CITY RENEWS FBI-POLICE “JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE” AFTER CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY OPPOSITION

In mid-October, a majority vote by City Council renewed the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force (PJTTF) for another year ending September 2002. The PJTTF includes eight Portland Police and a dozen or so other law enforcement agents, mostly FBI. Its mission is to "identify and target for prosecution those responsible for acts of criminal terrorism."

Copwatch stumbled upon the PJTTF last November, when Council tried to formalize it without public discussion (see PPR #23). Since then, the activist community raised a hue and cry that led an FBI spokesperson to comment that "only in Portland has there been such an uproar about it" (Willamette Week, September 12). That may be because even in cities which have such task forces, very few people know about them. That may change, since the Federal government mandated the formation of terrorism task forces in all 50 states after September 11.

The October 17 hearing marked the fourth consecutive week that the PJTTF's proposed renewal came before Council, starting with its introduction upon the PJTTF last September. The October 17 hearing marked the fourth consecutive week that the PJTTF's proposed renewal came before Council, starting with its introduction upon the PJTTF last September.

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In early November, the Police Accountability Campaign-2002 (PAC-2002) announced it had collected 34,000 signatures to get its initiative for an independent police review board onto Portland's May, 2002 ballot. While that is more than the 28,000+ needed to qualify for the ballot, it is not quite enough to ensure that the required signatures can be validated. With this in mind, the Campaign is trying to reach 40,000 signatures by January.

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COUNCIL HEARD THE THIRD APPEAL (#00-17) ON OCTOBER 31. COUNCIL HAD POSTPONED HEARING THIS CASE UNTIL THE CO-APPELLANT, CRAIG ROSEBRAUGH, RESOLVED A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY CONCERNING THE INCIDENT. THE CITY SETTLED THE SUIT FOR OVER $45,000.

THE CASE INVOLVED TWO ACTIONS THAT HAPPENED SHORTLY AFTER A NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN IN 1999 (SEE PPR #19). FIRST, LT. SCOTT WINEGAR (#12791), WHO RUSHED IN TO TAKE ROSEBRAUGH DOWN WITH AN "ARM BAR HOLD," BROKE CRAIG'S ARM, CAUSING PERMANENT DAMAGE. A VIDEO OF THE INCIDENT CLEARLY SHOWS ROSEBRAUGH AND APPELLANT ELAINE CLOSE QUIETLY TALKING TO MOUNTED POLICE PRIOR TO THE ATTACK. IN THE VIDEO, MOUNTED PATROL LEADER SGT. DAVE POOL (#8424) CALLS CRAIG BY NAME, WARNING: "DON'T GET SHITLEY WITH ME—DON'T MAKE YOURSELF A MARTYR." AT THIS POINT, ACTIONS BY THE MOUNTED PATROL RESULT IN CONFUSION, CRAIG'S ARM IS BROKEN, AND HE IS PUT IN CUFFS.

CLOSE, TRYING TO FOLLOW AS POLICE DRAGGED CRAIG BY HIS BROKEN ARM, REACHED THE EDGE OF THE SIDEWALK WHERE AN OFFICER (IDENTIFIED AS "OFFICER C") PUT HER HANDS ON CLOSE'S SHOULDERS AND SHOVED HER INTO THE STREET. IAD LT. BECHARD AND HIS SIDEKICK SGT. BOTTLER CLAIMED THAT CRAIG'S ARREST WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE HE PULLED AWAY FROM SGT. POOL'S GRAB AND BECAME A THREAT WITH A BANNER HE WAS HOLDING ON PLASTIC POLES. IN THE VIDEO, IT IS CLEAR THAT IT WAS POOL'S ACTION THAT CAUSED THE POLES TO HIT THE ALREADY AGITATED HORSE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY FOR THE ARM BAR HOLD AS WELL AS WHETHER AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARREST WAS EVER MADE. WHILE BECHARD STUMBERED AROUND ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF SUCH AN ORDER, BOTTLER CLAIMED: "WE DON'T NEED TO TELL THEM THEY'RE UNDER ARREST BEFORE WE LAY HANDS ON THEM."

