

Truck Deaths Linked to Alcohol or Drugs

By JOHN H. CUSHMAN Jr.
Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — One of every three truck drivers whose bodies were examined after they died in highway accidents had recently used drugs or alcohol, according to a study issued today by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The study was described by board officials as the most detailed investigation ever conducted of the abuse of drugs and alcohol in interstate trucking. Safety board officials said the study also offered the most extensive evidence to date of the dangers of drinking or drug use by truck drivers.

The study could be used to determine the cause of a crash brought by truck drivers of challenging the Transportation Department's new rules regarding widespread drug testing, including random tests, for truck drivers and other transportation workers.

A Federal court has refused to let the random testing of truck drivers proceed, in part because the department could not prove there was probable reason to suspect drivers of using illegal drugs. The drug testing program does not include alcohol use. The case, December 1988, is under appeal on jurisdictional issues.

The Transportation Department and some truckers who support the drug testing have conceded that there are no reliable studies linking drug use to serious accidents among truck drivers. But safety board members said today that the new study shows the first concrete evidence that drug and alcohol use is a serious problem among truck drivers.

Many are jolted by how often abuse and death are connected.

On the basis of its study, the safety board, which has not endorsed nationwide random drug tests of transportation workers, is considering calling for a pilot program of tests at roadside weighing stations where drivers would be examined for the use of alcohol or drugs.

No Way to Test Survivors

Board members said that the study was limited to accidents in which truck drivers were killed, and therefore cannot provide a picture of how frequent drug and alcohol abuse are among the nation's three million interstate truck drivers.

Only dead drivers were tested because there was no legal way to force accident survivors to submit to blood tests. The new testing rules being adopted in court by the Transportation Department would require for the first time that drug tests be made after all major truck accidents.

Despite the limits of the data in the

study, board members called its results significant and to some extent surprising.

They expected to find higher alcohol and drug use than the industry and the regulatory agencies have predicted, said one board member, James E. Burnett. "But I did not expect to find 33 percent."

One In Four Fatal Accidents

The study examined autopsy results from every driver of a large truck who was killed in any of eight states from Oct. 1, 1987 through Sept. 30, 1988. That sampling was big enough to account for 25 percent of all such fatal accidents nationwide in the period, but safety board officials said the selection of states may have skewed the results because of unknown geographical variations. The participating states were Illinois, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Of the drivers examined, 12.8 percent had used marijuana, 12.5 percent had used alcohol, 8.5 percent had used cocaine, 7.9 percent had used over-the-counter stimulants, and 7.3 percent had used amphetamines, the study showed. It also showed that many drivers had used more than one of the substances.

Often the drugs were blamed directly for the accident; in other cases, fatigue or poor health were involved in the accidents, the board said.

Memorial Service Held For Judge Killed By Letter Bomb

Judge Robert S. Vance of the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, who was killed in December, was honored yesterday in Atlanta. His

widow, Helen, left, was also injured in the blast and was hospitalized for two weeks. She is consoled by Justice Janie Shores of the Alabama Supreme Court.

A Growing Urban Fear: Thieves Who Kill for 'Cool' Clothing

No Pattern, Truckers Say

The safety board's study of drivers killed while operating trucks weighing 10,000 pounds or more when fully loaded found that a third of them had used cocaine and marijuana as well as alcohol and various stimulants, including amphetamines. The study covered 183 accidents involving 186 trucks in which 210 people were killed.

James Johnston, the president of the Owner/Operator Independent Trucking Association, which opposes testing of drivers, said that the safety board's study does not prove that there is a drug problem among truckers.

"As far as we're concerned, we still have not seen any evidence that it's a substantial problem," he said. "Even if everyone who had been killed was on drugs, it would not show that."

The Transportation Department issued a statement saying that the findings "underscore the terrible tragedies that can occur on the highways from drug and alcohol abuse but should in no way be an indictment of all truckers."

By WILLIAM E. SCHMIDT
Special to the New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 5 — A 19-year-old youth who was slain Saturday for his fashionable warm-up jacket is the latest victim of what seems to be an increasingly pervasive kind of urban crime: robbery by young people willing to kill for clothes.

Calvin Wash was the fourth Chicago man slain since last fall in confrontations over their brightly colored athletic jackets, which display the logos and colors of football and basketball teams. The jackets cost \$80 to \$200 and are a fashion rage on Chicago streets.

