

RANDOM SEARCHES

But to add to the schools' precautions, Chief Marquis also issues hand-held metal detectors to his officers and next year, will add computers to link them with headquarters—a converted telephone-company building—and into the records bureau. Prompted by the Littleton shootings, HISD will begin twice-monthly drug and weapons searches this year, randomly picking out a school and then two classes in that school for searchers. More typically, though, his officers linger at front doors as school begins each morning, picking up on tensions or bad moods. They wander hallways, shooing stragglers into class. They direct traffic at dismissal, breaking up knots of loiterers who might, out of idleness, start trouble. And they listen for word of gang fights, drug deals and weapons.

That word usually gets out, Officer Marvin Lee says with reassuring certainty, because "the good kids outweigh the bad kids." Officer Lee has patrolled Lamar High, a middle-class school with 3,000 students, for 15 years, and he has a clear sense of his job: "It's stepping out little fires before they become big fires."

Across town, a little fire appears to be smoldering at Yates High as a skinny sophomore is brought into the tiny police office, accused of kicking an assistant principal who has reprimanded him for not wearing the regulation khaki pants. The parents have been called, and the teenager, clearly fearful of his stepfather, sits worried and resentful as Officer Ernest Lang outlines his strategy.

Officer Lang, who scored 33 touchdowns in his senior year at Yates in 1951 and is still known in Central Houston as "The Legend," plans to get the boy into the school ROTC program, and assigns a sleepy-looking senior nicknamed Wolf to serve as his mentor. An officer who knows the stepfather will look in at home from time to time, and a Baptist preacher who was tossed out of Yates 20 years ago but has returned as a counselor will work on the youngster's attitude. "We can reach him if we take the time." Officer Lang says easily. Then, as the parents arrive for a conference, he leans toward the youngster and warns: "Don't you act ugly now."

Juvenile crime has fallen nationwide in the past five years: In Houston's schools, aggravated assaults are down by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds since Chief Marquis took his job. Dewey Cornell, a psychologist who studies youth violence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, credits better policing for part of the decline. But he also credits a strong economy, the calming of the cocaine wars, success in arresting gang leaders, a federal law that mandates expulsion for bringing guns to school, and the spread of character-education and conflict-mediation programs.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Ten years ago, worried about what they saw as declining social and moral values, local business leaders raised \$2 million to fund one of the country's early character-education programs in Houston's schools. The idea is to teach values such as honesty and self-discipline as part of every class, says Dot Woodson, who was a University of Houston basketball coach before coming to HISD to head the program. So, in a class on the Boston Tea Party, she tells teachers to ask kids, "What would make you so angry that you would want to rebel, and what are the appropriate ways to rebel?"

In a decade, Houston has trained 16,000 of its teachers in character education and

bought or written character-education curricula for all its schools. Ten state legislatures (although not Texas's) now mandate that schools teach character education, and six others encourage it. "This is the place to spend money," Virginia's Dr. Cornell insists.

Certainly, compared with hiring policemen, character education is cheap. Security is barely a blip on the \$1.2 billion budget of the Houston schools, but even so, the district sets aside \$9 million. Chief Marquis says his spending, which comes from several budget pots, actually is at least a third more, and even that doesn't include what the schools individually spend on security hardware. Meanwhile, Houston's character-education program is still operating, in part, off its original \$2 million grant.

With schools under huge pressure to raise standards and test scores, special-response teams and communications vans can seem like an extravagance—until they're needed, of course. Herbert Karpicke, principal of the 700-student High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, offers a tour while Chief Marquis is giving an interview in the school's video lab. Doors open onto a choir practice, a jazz band, a corps of ballerinas, dramatic soliloquies. Dr. Karpicke has persuaded the district to contribute \$15 million toward a new, larger school, but he has to raise the other \$15 million himself in the next five years, and he is wondering how.

Even this school—its hallways lined with cellos, its students hand-picked—has an armed HISD police officer at the front door, though. Chief Marquis concedes the benefits of violence-prevention programs: They're "a spoke in the wheel," he says. "But as long as problems from the community come onto the campuses, the police are necessary," he says, and that means armed, trained and equipped officers. He is lobbying to hire 40 more.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT TAYLOR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an individual who spent his life not just preaching about the needs of the poor, but by doing something in meaningful ways to help meet the needs of the poor. Rev. Robert Taylor was a priest, a licensed clinical social worker and what we commonly call a community activist.

Father Taylor was an Episcopal Priest for decades in Chicago, he was one of the 15 priests fined and sentenced to jail after they had led a prayer pilgrimage in Jackson, Mississippi to protest segregation in 1961. Father Taylor spent about three weeks in jail but breach of peace charges were dropped.

St. Leonard's is a halfway house located on Washington and Hoyne on the westside of Chicago, in the Henry Horner Housing Project area across the street from the Mile Square Community Health Center where I worked for a number of years. Father Taylor began working at St. Leonard's House in the 1950's with ex-convicts and also worked as a chaplain at Cook County Jail. By the end of the decade, he had helped to build St. Leonard's from a small service for only a handful of ex-convicts to a well-regarded refuge for men looking to

rebuild their lives. In 1963, he was appointed executive director and led St. Leonard's House until 1970.

When he first got involved with St. Leonard's House, Father Taylor lived with his wife and children at the westside halfway house in the midst of what was usually called a ghetto. He opened himself up to ex-offenders and helped them to get jobs. "He was one of the greatest priests I've ever known," said Father Jones. "When he gave his heart and soul to the ex-prisoners they learned that people were not all down on them." Father Taylor later joined the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in 1980, as the director of the Office of Pastoral Care, in 1987, he became director of program and mission for the diocese. For years he worked with his wife, also a social worker, and together they helped scores of people overcome alcohol and drug addictions.

When you give of yourself that is when you truly give. Robert Taylor, an advocate for the poor, truly gave of himself.

THE MAINTAIN UNITED STATES TRADE LAW RESOLUTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with over 100 of my colleagues, introduced the Maintain United States Trade (MUST) Law Resolution. This resolution will send a clear message to our trading partners that the President and the Congress will maintain our antidumping and countervailing duty laws. This measure will put the House on record as opposing the renegotiation of these critical trade laws at the upcoming Seattle round of the World Trade Organization. These laws are the cornerstone of a free and fair open market policy, and represent one of the few means of redress for American producers and workers.

According to the U.S. International Trade Association, as of March 1, 1999, over 290 products from 59 different countries were under antidumping and countervailing duty orders. Following my statement are a list of over 120 of these products. Throughout the steel crisis, antidumping and countervailing duty laws have represented one of the few means of relief for American steel workers. These laws are far reaching and affect countless products throughout the United States. It is imperative that the administration uphold these important trade laws at the WTO Seattle Round.

The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference, to be held in Seattle from November 30 to December 3, 1999, will launch a new round of trade negotiations. These talks will focus on reshaping WTO rules regarding agriculture, services, and intellectual property. However, many foreign countries are seeking to expand the agenda in order to debate the WTO's antidumping and countervailing duty laws. The MUST Law Resolution will allow the Administration to attend the Seattle negotiations with a unified statement from the Congress declaring that the United States must