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OPINION

HIS



The "Hers" side of the His/Hers Opinion Page has been temporarily suspended while the Observer seeks a new writer. The Portland Observer is seeking a female to write the "Hers" viewpoint in the popular column "His/Hers Opinion" published weekly in this paper. Individual should be creative, intelligent, committed, black, and an excellent writer. This person should also be able to meet publication deadlines. Please drop off samples at 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. No telephone calls, please. A freelance fee will be discussed should you be the one selected.

A WINNING PAIR



Guy L. Smith, IV, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., center, congratulates the two winners of the Philip Morris Summer Internship Program's Opportunity Awards during a recent reception for the 102 interns at the company's headquarters in New York City. The winners are Sherry Ann Jackson left, an intern with the Roundtable Theater Company and Joel Mentor, an intern with the National Association for the Visually

Handicapped. Both winners will receive a \$1000 college tuition grant. Philip Morris sponsored 102 student interns, recruited by the New York City Partnership's Summer Jobs Program, to work in 102 non-profit agencies in New York City. The master of ceremonies for the reception, Smith said the company's efforts make it possible for non-profit agencies to afford summer interns while preparing students for "the world of work."



The last pole of the transcontinental telephone line, linking the east and west coasts was erected in 1915.

FOR THE CHILDREN WHO WAIT RIBBON CAMPAIGN

One Church, One Child of Oregon, The Urban League of Portland, The American Red Cross and KBMS 1480 are sponsors of the "For The Children Who Wait" Ribbon Campaign to kickoff during the month of August.

One Church, One Child is a program designed to seek Black families to adopt Black children. The program has placed 31 children with permanent families since 1988.

The ribbon campaign is a way to inform the community of the need to find permanent homes for African American children who are currently in foster care and to support the One Church, One Child program. Everyone in the community is encouraged and urged to take part in this campaign by tying on the ribbon to car antennas and/or side view mirrors to support the children who are waiting for a "forever family." It is hoped as time goes by, that more people will realize what it symbolizes. The ribbons should be displayed until all of the waiting Black children have been adopted.

"We hope to kick off a national ribbon campaign to include all of the One Church, One Child programs and to recruit more sponsors" say Kathy Kendrick, Public Relations Specialist for One Church, One Child of Oregon.

Ribbons can be picked up at the Urban League of Portland, 10 N. Russell, The American Red Cross, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave., KBMS 1480, 510 SW 3rd and One Church, One Child of Oregon, 5806 N. Albina.

Should Mothers Giving Birth to Crack Addicted Babies be Prosecuted as Criminals?

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

Paul Malone is barely a year old. According to his medical foster parent, Maryrose Sanders, he will never know what a hug feels like or see the world around him. Paul will never comprehend basic realities because he is in a coma. He has been in a coma since April 27th and shows no signs of improvement. Paul is in this condition because he was beaten to pulp by his father's girlfriend. He suffered multiple skull fractures. Anette L. Hunt, a 19-year old Portland woman, was sentenced to up to one year in jail and a residential treatment program for the crime. She will also be on probation for five years. Recently, a southern Oregon man was sentenced to 18 months in jail for animal abuse. Are children's lives less valuable? She will serve only 180 days.

Regardless of whether Hunt would not have hurt young Paul or not, he would have had a difficult life. His biological mother abused crack cocaine and he was born an addict. Imagine being a newborn, hours into the world and the owner of a cocaine problem. The crying, screaming, craving, restlessness and need for a substance you know nothing about except through our mothers social habits. Paul's mother had no regard for his life or future. Experts say that crack cocaine erodes values, self-esteem, motivation, ambition, and life perspective. What else could make a mother to be forgot about the little soul that she is carrying inside her? Can a drug be that powerful or a person that weak? Little Paul had to pay the price. He paid the price because no one cared about his well being and because the District Attorney Office arranged a plea bargain with Hunt. Even more sadly, Paul lives in a Southeast home with his medical foster mother because he had no medical insurance. He stayed in the hospital one week before CSD placed him in the home. It's tough when you are a ward of the state.

