

The African American Program

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

return rate to prison was nearly one in four, which was disproportionately high in comparison with other segments of the population under supervision.

The new program ran as a pilot project until recently, and utilized a holistic, culturally-based approach that reached out to inmates still in prison, but within about four months of release to parole in Multnomah County. Corrections counselors from Adult Community Justice established group counseling sessions within the institutions, with the cooperation of state officials. Voluntary inmate participation helped ensure only those willing to make a commitment to change would be accepted into the program, which dealt with issues of race, employment, education, vocational training, financial and family stability and how to find the support to break the cycle of recidivism. Upon release, participants were immediately linked with parole officers who are members of the program, and the momentum begun in prison was strengthened and carried forward in the community, as a team effort.

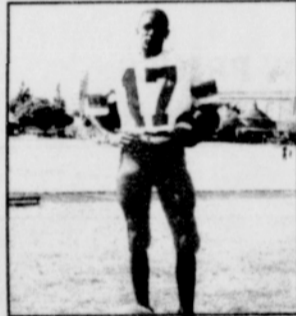
Today, what has become the African American Program has shown that lifestyle and perception changes can be made, that will allow these men to deal with issues that once kept them trapped within a system. When

one stumbles, the rest reach out and offer support during regular group meetings led by ACJ staff. The program's goals of reducing recidivism, increasing educational levels, securing meaningful employment and encouraging family involvement have shown great promise. The achievement award ceremony marked the first group of these men to be officially recognized as having successfully reached the "unsupervised" parole status, meaning their behavior and level of accomplishments earned them the right to no longer have to report to a parole officer on a regular basis. For many, it was the first time in their lives they could say this.

At the recent graduation, men receiving their certificates openly shared their appreciation and remarkable experiences in having participated in the African American Program. Many vowed to remain involved to support others, and some spoke of reaching out to youth who are starting out on the road they once traveled.

When interviewed after the ceremony, Carl Goodman stated that he was touched by their statements of gratitude for what the program had done for them. "Everything we had envisioned has come about. I was humbled by it. I got touched today," he remarked.

In Loving Memory of Christopher Sutton



Christopher Sutton was born September 26, 1980 and died on July 21, 1998. He attended Vernon Elementary School, Binnsmead Middle School, and graduated from Benson Poly-Technic High School in June of this year where he participated in both basketball and football. He was planning to attend Alabama State University in the fall.

A Dream Expired To Soon

A dream expired to soon
In a world too unbearable to consume.
Loved and cherished by all peers
So many memories through the years
All your talents and jokes we shared
You'll never know how much we cared
I love you brother, remember Chris
I never thought it would come to this
Enjoy heaven, happy and clean
We'll always remember your number "seventeen"
Not only your number but also your age
A devastation to all, God turned the page
We love you, Chris
God Please Bless Him!

"17"

Written by

Sean Sutton

July 21, 1998

For funeral details, please call the Portland Police Bureau's Crisis Response Team at (503) 823-5700.

FAMILY MATTERS: THE WAY IT WAS III

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

A reader suggests that it is about time that I highlighted the important role of the African American woman on this early inner city stage. Take you seats and let the house lights dim.

We could begin with the 'preparation-for-life' provided by those gifted and dedicated elementary school teachers. Those were not 'high school' curriculums, grammar exercises or vocabularies which were described the past two weeks.

Rather, this level of ability to use and understand the English language was considered a prerequisite for an acceptable educational performance in high school. Never mind that this was a typical urban ghetto in the pre-civil rights era and that opportunities for African Americans-educated or not-were severely limited; 'degree of improvement is debated.

These committed 'grade school' teachers, black or white, came under the prescribed education mantra of the time: a degree from a 'recognized' teacher college, 'be of the female sex,' and unmarried. I am familiar with the process because both my mother and her sister graduated from "Stowe Teacher College" of St. Louis, Mo. My mother lost her job when she married my father and divorced three years later, returned to her father's house with her child.

In those days, the schoolhouse was an extension of the homes in the "village," and it was understood that the exact same level of conduct,

decorum and social interaction was to be maintained in both places. 'Truancy' was not an acceptable behavior and consequently, no roaming neighborhood terrorists or burglars allowed.

The social structure of the "extended family" was not supported by any of today's panaceas or icons; there was no Prosaic, no Dr. Spock, and no schoolyard massacres. How much, indeed, is owed to those tens of thousands of black or white females who gave up so much of a 'normal' life in honoring a self-imposed societal responsibility? ("Proudly and joyfully we might add.")

That educational mode is long gone as it should be, but it should have been replaced with a carefully-crafted societal structure which could do the same job. Our moral and education wastelands mark those women's absence.

I can personally relate to one of the most notable accomplishments of an eminently successful African American business woman—"Madam C.J. Walker" who in the 1920's began a nationwide cosmetic, beauty salon and real estate empire (Well, I was a child and I patronized her ice cream parlor in my neighborhood—how "personal" can you get?)

Without the aid of television and many other of today's marketing tools, this talented woman used the "Negro Press," the public lecture, the church, the schools, the auto and the train to 'connect' with the black women of America. Many of today's

August 31, 1996

Location: 3950 NE Garfield

Victim: Johnson, Alaijo male, Black 17 years old

The victim was sitting on the front steps with his girlfriend. They hear noises in the bushes and shots are fired. The victim is shot multiple times.

Case Open Case Detectives: Craig Yost and Terry Wagner

November 15, 1996

Location: 1460 NE Prescott

Victim: Banks, Willie male, Black 19 years old

The victim and his girlfriend stop at a convenience store. The suspect begins talking to the victim's girlfriend. An argument takes place and the victim is shot.