THE APPELLANTS REFUTED IAD'S COMMENTS, POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE CALMLY TALKING WITH OFFICERS WHEN THE ARREST OCCURRED, AND THAT FURTHERMORE, ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM STEMMING FROM THE INCIDENT WERE DROPPED.

BECHARD NOTED THAT IF OFFICER C DID SHOVE CLOSE, THAT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF POLICE POLICY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE TWO POLICE WERE JUST AS POTENTIALLY BIASED AS PROTESTOR-WITNESSES WERE, YET THE WITNESS WHO PASSED BY ON A BUS WAS QUALIFIED AS AN INDEPENDENT WITNESS. COMMISSIONER SALTZMAN, CONVINCED BY BECHARD THAT THE WITNESS MISSTOKE A SHOULDER GRAB FOR A PUSH, MOVED TO UPHELD THE ORIGINAL "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE" FINDING ON THE PUSHER INCIDENT. FRANCESCONI, WHO WANTED TO SUSTAIN THAT COMPLAINT, VOTED "NO;" THE MOTION PASSED 3-1.

SALTZMAN MOVED TO CHANGE THE "USE OF FORCE" ALLEGATION FINDING FOR WINEGAR FROM "EXONERATED" TO "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE." FRANCESCONI VOTED "NO," STATING THAT THERE WERE POLICY ISSUES, BUT THEY WERE NOT CONSIDERING THEM NOW, AND THAT SOMETHING WENT WRONG BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE LAID AT WINEGAR'S FEET. STEN, WHO HAD CHARGED THE COMPLAINT, SAID THAT HE DIDN'T WANT THE FINDING TO STAND AS "EXONERATED," SO HE VOTED "AYE." SALTZMAN VOTED "AYE" AND THE MAYOR, WHO RARELY CONTRADS THE POLICE, VOTED "AYE" (FINAL VOTE: 3 TO 1).

A MINOR VICTORY, THE "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE" FINDING AT LEAST MEANS WINEGAR WILL HAVE A NOTE ON HIS RECORD THAT MAYBE HE USED UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCESSIVE FORCE. UNDER THE OLD PIAC RULES, THE CHIEF CAN STILL REFUSE TO ACCEPT COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION.
one Latino male, one European/Native American male, three Caucasian females, two Caucasian males and two African American males represented the diversity of the city.

A few members voiced concerns that one of the applicants, Browning, had misrepresented herself. They also mentioned that her behavior during the deliberations of the Mayor’s PIIAC work group during the summer of 2000 (see PPRs #21-22) troubled many of that group’s eighteen members. The Advisors voted unanimously to ask Commissioner Hales, who had “sponsored” Browning, to reconsider his choice. The only person to vote against this motion, Blackmer, allegedly delivered the advisors’ concerns to Hales. Apparently, the Commissioner decided to retain Browning as his choice.

Many of the 39 applicants not chosen for the CRC appeared to have strong backgrounds that would have contributed significantly to the oversight process. Those backgrounds included experience in the criminal justice system, conflict resolution, mediation and diversity issues.

The Advisors could have decided to replace Browning regardless of Hales’ decision, since the IPR ordinance states only that City Council nominees “may be given preference” (emphasis ours). Unfortunately, this was not made clear at the final selection committee meeting. Perhaps, before problems do arise, the CRC will institute a policy that permits members to be removed for incompetence, neglect of duty, misconduct or malfeasance.

Copwatch called attention to these procedural issues. Members testified to Council that the IPR will most likely fail on its own merits, since it is already limited by its primarily audit-style structure—a structure which depends on police investigation. It would be better to observe the implementation of this system, allowing it to reveal its weaknesses, than to risk its implosion over CRC personality conflicts.

On the evening of October 23, the IPR held its first training meeting for the CRC members. Rosenthal introduced the new IPR staff members: Joseph De Angelis, case management specialist; Judi Taylor and Ben Panit, the intake coordinators (both retired Portland Police Internal Affairs Sergeants); former PIIAC Advisor Robert Wells, research assistant; and former PIIAC Examiner and former Hillsboro reserve officer Mike Hess, the “civilian” investigator—also referred to as the “deputy director.”

