Crack blamed for Orleans crime wave

By JOE GYAN JR.
Advocate state writer

NEW ORLEANS — The Crescent City’s newly appointed “drug czar” doesn’t mince words when he talks about crack cocaine — the seemingly unstoppable driving force behind a growing tide of violent crime in New Orleans.

“That darn crack is a deadly animal. It’s deadly,” says Griffin Rivers, a former deputy secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. “If it’s not the problem, it’s one of the major problems.”

New Orleans recorded 28 murders — nearly one a day — in January, and police say the smokable form of cocaine, known as rock cocaine because of its appearance, was behind many of them.

Just four short years ago, 35 percent of the Crescent City’s homicides were drug-related. Today, law enforcement officials say, nearly 80 percent of the city’s murders involve illegal drugs.

“A rock sells for $5 on the street, and you should see some of the people coming through the system that think nothing of a little rock,” Rivers said of the fiercely addictive drug in a recent interview. “Sure, it alters the mind for a period of time, but they’re not aware of what it does after a period of time.”

Rivers, who serves as a liaison between Mayor Sidney Barthelemy’s office and all facets of the city’s drug problems, speaks of New Orleans as being on the “cutting edge” but not of a technological breakthrough.

“We have not gotten to the point of a Los Angeles, a Miami or a Washington, D.C. I firmly believe we don’t have the cartels in here — the big drug lords,” he says. “However, we must prepare for this situation because we are in a prime area. We are a coastal city. We are a tourist city. We are right there at the cutting edge.

“So we’ve got to get ready to go to war. We knew AIDS was coming this way, we knew crack was coming this way, but we didn’t prepare ourselves for that, and that’s what we’re trying to do now.”

Ray Holman, deputy chief of the New Orleans Police Department, says that while crack first appeared in the city just 14 months ago it had a “tremendous impact” on violent crime in the city.

“Oh, no doubt. Cocaine is the root of
**SUNDAY ADVOCATE**

**Waxton, Tex.** — New Orleans police have made 2,000 arrests in the past three weeks as a result of their efforts to curtail the spread of the influenza virus. The city is now facing a serious problem because of the influenza that has been raging for several days. The police have been working overtime to keep the streets clear and to prevent the spread of the disease. They have been forbidden to leave the city and are confined to their barracks. The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is a lot of work being done by the police to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.

The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.

**New Orleans**

**Mrs. Mary Handley Bar-**

**The New Orleans police have made 2,000 arrests in the past three weeks as a result of their efforts to curtail the spread of the influenza virus. The city is now facing a serious problem because of the influenza that has been raging for several days. The police have been working overtime to keep the streets clear and to prevent the spread of the disease. They have been forbidden to leave the city and are confined to their barracks. The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is a lot of work being done by the police to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.

The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.

**Waxton, Tex.** — New Orleans police have made 2,000 arrests in the past three weeks as a result of their efforts to curtail the spread of the influenza virus. The city is now facing a serious problem because of the influenza that has been raging for several days. The police have been working overtime to keep the streets clear and to prevent the spread of the disease. They have been forbidden to leave the city and are confined to their barracks. The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is a lot of work being done by the police to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.

The police are working day and night to keep the streets clean and to prevent the spread of the disease. They are making house-to-house examinations and are trying to get all the people who have the disease to the hospital as quickly as possible. They are also trying to get the people who have been in contact with the sick to the hospital as quickly as possible.