Crack cocaine is a very popular and potent drug. When Paul's mother inhaled the drug, it shot straight through her bloodstream and ultimately to the placenta, then, his blood vessels started to constrict, provoking light strokes that killed segments of his tiny brain and this lead to neurological damage. Not to mention the multiple blows he took up side his little head. Before he, Paul, entered the world, he had seizures and shook uncontrollably. He even reswallowed his own urine, that eventually flowed into the amniotic fluid and caused additional damage from the same hit. Crack cocaine can also bring on premature labor. It can raise blood pressure and trigger contractions, thus causing the placenta to tear away from the lining of the uterus. This forces early delivery. Some

of Paul's friends' weighed as little as two pounds. It's a sad shame.

According to stats compiled by 46 hospitals nationally, 11 percent of the babies born in 1989 were addicted to crack cocaine and that translates to al-

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most a half million youngsters annually. How many Andrew Young's, Magic Johnson's, David Dinkins, Spike Lee's, or Bill Cosby's will be denied the opportunity to reach their fullest potential because of someone's desire to smoke cocaine? We have got to do something to save our children, please. Losing a new generation to gang violence and criminal related activities only complicates matters even worse. Where does the madness end? Babies born on crack cocaine is only the beginning of the problem. It gets tougher on the child when it is time to start school and begin general assimilation in society with shortcomings.

Psychologists/medical experts contend that children born addicted to cocaine are slow learners, have poor attention spans, are afraid to bond, exhibit anti-social behavior patterns, and suffer from speech difficulties/impaired speech patterns and hyperactivity. These children will need so much educational attention, support services, and understanding. Is the educational system in America willing and ready to deal with a new and growing "at risk" group? Does America really care as it progresses to a predominately minority work force by the year 2000? There are some serious doubts by many experts. Of the \$4.5 billion dollars approved to combat the Bush administrations "War On Drugs", 70% of the budget is going to law for Paul and his half-million friends. There needs to be less spent on police, prison beds, law enforcement overtime, helicopters and assault weapons. If nothing else, there should at least be a 50-50 split between law enforcement and intervention/education for young people. Prevention is the best method. Catch the young ones before they have to be locked up or recycled by the criminal justice system or looked down upon by some in-

sensitive educator, who might not be aware of the child's history.

The story even goes deeper than Paul and his friends. Sadly, the great majority of the cocaine abusing mothers were sexually abused, members of grossly dysfunctional families, come from broken homes, and accept the lifestyle as normal. The cycle is repeated generation after generation. Where does it end, or how can the cycle be destroyed and moved into a positive direction? If the cycle is continued, again, there will be an entirely new underclass growing in America at the expense of taxpayers. When the issue of services is addressed, in Oregon for example, there are only a few programs for mothers to go to for help. Many are afraid to lose their children to CSD because of their abuse and avoid valuable pre-natal care. Women are afraid to come forth with their problem and others recklessly disregard the life of the child. How many mothers are out there who avoid detection because of stable incomes and solid insurance coverage? The problem just goes deeper and deeper. Drug abuse is a serious problem in this country and children are the ones suffering the most.

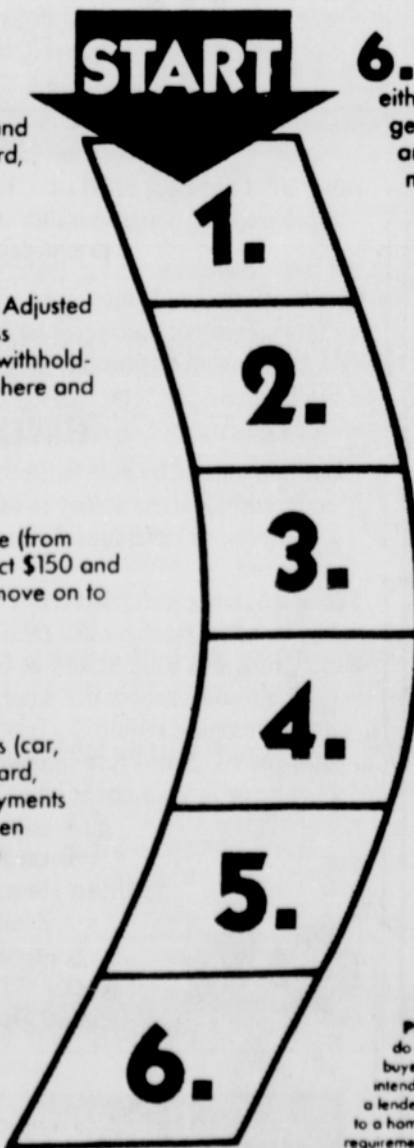
Still, the question remains, should these women abusing cocaine be charged as criminals or for child abuse? Do they know right from wrong or do they really care about being pregnant and getting high? It would be a total contradiction to jail the same women for abuse who were turned away because they could not get treatment. Locking these women up to "chill" their cocaine habit would be a great idea, especially early in the pregnancy. To lock them up for abuse of cocaine will not solve the problem. Do you take the child away from the abuser, only to see the same person a year later with the same problem? There needs to be more community based treatment centers an educational programs to educate these women. On the other hand, individuals like Hunt need to receive full punishment for their crimes. To use cocaine is an entirely different issue than beating some child until they are unconscious. Ironically, Hunt recently had a child by Paul's biological father. Is this another accident waiting to happen? The court also told Hunt to take some anger management classes at New Beginnings when her residential sentence starts.