The City Attorney for the Auditor’s office, Linly Rees, discussed the IPR’s standard of review as well as public meeting laws, and announced that she will be attending CRC meetings to help give legal advice. (Rosenthal, although an attorney, does not currently have a license to practice law in Oregon.) Rees’ help is problematic since the City Attorney’s office also represents the police during civil litigation.

During her explanation of the review standard, Rees referred to the new City Code for the definition of “Supported by the Evidence” (Section 3.21.020 R), which reads: “A finding regarding a complaint is supported by the evidence when a reasonable person could make the finding in light of the evidence, whether or not the reviewing body agrees with the finding.” This may give the review board a narrow window in which to challenge the findings of IAD: If they think a “reasonable person” could conclude that no misconduct occurred based on the evidence, IAD gathers, they cannot challenge the finding.

On the other hand, Copwatch pointed out that the code allows for new evidence to be brought before the CRC when a citizen files an appeal. On the record, Rosenthal said he thought that ability means the CRC can send a case back for further investigation before suggesting that City Council change the finding. There is nothing in the ordinance which allows the CRC to take such action, but if the Director says they can do it, we expect the members to take him up on it.

Rosenthal announced that the staff was working on language for the City Code regarding “what kind of review the IPR will do of shootings and deaths in custody if any.” When challenged, he indicated that the IPR does intend to include language in the code regarding the review of those cases. The IPR ordinance states: “The Auditor is to propose code by December 31, 2001 for reviewing police shootings and deaths in police custody.”

It appears that the police will have the upper hand in providing training for the CRC. The Citizens will do officer ride-alongs. Training officers gave them “use of force” presentations in private sessions and police detectives explained IAD procedures on November 6. The same evening the ACLU is scheduled to present information, the Portland Police Association (PPA) will also give a talk.

It was suggested during the public input session that the CRC members receive training from a civilian investigator (regarding proper investigative procedures) to balance the IAD investigators’ input. Since the IPR is responsible for reviewing the IAD, the Internal Affairs training could be used to bias the CRC board members toward believing that unprofessional techniques are acceptable and commonplace.

Several members responded favorably to a reminder that public hearings should be held to discuss policies and other concerns, such as police shootings. The committee seems to want to take public input, but doesn’t want its hearings to stretch on for hours.

At the CRC’s November 6 meeting, Rosenthal announced that he and the Auditor had selected Lopez as Chair and Ueland as Vice Chair to serve until the end of the year, when the CRC members will establish a selection process. Ueland stated that he and Lopez had selected a third member, Hank Miggins, as their “recorder” and they had established the “Executive Work Group.” Not only was this committee created and its first meeting held out of the public eye, but attorney Rees seemed to imply it was being called a “work group” to deliberately avoid compliance with public meetings laws. After Copwatch members raised concerns, the next “Executive” meeting was announced for November 15, a weekday, at 10 AM.

We will continue to attend the general CRC meetings, which are held first and third Tuesday evenings in the Rose Room at City Hall. We encourage more citizens of Portland to let the Citizen Review Committee know what the community expects of its police and its police review board.

At press time, the IPR was still deferring complaints to Internal Affairs, but the IPR office can be reached at 503-823-0146.
Almost two years after he was hog-tied, beaten, and falsely arrested by the Portland Police, Merrick Bonneau was finally offered a settlement check from the city of Portland—and promptly refused it. Bonneau’s refusal of the $80,000 settlement is the latest development in what began as a case of misidentification and negligence by the Portland Police Bureau.

Merrick Bonneau answered the door at his home in Northeast Portland on September 4, 1999 to find Portland Police Officers Brad Clifton and James Oakin. The officers were looking for Bonneau’s half-brother, Mitchell, regarding a “domestic relations charge” (Oregonian, July 31).

