1986 when a member of the San Francisco gang called the "San Francisco Bashers" came to Portland via Richard Butler's Neo-Nazi training camp in Idaho. Like many skinheads, "Basher Dave," as he was called, was a devotee of heavy-metal music with its frequent allusions to Satanism and fascism. It was not surprising, therefore, that he gravitated to Satyricon Nightclub in Old Town where he enjoyed the music before committing murder. Last year, another Old Town murder was attributed to the skinheads when a group of them beat a trans-

sient to death.

Neil Crannell, member of the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Unit, believes that while the overall numbers of skinheads remain small, they are bolder now than they have been in the past. Increased publicity from television talk shows and town meetings may be part of the reason, but Crannell thinks that most are simply aware that they will probably spend little time in jail. Most of their activities are misdemeanors, he explains, so the chance of incarceration is small.

Another source noted that the skinheads are "just not that well-organized." Black and Oriental gangs are much more dangerous at the present time, he said. Accordingly, most funding and police work has focused on the latter. However, Mayor Bud Clark has asked the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission to investigate the skinheads in the aftermath of the most recent attack.

FCC Grants Approval for Black-Owned Radio Station



Christopher Bennett of Seattle, Washington, an African-American businessman, announced today that the Federal Communications Commission has granted approval of a license for the operation of Oregon's first Black-owned radio station. The station will operate under the call letters KAAR (1480 AM) and will feature a

24-hour contemporary soul format.

The station will be located at 510 S.W. 3rd Avenue in Portland (Postal Building). Resumes and air tapes are now being accepted. Interviews are scheduled to commence on Friday, April 15, 1988. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply by calling 222-1480.