The police said Mr. Wash was shot in the back when he tried to run from a man who accosted him on the city's West Side and demanded that he hand over his Cincinnati Bengals jacket. After shooting Mr. Wash, the assailant drove away without taking the jacket, the police said.

In Chicago and other cities, including Detroit, New York and Los Angeles, incidents not only underscore the degree to which street crime and violence are now endemic to life in the inner city, but also serve as a perverse measure of the hottest local fashion trend.

A crime serves as a perverse index of fashion trends.

In response to a killing and a shooting last fall involving Detroit teenagers, the Detroit Board of Education last month unanimously approved a city-wide dress code, intended to keep out of schools some of the expensive clothing and jewelry that has put students at risk of assault and robbery.

Dress Code to Protect Youths

The code, the details of which have not yet been spelled out, will take effect in the fall. It was proposed by the school board after a Kettering High School student was found shot to death behind the school last November; the thieves had taken his \$70 Nike shoes. In December, a student at Osborn High School was shot in the foot by assailants who fled with his \$135 jacket.

It is not the first time Detroit has had a problem with violence involving clothes. A few years ago, there was a wave of shootings and robberies involving Mack Julian coats, expensive leather jackets — leather coats modeled after World War II fighter-pilot gear — that the police formed a special task force to deal with the increased incidence of shootings and muggings.

articles in Chicago in recent months have identified at least three other warm-up jackets, a fourth and a fourth stab, in robbery attempts involving warm-up jackets.

The incidents were so frequent last fall that several parents telephoned The Chicago Defender, the city's largest newspaper with a black readership, to complain about the trend.

Stealing 'Be Cool'

Margie Davis called after her son was robbed of his \$175 gym shoes. "These children are out here stealing from one another to be cool," Ms. Davis told the newspaper. "It's a sad situation. Their parents can't afford to buy the stuff, so they do whatever they can to get it."

The Chicago police say the incidents sometimes involve gangs that attack the victims because their color of jackets represent the color of a rival gang.

Detective Roy Gonzague of the Los Angeles Police Department agreed. "A lot of times it's because they're

wearing the wrong color jacket or pair of shoes or shoe laces for a particular neighborhood," said Detective Gonzague, who works in a south-central Los Angeles neighborhood plagued by gang problems.

But more often than not, the police say, the motive is robbery, pure and simple. Then, when the victim resists, someone gets hurt or killed.

"The individual wants to hang on to the coat because they paid so much for it, so they just blow him up," said Detective Kenneth White of the Los Angeles Crimestops Unit in Los Angeles.

In Chicago, the more popular items include jackets worn by the city's professional sports teams, the Bulls, the Bears and the Cubs, and jackets associated with the football team. In other cities, including the Bengals, the Miami Dolphins, the New England Patriots.

The police say several incidents have also been reported involving Air Jordans, a line of Nike brand shoes that are endorsed by Michael Jordan, the popular star of the Chicago Bulls.

What's Sunday without The Times?

SEE BY TRAIN
SEE BY TRUCK
SEE BY AIR

SEE BY TRAIN
SEE BY TRUCK
SEE BY AIR

If you're currently paying on a new car loan, Peoples Westchester has a great money-saving suggestion for you. Come in for a new Home-Secured Answer Loan. Here's why. This year, you can only deduct 20% of the interest on your loan. Well, with a Home-Secured Answer Loan, you may deduct 100% of the interest. That's right. Full interest deductibility, if your present financial situation warrants. And your tax advisor will tell you if it does.

What's more, you can borrow as little as \$7,500. Or as much as \$30,000. At very attractive Fixed Rates, too. 12.90% Annual Percentage Rate if you borrow up to 5 years. 14% APR, if you borrow up to 7 years. And you'll know exactly upfront what your monthly payments will be, too. \$340.52, if you borrow \$15,000 for 60 months. \$281.10 if you borrow it for 84 months.

Plus, there are NO UPFRONT COSTS. No closing costs. No points. No application fees. And there's quick approval action taken on your application.

To be eligible for a Home-Secured Answer Loan, you must own and occupy a 1 to 4-family home, or a condo or co-op. So before you make your next car loan payment, call for a Home-Secured Answer Loan application. After all, why should you get stuck with only 20% interest deductibility, when you can drive away with a loan with the potential of delivering 100% deductibility!

PEOPLES WESTCHESTER

Peoples Westchester Savings Bank • Member FDIC • Equal Opportunity Lender
Higher dollar amounts and longer terms are available.
Offers made in this advertisement are subject to change or withdrawal without notice.