The officers say they asked Bonneau if he was “Mitch” to which he nodded and replied, “Yes.” Merrick, however, insists that he repeatedly informed the cops that they had the wrong man and that the officers went so far as to refuse his identification when it was offered by another family member (Portland Tribune, August 7).

Merrick reports that the officers threw him to the ground, cuffed his hands and legs, hog-tied him and dragged him to the patrol car. During this process, four more officers and a sergeant arrived at the scene.

There are overwhelming differences in appearance between Merrick and his half-brother Mitchell. Merrick is of mixed heritage, 5’9”, 150 pounds, with facial hair and no tattoos. Mitchell is Caucasian, 6’2”, 200 pounds, with no facial hair and several tattoos. Despite these distinctions, all seven members of the Portland Police Bureau who eventually arrived on the scene failed to recognize that they were arresting the wrong Bonneau or even to check his I.D. They also failed to charge Bonneau until after he was processed at the Justice Center, still hog-tied and bleeding with a broken wrist, chipped elbow, dislocated shoulder and pinched nerve. Bonneau spent five hours in jail and was then released.

Bonneau was charged with resisting arrest. He refused a plea bargain and was later acquitted of the charge by a Multnomah County justice department program manager. Brown, who had stopped and gotten out of his car for a cigarette, was approached by Officer William Napieralski. Napieralski said he “saw a car coming...and the car’s brake lights were tapped several times...I was suspicious that the driver was DUl” (Oregonian, August 29). When asked to take a sobriety test, Brown “was upset by the insinuation that he was under the influence.”

Napieralski claims he called for backup because he feared for his safety. Brown was allowed to drive himself home after about two hours after the initial stop. An internal police investigation concluded, “a credible argument could be made to support Brown’s sense that the police contact was not professional and was done by police to exert their authority [but] that there was no evidence to support the contention that the contact was racially motivated.” The case is set to go to trial in June 2002.

And the beat goes on

Racial profiling figures through June 30 show that Portland Police continue to stop African American motorists at more than twice the rate of white motorists, with the greatest disparity occurring on the city’s west side where African Americans were five times more likely to be stopped than whites. In East Precinct, African Americans were 16 times more likely to be stopped than whites. These figures are similar to information released in April 2001 (see PPR #24).

The next report will include data collected by motorcycle officers, who are involved in about half of all traffic stops, as well as foot patrol, bicycle, and mounted patrol officers.

Said Chief Kroeker, “I would propose that we keep an open mind about what this data really means” (Oregonian, August 31).

Taken to task in Tigard

Three African American men have filed civil rights lawsuits against the Tigard police department in two years. The latest was Jimmy Brown, a Multnomah County justice department program manager. Brown, who had stopped and gotten out of his car for a cigarette, was approached by Officer William Napieralski. Napieralski said he “saw a car coming...and the car’s brake lights were tapped several times...I was suspicious that the driver was DUl” (Oregonian, August 29). When asked to take a sobriety test, Brown “was upset by the insinuation that he was under the influence.”

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Altered and amended

The Oregon Council of Police Associations (OCPA) was active in Salem during the 2001 legislative session. Among their victories were changes made to HB 2441 (aka, the racial profiling bill). The bill requires law enforcement officers in Oregon to include a driver’s race and the disposition of each stop. OCPA lobbyist Brian DeLashmutt objected to the original measure because it “would have placed the officers in the position of self-incrimination by requiring them to collect the information, then allowing it to be used against them” (Rap Sheet, August 2001). By analogy, such wacky logic would mean that corporations could avoid tracking how many pollutants they dump in the river for fear that doing so might incriminate them.

HB 2441 was tweaked, amended, and reborn as SB 415 which “encourages jurisdictions to collect data on stops and does not allow the use of the information against the individual officer.”

In contrast, the Washington state highway patrol is using the racial profiling data it collects “to question and discipline individual troopers whose records suggest racial profiling” (Oregonian, July 1). It seems Oregon has taken a back seat to justice on this issue.
PORTLAND POLICE SHOW BIAS AFTER TWO SHOOTINGS IN JULY

As reported in a late-breaking article in PPR #24, the Portland police were involved in two shootings in early July. The first involved Raymond Youngberg, a 50-year-old man with psychological problems, who was shot and killed in Southeast Portland. Officers Michael Kemp and Christian Barker say Youngberg shot at them first. The second shooting happened at a mini-mart in Northeast where Bruce Browne, a citizen who had wrestled a gun away from a would-be assailant, was shot and wounded by Officer Kenneth Dulio.

