

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT REGISTER

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■ DESCRIPTION OF ADDICTION



Michael Gallacher *Missoulian*

'I needed so much dope that we had to start making it,' says Missoula Correctional Services inmate Jane Opartny during a recent interview.

Life in hell

Addiction to methamphetamine turns mother's ordinary life into nightmare

By MICHAEL MOORE
Missoulian

MISSOULA (LEE) — In 1987, Jane Opartny went off to college in Akron, Ohio, as a daughter of middle-class privilege.

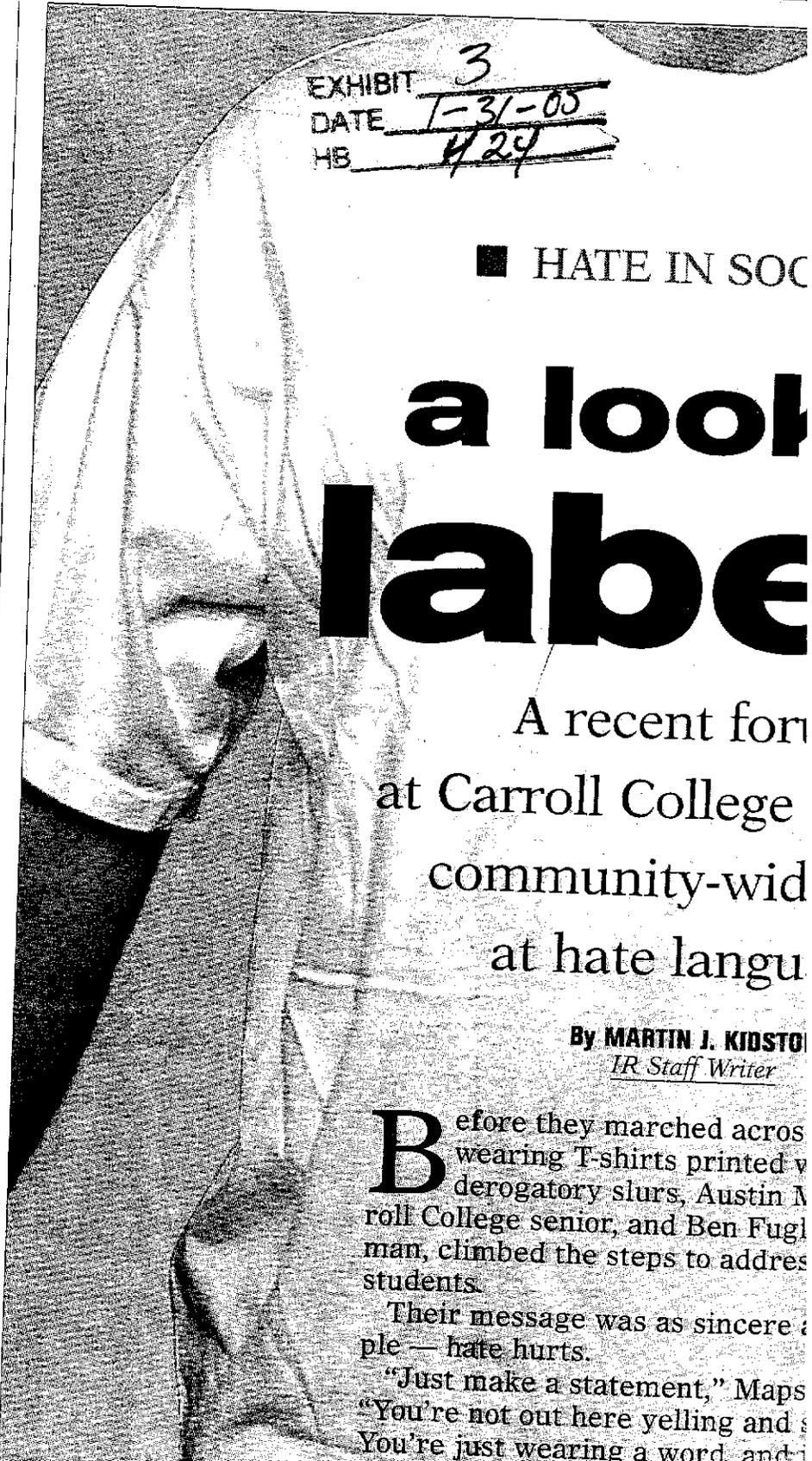
She came from a stable, loving home, with parents who cared for her and were willing and able to send her to school to study piano performance and violin education. Mom was a nurse, dad a chemical engineer. They'd offered their five children — four of whom they adopted, including Jane — rock-solid childhoods.

About the worst thing anyone could say about the Opartnys was that they were so decent and dependable they might be a little boring, a bit predictable. That, in fact, is what Jane thought.