Who knows, had Paul's biological Mom "did the right thing," instead of ending up without custody or not abusing drugs, maybe he would have had half a chance to be a productive human being. If someone you know is abusing cocaine while pregnant, call the Oregon Prevention Resource Center at 1-800-822-6772 or HELPLINE at 1-800-621-1646. Give the Paul Malone's of the world a chance at life.

WANT TO BUY YOUR OWN HOME? MOVE SIX SPACES FORWARD.

(It'll take just a few minutes to see if you can afford a HUD home!)

1. If you've worked for two years for the same employer (or in the same occupation) and you have a good credit record, move ahead 1 space.
2. Stop here and compute your Adjusted Income. That's your total gross monthly income, less federal withholding taxes. Write your answer here and move on.
3. Multiply your Adjusted Income (from space 2) by 0.38, then subtract \$150 and write the answer here. Then move on to the next space.
4. Add up all your monthly debts (car, loan, credit purchase, credit card, child support and alimony payments you owe every month) and then add \$150. Fill in the total here and go to space 5.
5. You're almost home. Multiply your Adjusted Income (from space 2) by 0.53, subtract the amount on space 4, and write the result here. Now move along.



6. Write the smaller amount of either space 3 or space 5 here. As a general rule, that's the maximum amount you can afford for a monthly house payment (including property taxes).

YOU DID IT! If the number in space 6 is more than \$550, then chances are good that HUD has an affordable home for you. Your next move is to call your real estate agent.

Low monthly payments and 3% down!
Most of our HUD homes are approved for FHA Mortgage Insurance, which makes them more affordable than ever. Plus, HUD's bid process is easy.
For listings of HUD homes available now, look for our big real estate classified ad in every Sunday Oregonian.



PLEASE NOTE: Individual circumstances vary as do lenders' requirements for qualifying a prospective buyer for a home mortgage. The formula here is intended only to provide you with a general idea of what a lender may view your financial condition as it applies to a home purchase. For further information on loan requirements, talk to your real estate agent or local lender.

US WEST PRESENTS SENIOR DAY AT ZOO

Seniors and their escorts will be admitted free to Metro Washington Park Zoo on Senior Citizens Day, Tuesday, Sept. 11. This is the 15th year for this event. Senior Citizens Day is sponsored by US WEST Communications, with special support from Senior World.

Activities scheduled between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. include free train rides, music, dancing, animal talks and the petting zoo. In addition, US West Community Relations teams will serve free beverages and light refreshments.

Care Medical, Inc., is contributing wheelchairs, which will be free on a first-come, first-serve basis. Numbers are limited, so seniors are urged to bring their own wheelchairs whenever possible. Volunteers from Southwest Portland Rotary and West Linn Lions Clubs will be available to push wheelchairs.

Tri-Met will provide expanded service on Route #63, with accessible buses operating on a 30-minute schedule between downtown Portland and the zoo. Call Tri-Met customer service, 233-3511, for fares and routing.

TOP-LEVEL TALK



Craig Weatherup, President and CEO of Pepsi-Cola Company, responds to questions of participants in the Pepsi-Cola Summer Intern Program during a recent four-day conference at Pepsi headquarters in Somers, N.Y. With Weatherup are, from left: Steve Brown, Georgia Technical University; Serrick McNeil,

Washington University; Juan Salinas, Rutgers University (partially hidden) and Latonya Bennett, Texas A&M University. Weatherup had earlier told an audience of 80 college students that big business should both help to solve societal problems and to promote ethnic diversity in the work force.

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The wisteria, the stringbean and the locust tree are all members of the same family. All produce similar seed pods.