If articles and letters in the Portland Police Association (PPA’s) newsletter, the Rap Sheet, are any indication, the police—who are involved in investigating these cases for possible criminal or administrative wrongdoing—were quickly convinced the shootings were justified.

In August, Daryl Turner, Vice President of Services, writes that Dulio “had no choice” but to shoot at Browne. He complains how “during the past few years, the police bureau has taken a beating in the media when it came to critical incidents and police-involved shootings.”

Apparently this problem with the media has been addressed by PPA President Robert King, who created a policy wherein the PPA leadership will work with the Chief and the investigating officers. They will inform the PPA membership and the public about their version of the story. Turner writes, “before the media has a chance to come to their own baseless conclusions.”

Officer Jon Yochim wrote a letter in the August Rap Sheet to complain how Mayor Katz said her “thoughts and concerns are with Bruce Browne...his family...and with the officers.”

Yochim thinks the officers should have been listed first, saying Katz is “sending a negative message.” That’s odd, this is the first time we remember Mayor Katz sending her thoughts of concern to the police and victim of a police shooting and their family. It actually seems balanced and humane, though also perhaps designed to lessen the amount being sought in the lawsuit against the City.

In his September column, Officer Peter Simpson criticizes the Oregonian’s coverage of police shootings in the wake of Dulio’s grand jury hearing. Simpson thinks the headline “Grand jury decides not to indict officer” is inflammatory, suggesting as alternatives “Grand jury refuses to indict officer” (inaccurate, unless the jury actively refused to issue an indictment) or “Officer justified in shooting of armed man” (similarly inaccurate, since the grand jury violated any criminal statute—an administrative ruling could still find him not justified).

Simpson states that “Officer Dulio [sic] did the right thing. He confronted, engaged, and shot an armed man pointing a gun at him.” The facts that he didn’t assess the situation, wait for backup, or hit his target with 4 of the 6 shots fired are apparently irrelevant.

Finally, Officer Chris Barker, who was shot in the hand during the Youngberg incident, wrote a letter in the October issue. He gives his side of the story, which one would imagine his lawyer getting nervous about: “From the moment I started to say to the suspect, ‘Sir, can I...?’ and then caught sight of a weapon pointed directly at me, the suspect firing, one would imagine his lawyer getting nervous about: "That’s odd, this is the first time we remember Mayor Katz sending her thoughts of concern to the police and victim of a police shooting and their family. It actually seems balanced and humane, though also perhaps designed to lessen the amount being sought in the lawsuit against the City."

We will continue to monitor police shootings to the extent that information is publicly available and we await review by Portland’s police review board of deadly force cases.

“Bean Bag” Report: Less-than-lethal is a Lie

Not only can the ammunition used in “bean bag” guns cause serious injury, it can kill. A study based on data collected in Los Angeles County between January 1996 and February 2000, “the most comprehensive medical review yet on the effects of the weapon,” showed that these small bags of lead pellets when fired from a conventional shot gun “can cause significant damage when striking any part of the body” (Associated Press, October 9). The report was published in October in the Annals of Emergency Medicine <http://www.acep.org/>.

In 40 shootings by LAPD and LA County Sheriff’s officers, “bean bags penetrated the eye, chest, abdomen and leg of suspects, as well as rupturing spleens and damaging internal organs.” One death was reported from internal bleeding caused when a person was hit in the chest.