So Jane went to college and instead of becoming a performing pianist, became a drunk-in-training. At first, she thought her drinking was typical college stuff. But she ended up dropping her music major after the first semester.

She dabbled in secondary education as a new major, then decided to drop out and try to become a licensed practical nurse.

"That was only 11 months to get that, so I thought I could keep it together enough to..."



■ HATE IN SOCIETY

a look at hate labels

A recent forum at Carroll College explored a community-wide look at hate language.

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON
IR Staff Writer

Before they marched across campus wearing T-shirts printed with derogatory slurs, Austin Maps, a Carroll College senior, and Ben Fugle, a man, climbed the steps to address the students.

Their message was as sincere as it was simple — hate hurts.

"Just make a statement," Maps said. "You're not out here yelling and screaming. You're just wearing a word, and..."

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"That was only 11 months to get that, so I thought I could keep it together enough to do that," Jane said recently.

She couldn't.

"Partying had become my priority," she said. "It's all I wanted to do. I just wanted to do something that wasn't like what my parents were doing. They were too normal. Responsible. Absolutely boring. Anything I could do that was exciting, I jumped on it."

Seventeen exciting years later, Jane Opartny Green sits in the women's visiting area at Missoula Correctional Services talking to visitors. She is serving a 10-year sentence — half with the Department of Corrections, half on probation — for running a methamphetamine lab in her Stevensville trailer house. Her husband, Michel Wright, is serving 45 years in prison for the same lab.

In the time she is allowed to leave the pre-

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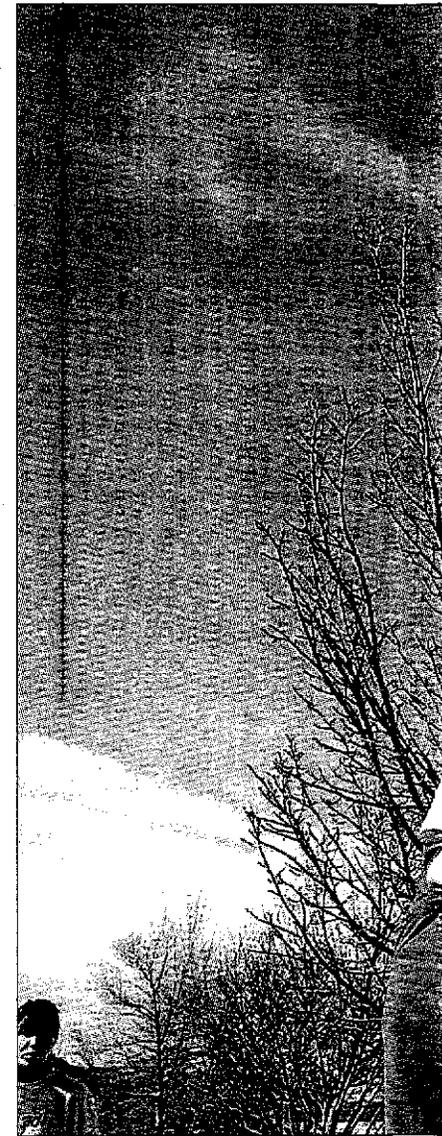
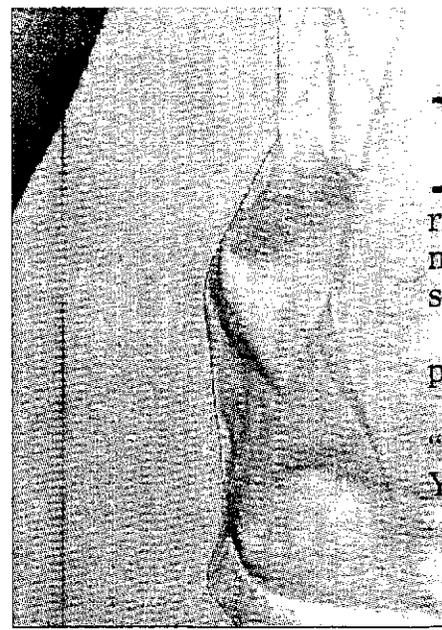
Major snowstorm stalls air travel and highways

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of airline flights were canceled Saturday and fleets of road plows were warmed up as a paralyzing snowstorm barreled out of the Midwest and spread across the Northeast with a potential for up to 20 inches of snow driven by 50 mph wind.

Storm warnings were posted from Wisconsin to New England, where the National Weather Service posted blizzard warnings in effect through today. By afternoon, snow was falling across a region stretching from Wisconsin and Illinois to Virginia and the New England states.

One man died after falling through ice on a pond in Ohio, where two others died of appar-

More **STORM**, page 12A



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