

Difficult recovery

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"I got seriously into cocaine for probably three years. I once scored cocaine. I shot cocaine." In the beginning, John spent some \$30 every once in awhile on cocaine.

Toward the end, it was like \$500 every time I'd go out and use. Some cocaine users he knows spend as much as \$1,000 a day on the cocaine.

"That \$500 deal, that wasn't a daily thing, that was when I used," generally once a week or so.

"I couldn't admit I was addicted to this stuff, because I didn't use it every day. But I would spend every penny I had. I was not going to stop until it was gone. Nothing else mattered."

His drug use didn't affect him tremendously on the job, John said.

"I was missing some time, but I wasn't missing a whole lot. I didn't use at work or anything."

"My immediate family suffered greatly. It's a type of disease that affects the people around you, but especially the people closest to you."

EVEN NOW, when John stays in the family bathroom for too long, or doesn't come home at the usual time, his wife becomes apprehensive.

"I can see the look in her face," John's wife is not participating in a recovery program.

"I think that would help her tremendously, to deal with her feelings," he said. "But our relationship is incredibly better. We've got a normal relationship now."

"I wouldn't come home, I wouldn't call, I didn't care," he said of his years of drug use. "That behavior led to feelings of guilt and remorse."

"And then you're right back. You wind up feeling so bad about yourself." John eventually sought treatment, including attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

"I didn't want to die," he said. "It all started for a lot of different reasons. It was mainly to get my wife off my back."

"THE CRAZY thing is you're so screwed up, and you don't even know it. It truly came down to the point where I didn't want to die, and I think that's what it takes."

"It takes a lot of hurt," he said. "I went through a lot of stuff to get to that point. It's not only physical death, it just takes you right out of life."

Even now, John has no guarantee that he won't use again.

"It's so crazy, because you can con yourself so easily, to think you can handle it again. Whether I'm going to make it back to recovery, that's really it, because a lot of people don't."

As part of his recovery, John works with a group of recovering cocaine users at Maple Grove.

"I really think that's an important part of recovery, if you can get to that point," he said. "I can tend to get a little cocky, and I'd think it wouldn't happen to me. It takes me back to where I was, and that's a good thing to remind me."

Helping others in their recovery also helps John feel good about himself.

"Every day I'm straight I'm beating the odds. People reached out to me and that's what it's all about. They didn't give up on me, even when I gave up on myself, they still didn't give up on me."



Cabaret

Psychic and radio personality Jacqueli Garver, Miss Farmington 1985 (at right) will be two of the guest artists for "Fabrizio & Company," the cabaret-style night of entertainment sponsored by Farmington Sweet Adelines.

Julene Fabrizio directs the local barbershoppers for the show which begins at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16, in Divine Providence Lithuanian Church, 25335 Nine Mile, Southfield. Donation is \$12 which includes buffet following the performance.



Artist's work can be seen by appointment

"Smaller Expressions," a collection of the most recent works of artist Ayce Nichols, can be seen by appointment in her home studio, 33002 Maplewood. The Farmington resident, who was named "Artist-in-Residence" by Farmington Area Art Commission in 1982, can be reached by calling 474-5137. The collection will be on display through Nov. 30.

Harbinger hosts master jazz class

Harbinger, Detroit's premier professional dance company, will be hosting a master class with Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance Company.

Claire Bataille, lead dancer and original company member of the Broadway-style jazz ensemble, will be teaching the class at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.

Intermediate and advanced students of jazz are invited to the class. Beginning students are invited to observe. Cost for the class will be \$8 for participants, \$5 for observers.

The event represents Harbinger's continuing effort to bring quality dance opportunities to the Detroit area.

Harbinger's studio is located on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, Building J, Room 303. For inquiries, call Harbinger at 477-7014.

Brother Rice hosts an open house

Eighth graders are invited to an open house at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, in Brother Rice High School, 7101 Lahser, Birmingham.

The National Honor Society students will guide visitors through the facility while department chairpersons and staff will be available for questions.

Entrance examination for students desiring to enroll will be given at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. There is a \$10 fee for the exam.

Crossing the border

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while DEA officers are called in to make the arrest, Vaughn said. Travelers carrying illegal drugs will be judged according to federal drug laws rather than state statute or Detroit city ordinances, Vaughn said.

"It (drug possession) is all criminal. But there are certain things that will be handled in a civil manner. Not all cases will be handled into federal court."

But whether it is handled in a civil manner or criminally, it is still a matter of record. Possession of illegal drugs will be on the person's record.

When a traveler carrying a small amount of drugs is caught, the cost and

time involved with taking it to U.S. Federal Court has to be considered, Vaughn said.

Despite the custom officer's watchful eye on travelers, bringing illegal drugs over the bridge or through the tunnel is not one of the agency's major problems. "Large shipments of narcotics are not the problem here."

Much of the reason for the lack of major drug problems at the Detroit ports of entry is that neighboring Canada "does not grow hash, coca beans or poppy plants. We know there is cocaine and heroin on the streets of Detroit. The big question is how did it get here."

If we knew, we would know where to put our manpower."

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