“Bean bags” were used against protesters in Portland in August, 1998 and on May Day, 2000 (see PPRs #16 & 20). They are in use in all 50 states.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTIES KILL DISTRACTED DRIVER

On October 31, Washington County Sgt. Gil Gregg shot and killed 58-year-old Eugene Kirk Lockwood outside a bar in Aloha. Lockwood reportedly came to the bar to confront his wife, who had filed for divorce, and fired a gun into the floor to get everyone but his wife to leave the premises. After police arrived, Lockwood’s wife was able to get out as well as hostage negotiators and Tactical Negotiations Team members talked with Lockwood over the phone “on and off for hours” (Oregonian, November 1). About six hours into the standoff, deputies appeared to have lost their patience. They moved in on the building, at which time, they say, Lockwood pointed his gun at them and Gregg, a sniper, shot him in the head (Oregonian, November 3).

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

In PPR #24’s articles on the July shootings, we miss-spelled Mr. Browne’s name once. We also pointed to that piece with a box on the front page which should have directed readers to page 4 (rather than page 3). We also miss-spelled the name of Alberta Street suspect Bjorn Einertsen.

In PPR #23, we said PPH citizen advisor Jose Martinez stated he was “chickenin’ out” by abstaining in a vote on a excessive force case; he actually called himself “wissy-washy.” Portland Copwatch regrets the errors.

“BEAN BAG” FUN FACTS:

The lead-pellet filled bags weigh about 1.4 ounces. They can pack the energy of a baseball line drive or a punch from a professional boxer.

When fired from 30 to 75 feet, the bags produce bruises, abrasions, minor lacerations and, under some circumstances, broken bones.

When fired from a distance of 20 feet or less the seriousness of the injury increases.

(Source: Michael Keith, president and manufacturer, MK Ballistics Systems)
MEJÍA FAMILY SETTLES WITH HOSPITAL; POLICE PROMISE CHANGES; CITY DENIES WRONGDOING

In early October, the hospital and processing center involved in the death of José Santos Víctor Mejía Poot, who was shot by police April 1, agreed to pay Mejía's family $750,000 rather than go to court. Mejía’s widow Paula Villacis Lopez, still living in Mexico, will be splitting the settlement from Pacific Gateway Hospital and Providence Health System with Mejía’s parents (Portland Tribune, October 5).

The settlement was probably reached after a number of investigative reports blamed the health care system for what happened to Mejía, an epileptic man who was misdiagnosed as mentally ill. In mid-August, a 67-page report from the Office of Investigations and Training, of the State Office of Mental Health Services, noted “substandard patient assessment and treatment, inadequate staffing levels and a failure to provide quality social work and language interpretive service” (Oregonian, August 14). The report concludes that given these circumstances, Mejía’s death “while shocking, cannot be said to be totally unexpected.”

Since the reports focus mostly on the mental health system, the police have so far escaped independent scrutiny. City Attorney Jeff Rogers refuses to settle on behalf of the City. “We believe that the officers acted properly under the circumstances. We’ll defend it vigorously” (Tribune, October 5).

Nonetheless, in one of the few signs of follow-up to the June community meeting among Latinos, the police, the Sheriff, and other officials (see PPR #24), Chief Kroeker wrote a very long letter outlining the police’s ongoing policy reviews after the Mejía death. Those reviews include: “When and how members of the police bureau will respond to mental health facilities”; whether the Mexican Consulate should be notified following the arrest of Mexican nationals, since the Vienna Convention does not require such reporting; the possible use of “electric high-wattage nervous system neutralizers (e.g. Tasers [sic]) and delivery systems for chemical agents”; increasing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training as part of in-service training; and having mental health care workers respond to people in emotional crisis (El Hispanic News, August 1).

MEJÍA FAMILY SETTLES WITH HOSPITAL; POLICE PROMISE CHANGES; CITY DENIES WRONGDOING

Meanwhile, the Oregonian ran a few articles about the CIT, noting on September 2 that 164 officers have now completed the training on dealing with those who are or who may be mentally ill. Unfortunately, only 75 of those 164 officers are out on patrol; presumably the rest are “desk jockeys” or supervisors. A non-profit psychiatric health crisis response group, Project Respond, helps the CIT in many situations, but they are concentrated in the downtown area and do not help with every crisis call

FAMILY DEDICATES MEMORIAL GARDEN TO DICKIE DOW

Exactly three years to the day after the incident, family, friends, and supporters of Dickie Dow, a 37-year-old man who died in October, 1998 after being beaten by Portland Police, dedicated a memorial community garden in his name. The garden, put together by Dickie’s mother, Barb Vickers, features flowers and a memorial plaque. The garden is located at the site of the altercation, the corner of North Fenwick and Lombard (see PPR #16).