Crime Wave Began in Fall

In 1987, the last year for which the data were available, 768 blacks ages 14 to 29 were slain in the city, nearly all of them by other blacks. By contrast, 83 whites in the same age group were slain; at the time, white youths outnumbered black youths in the city's general population.

The incident over the weekend here was the most recent in a wave of violence involving the athletic jackets that began last fall, when weather turned cold and young people began wearing coats.

In October a 24-year-old was fatally shot in the back after four youths demanded his Chicago Bears jacket. The slaying of a 17-year-old in November and a 19-year-old in December.

Although the Chicago police keep no separate statistics on crimes involving jackets or other clothing, newspaper

Virginia Files Lawsuit on V.M.I. Admissions

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 — The Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia Attorney General today challenged a directive by the Federal Justice Department to accept women as cadets or face court action.

In a lawsuit filed in Federal District Court in Roanoke, Va., Mary Sue Terry, the State Attorney General, asked the court to declare the state-run school's admissions policy constitutional. The suit says the policy is legal under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which requires equal educational opportunities for women.

Less than an hour before the lawsuit

First Black Elected to Head Harvard's Law Review

By FOX BUTTERFIELD

BOSTON, Feb. 5 — The Harvard Law Review, generally considered the most prestigious in the country, elected the first black president in its 104-year history today. The job is considered the highest student position at Harvard Law School.

The new president of the Review is Barack Obama, a 28-year-old graduate of Columbia University who has spent years leading a community development program for poor blacks on Chicago's South Side before enrolling in law school. His late father, Barack Obama, was a finance minister in Kenya and his mother, Ann Banham, is an American anthropologist now doing fieldwork in Indonesia. Mr. Obama was born in Hawaii.

"The fact that I've been elected shows a lot of progress," Mr. Obama said today in an interview. "It's encouraging."

"But it's important that stories like mine aren't used to say that everything is O.K. for blacks. You have to remember that for every one of me, there are hundreds of thousands of black students with at least equal talent who don't get a chance," he said, alluding to poverty or growing up in a drug environment.

What a Law Review Does

Law reviews, which are edited by students, play a double role in law schools, providing a chance for students to improve their legal research and writing skills and at the same time offering judges and scholars a forum for new legal arguments. The Harvard Law Review generally publishes the most widely cited of the student law reviews.

On his goals in his new post, Mr. Obama said: "I personally am interested in pushing a strong minority perspective in a fairly opinionated about this. But as president of the law review, I have a limited role as only first among equals."

Therefore, Mr. Obama said, he would concentrate on making the review a "forum for debate," bringing in new writers and pushing for livelier, more accessible writing.

The president of the law review usually goes on to serve as a clerk for a judge on the Federal Court of Appeals

overwhelm this individual student's achievement.

Mr. Obama was elected after a meeting of the review's 80 editors that lasted Sunday and lasted until early Monday morning, a participant said.

Until the election, the editors were picked on the basis of grades, and the president of the Law Review was the student with the highest grades in the class. Among these were Elliot L. Richardson, former Attorney General, and Irwin Griswold, a dean of the Harvard Law School and Solicitor General under Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon.

This system came under attack in the 1970's and was replaced by a procedure in which about half the editors are chosen for their grades and the other half are chosen by fellow students after a special writing competition. The new system, disputed when it began, was meant to help insure that minority students became editors of The Law Review.

Harvard, like a number of other top law schools, no longer ranks its law students for any purpose including a guide to recruiters.

Blacks at Harvard: New High

Black enrollment at Harvard Law School, after a dip in the mid-1980's, has reached a record high this year, says Joyce Curti, the director of admissions. Of the 120 first-year students in this year's class, 12.5 percent this year are first-year blacks, and 14 percent of the second-year class are black. Nationwide enrollment by blacks in undergraduate colleges has dropped in recent years.

Mr. Obama succeeds Peter Yu, a first-generation Chinese American, as president of The Law Review. After graduation, Mr. Obama will serve as a clerk for Chief Judge Patricia Wald on Appeals for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Mr. Yu said Mr. Obama's election was a choice on the merits, but others may read something into it.

The first female editor of The Harvard Law Review was Susan Estrich, who succeeded in 1977, was recruited as a professor at Harvard Law School to take a similar post at the University of Southern California. Ms. Estrich was campaign manager for Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, who lost his contracts and race relations law. "But I hope it won't

BEST FILE COPY AVAILABLE FOR MICROFILMING