Case Open Case Detectives: Dave Rubey and Shirley McLaughlin

October 17, 1996

Location: SE 3rd and Ash

Victim: Cobenais, Clayton male, Indian 29 years old

The victim was verbally accosted by the suspect. The victim then shoves the suspect. He is shot as he follows the suspect down the street.

Case Open Case Detectives: Dave Schlegel and Steve Christensen

December 5, 1996

Location: SW Alder and Fifth

Victim: Ramirez-Avila, Alvaro male, Hispanic 24 years old

The victim was involved in a drug deal when he was shot by the suspect.

Case Open Case Detectives: Mike Hefley and Tom Nelson

May 6, 1996

Location: North Buchanan and Olympia

Victim: Beedle, Roger male, White 30 years old

Officers responded to a report of a fight in the street. Upon arrival, they discovered the victim with multiple stab wounds.

Case Open Case Detectives: Craig Yost and Terry Wagner

March 3, 1996

Location: 7300 block of North Montana

Victim: Underwood, James male, White 49 years old

The victim, a transient, was found lying behind a hedge. He had sustained numerous stab wounds.

Case Open Case Detectives: Terry Wagner and Craig Yost

May 11, 1996

Location: 7325 N. St. Louis

Victim: Krueger, Angela female, White 20 years old

The victim is found bludgeoned to death in the Washougal River after disappearing from her residence in Portland.

Case Open Case Detective: Jon Rhodes

May 6, 1996

Location: Forest Park hiking trail

Victim: Overlund, Maggie female, White 19 years old

The victim was shot multiple times and was discovered on a trail in Forest Park.

Case Open Case Detectives: Derek Anderson and Kerry Taylor

July 11, 1996

UNSOLVED MURDERS

CONTINUED FROM METRO

Location: Woodlawn Park 7200 block NE 11th

Victim: Yeggins, Michael male, Black 22 years old

The victim had been sitting in the park with his girlfriend. They are confronted by 2 suspects who asked what his name is. One of the suspects fired multiple shots, killing the victim.

May 28, 1997

Location: North Webster and Albina

Victim: Lim, Wendy female, White 34

The victim is shot multiple times as she is involved in a drug deal.

Case Open Case Detectives: Kerry Taylor and Kent Perry

June 14, 1997

Location: NE 23rd and Alberta

Victim: Myrick, Jamal male, Black 16 years old

The victim is found lying in the street suffering from a gunshot wound.

Case Open Case Detectives: Kris Ferrell and Dave Rubey

June 9, 1997

Location: 12900 SE Division

Victim: Castineira-Delarosa, Ivan male, Hispanic 22 years old

The suspect knocks at the victim's door. The victim does not answer the door and is then shot as he looks out the window.

Case Open Case Detectives: Derek Anderson and Kerry Taylor

August 9, 1997

Location: SE Milwaukie and Powell

Victim: Brewer, Joshua male, White 18 years old

The victim is shot in a store parking lot after a confrontation between the occupants of two vehicles.

Case Open Case Detectives: Kris Ferrell and Wayne Svilar

July 17 and 18, 1997

Location: NE 7th and Flanders

Victim: Luttrell, Lois female, White 38 years old

The victim was found in a business parking lot with multiple stab wounds.

Case Open Case Detectives: Dave Rubey and Kris Ferrell

December-January 1998

Location: Irving Park NE 7th and Fremont

Victim: Scott, Reggie male, Black 20 years old

The victim was found in Irving Park on New Year's morning. He was initially thought to have died from an overdose. At the autopsy, however, it was determined that he had sustained a gun shot wound to the head.

There are no suspects at this time.

Case Detectives: Bob Heimbach and Mark Bigeagle

December-January 1998

Location: 4700 block NE 14th Avenue

Victim: Stone, Ragshann male, Black 19 years old

The victim was found shot to death on a parking strip. He had sustained a gun shot wound to the head.

This is possibly gang related although the victim was reportedly no longer involved in gangs.

Case Detectives: Tom Nelson and Bob Heimbach

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The Way to Happiness A Proven Method to help Prevent Crime.

The Way to Happiness booklet is used all over the world in schools, businesses and community organizations to help create a saner world.

DOWNTREND IN CRIME STATISTICS

"The crime statistics from major crime in this area have been considerably down for each of the first four months of the year. I know that the distribution of over 16,000 *The Way to Happiness* books has had a lot to do with this."

Mike Hoy, Director, Pico Union Improvement Association, LA California

80% DECREASE IN VIOLENCE ON SCHOOL CAMPUS

"In addition to making a kinder, gentler school, *The Way to Happiness* program has made it safer. We have decreased the violence by 70% -80% over the school year. We have decreased disrespectful attitudes towards teachers, decreased vulgar Language and gestures. You name it, it's better.

V.B. Principal, Lockland, Tennessee

RECIDIVISM (REPEAT CONVICTIONS) REDUCED FROM 70% TO 10%

"We noticed immediately that the children who were exposed to *The Way to Happiness* had a much lower recidivism than those who were not exposed to the booklet. About 90% of those who were given the booklet did not come back to the court again. The recidivism rate, in other words, dropped from 70% to 10%. The result were so spectacular that we incorporated the use of the booklet as a standard element in our program. *The Way to Happiness* has proved so effective in rehabilitating delinquent teenagers, we feel that the booklet really should be made available to them before they get into trouble."

Danny O. Black, Chief Probation Officer, Greenville, Alabama

To order *The Way to Happiness* booklets or for information on programs call ABLÉ Oregon at (503)203-1301

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