About 30 people attended, a small handful of whom spoke, including Vickers and Deborah Howes, the neighbor who witnessed the incident and was turned away by police when she offered to give CPR to Dow. According to a song written in Dow’s memory, a silent candlelight vigil filled our hour-long ceremony until rain began to fall.

Supporters of Dickie Dow and his family have been attending vigils at the site of the garden every month since November 1998, and organized a one year anniversary vigil at City Hall in 1999 (see PPR #19).

The memorial is first in Portland to honor an alleged suspect who died as a result of police violence. (Police shooting victim Nathan Thomas is honored by a soccer field, a soccer tournament, a memorial inside the Justice Center, and an annual award given by the Police Bureau. Thomas was killed by a police bullet at age 12 in 1992 while being held hostage by a criminal suspect.)

Eight Portland officers beat Dow, pepper sprayed him and piled on top of him. Dow was revived, but he passed away the next morning.

As to the effectiveness of trained counselors over armed police, Officer Andy Madden of the CIT told the Oregonian, “[Project Respond] solves more problems with a little glass of orange juice, free crackers or a certificate for a free hamburger.”

Dr. Peter Davidson, working with the county to re-design the mental health system, agreed: “The more we can take the police off the front line of people’s emotional crises, the better the outcomes.”

In terms of possible charges against the police officers, the FBI is waiting for a review by the Justice Department before launching a full-scale investigation into whether Mejía’s civil rights were violated (Tribune, October 5). Members of the community continue to meet to demand justice and seek changes in the way the City and the County deal with Latinos.

For more information, contact American Friends Service Committee at 503-230-9427 or VOZ at 503-233-6787.
DIGNITY VILLAGE MOVES TO CITY-SPONSORED HOME; POLICE BREAK UP “ROGUE” CAMPSITE

In early September, the 60 or so people living in the tent city Dignity Village were forced to vacate the centrally located site they’d been on for over six months and head to a desolate parking lot near the Portland Airport. Fortunately, the Police Bureau did not resort to violence or arrests, and the City of Portland, which voted to make Dignity an official “pilot project” in late August, actually helped with the move.

On the down side, the site near the airport is far from services, including buses and grocery stores, which the homeless campers need in order to function. Their large community of supporters helped to build the Village up off the pavement using pallets, camouflaged the barbed wire fences (!) the City had erected around the new site, and kept the Village going long enough to consider finding another semi-permanent site.

On the day of the move, a small group of Villagers and supporters decided to set up a protest camp on the “Field of Dreams,” a site downtown which Dignity covets as the ideal place for a permanent location. Under the watchful eye of alternative media and Copwatch members, police moved in to arrest the campers on the third day (Sept. 11), citing them with trespassing. However, legal sources tell us that since they were on public land, they cannot be cited for trespass unless they were violating some other law. Most likely, the police were relying on the anti-camping ordinance, which was ruled unconstitutional last September (see article below and PPR #22).

Copwatch was also present for the move at which an anticipated police crack-down became a “psychological sweep,” that is to say, the Villagers moved because of the threat of being forcibly removed and/or arrested.

As its deadline to find a permanent site loomed, Dignity Village considered the offer of leasing a privately owned site in Southeast Portland for minimal cost. Many neighbors complained, even though Villagers promised to make the site cleaner than when they arrived. Cutting off this debate, the City agreed to compost leaves away from the airport site (after a private donation was made to cover the cost), thus making it available for the winter. In a vote taken in late October, the Villagers opted to stay there for six more months while seeking a permanent location.

For more information, check www.outofthedoorways.org or call street roots at 503-228-5657.

