

# TL cops' new crackdown on dope dealers

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slipping the tablets into my red purse, took about 25 minutes," Ryan wrote. "I hadn't even used up my entire lunch break."

Shinn said his officers are in and out of that area, and not stationary. In fact, from his first days as the station's commander in 2002, Shinn has prided himself on pounding the pavement, being a visible and active arresting captain. He and his officers have found that most dealers come into the city on BART from the East Bay. What "disturbs and riles me," he says, "are repeat offenders."

To combat this, the station has issued 800 "stay-away orders" during the past three years, making prior convicted dealers revisiting their old working turf subject to arrest. Last January,

there were only two out of 40 drug-related arrests that had violated stay-away orders, Shinn said.

"That tells me they are working," he said.

The stay-away orders apply to within 100 yards of the arrest. Shinn is trying to get that increased to be consistent with the 1,000-foot rule.

In response to requests from several groups, Shinn will start informing the community of court dates for suspects arrested under the 1,000-foot rule, using the fax numbers of those attending the monthly Community Room meetings at the station (the last Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.).

Another exploratory plan is to work with East Bay officials regarding the arresting of truant kids. San Francisco police would have to

have a contact person there to determine if the student was legally out of school or truant. Such a move might put some responsibility on school boards, such as Oakland's, Shinn says. Of course, some kids just won't tell the truth to allow an accurate computer search of records, he added.

"There has been a great improvement since I first worked here 19 years ago before the Tenderloin Task Force," Shinn says. "But the drug traffic is changing all the time. Now there are a lot of Cambodians (doing drugs) on Leavenworth. We are not targeting any racial group, though. We are just doing our job."

"I like to set an example," he adds. "If the captain is making an arrest, it sends a message to the troops." ■

## POINT OF VIEW

# Radical view of why drug dealing is rampant

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Walking down Jones Street, I got the feeling that I'd accidentally wandered into a hardware store. People offered me o.c. and brillo. I had no idea what these two commodities were and didn't want to expose my ignorance by asking, but neither did some of my drug user acquaintances.

I asked a friend who is associated with a morphine addict what o.c. is, and she said it was OxyContin, a new kind of artificial hero-

in that really knocks its recipient out and causes repetitive vomiting.

The bottom line here is that many people doing underground business in this neighborhood are loudmouthed, dangerous idiots who, when congregating in gangs, have about as much respect for others as they do for themselves when they are alone. Which is to say, none. Then why are these indiscreet boobs allowed to get away with this crass behavior?

So here it goes. Take it or leave it. These are my opinions. I'm not the Bible.

One of the main reasons for this situation is medical. If a person has an infection that is too virulent, his only chance for survival is to confine the infection to one section of the body, then have the diseased part amputated, hoping that it does not silently spread to the whole.

Confining obvious symptoms of mental illness, poverty, blight and suicidal despair to the Tenderloin allows the citizens of San Francisco living on Russian Hill, Pacific Heights, Sea Cliff, and even North Beach, to sleep tight at night. Once an infection occurs, it must be isolated.

I also believe that it is in the best interests of the rich and powerful, those who hold the reins and ride in on the backs of politicians, to have the situation in the poorer parts of town get worse until it becomes terminal and those living there are driven out. It's sort of like giving smallpox blankets to the Indians until they abandon their land.

By ignoring the problem, the small, simple businesses in this area will leave, and the area will be infested with investments by the rich and powerful. The Tenderloin is a mar-

velous location, centrally located to the power spots of San Francisco. But certain elements must be exterminated before Mr. and Mrs. Hillsborough are comfortable wining and dining here.

These punk dope dealers should get paid by the rich and famous to do what they do. And so should the cops that are told to ignore them.

Maybe some cops are already getting paid off. I don't know. In my capacity as an objective journalist, I wouldn't want to be accused of being disingenuous, unfair, or overly cruel.

But there is a simple solution to the drug and homeless problem, and that is to give the addicts all the drugs that they want free of charge. I am not a Utopian. I understand that no matter how society changes for the better, it will never be good enough.

There will always be some people who are simply incapable of keeping their own shoes tied; strings loose, and unable to fit into the system, they will need painkillers, and they will procure them no matter what the risks or consequences. Of course, if they commit crimes of violence while on these drugs, they should be 86ed into prison for a very long time.

I know that this idea sounds rather Draconian, cutting two ways, both super-tolerant and ruthless at the same time. But when confronted with an unsolvable problem, it is necessary to use the imagination.

Perhaps the drug users in this new system, the ones who can maintain, will over the course of centuries mutate into beautiful, powerful creatures capable of surviving anything, even a hydrogen bomb.

While the others, and all the rest of us, will simply die off.

When gin was introduced into Great Britain, it initially caused devastation. But it didn't stop Britain from becoming a ruthless world empire.

Now for an aerial point of view.

For over 30 years, American politics has been pushed to the right. Liberal Democrats now make Richard Nixon look like John Kennedy. If the ignorant crack- and heroin-dealing bullies of this city are not shown the error of their ways and are allowed to run rampant on the streets, it is for a reason.

Hitler blamed everything on the Jews. And now hard-working citizens living paycheck to paycheck will be encouraged to blame their problems on the disenfranchised, the sick, and the addicted.

Blame everything on drugs, and gentrification gets a blank check to take over.

But be careful of the politics of gentrification.

And beware of wanting to get rid of those you hate.

You might get what you want.

And when you get what you want, you probably won't like it.

Because you may be next on the list of those to be gentrified.

Good luck, friend. ■

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