NORTHEAST HOUSE PARTY RAID SAGA ENDS WITH PLEA BARGAIN

Two days before they were to stand trial, the young men initially charged with assaulting and kidnapping a police officer in late March were offered a plea agreement by the Multnomah County District Attorney. Chad Hapshe and Bjorn Einertsen pled guilty to Assault III. They will serve a total of 90 days between jail and forest camp and spend three years on probation. Though far less than the nine years they faced when charged with the Measure 11 kidnapping offense, the plea illustrates much of what’s wrong with the criminal justice system.

Supporters of the men maintain their innocence and contend that the March police raid was the climax of several months of police harassment, surveillance and intimidation of young cultural dissidents in Northeast Portland. Copwatch confirmed that friends and supporters of Hapshe and Einertsen were being surveilled and harassed by the Gang Enforcement Team (see PPR #24).

Although police produced no evidence or independent testimony that a cop had been assaulted, kidnapped, or in any way molested, the DA went ahead with the original charges, making bail and release extremely difficult for the youths. The DA’s offer indicates that the police could produce no evidence that a serious crime occurred. A representative of the DA practically admitted this (in evasive legalese) by stating that “as the case progressed, it became more problematic whether the kidnapping could be sustained at trial” (Portland Mercury, September 20).

Even so, mandatory minimums enacted by Measure 11 provide a chilling weapon for prosecutors to wield. Regardless of their innocence, defendants often choose to plead guilty to a lesser crime rather than risk a jury trial which (due to features of the jury system prejudicing decisions in favor of the prosecution) could net them serious prison time.

Contact the Portland Solidarity Network, a group formed to support people facing police repression and harassment in Northeast, at 503-993-2413.

BUREAU CLEARS THREE COPS OF MISCONDUCT RELATED CASE

Despite their victory in a 1999 lawsuit that resulted in the overturning of the City’s anti-camping ordinance (see PPR #22), Norman Wicks Sr. and his son Norman Jr. received no vindication from the Internal Affairs Division (IAD). The Wicks filed an IAD complaint after an October 1999 arrest where they felt they were harassed and discriminated against by three members of the Portland Police Bureau. The complaint alleged profanity, excessive force, and improper procedure. It was filed against Officer James Dakin, Officer John Butler and Sgt. Charles Brown.

On June 20, the IAD mailed a letter (to the wrong address) informing the Wicks that the officers had been cleared of the charges. The Wicks have appealed the finding, and the newly established Independent Police Review Division (IPR) will eventually hear their case. They have little hope, however, that the appeal will make much of a difference (Portland Tribune, July 31).

For more info on the anti-camping ordinance contact Legal Aid at 503-224-4086.

COUNTY D.A.S GUILTY OF WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE FROM COP

The credibility of local authorities was dealt yet another blow in the ongoing case of Sgt. Michael Barkley. In the latest development of Barkley’s tumultuous career, an Oregon State Bar investigation concluded in June that three Multnomah County prosecutors (Charles Ball, Pat Callahan, and Gary Meabe) engaged in improper conduct by refusing to provide information to Barkley’s attorney during a 1998 trial.

Barkley, a multiple shooter cop, was eventually acquitted of first-degree theft. Following the trial, Barkley fought the City for disability pay related to the stress of shooting four people in a little over a decade (see PPR #24).

In July, the Bar’s Professional Responsibility Board determined that Ball and Callahan engaged in “conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice” (Oregonian, July 24). Charges against Meabe were dismissed. Discipline has yet to be determined. District Attorney Michael Schrunk has continually defended his employees, and blames the incident partially on Police Bureau record keeping.
The packed Council chambers made the front page of the September 27 Oregonian.

Activists fear police role on anti-terror task force

The Mayor recognized that several years ago, Multnomah County's Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU)—whose members are now the Portland officers assigned to the PJTTF—had been thwarted by other JTTFs in Yakima, Sacramento and Seattle, and a bank robbery—which would not, on its face, fit the definition of terrorism—thwarted in Portland in 1996, one year prior to the PJTTF's creation.

A panel of about eight “invited speakers” talked about how great the PJTTF is. These folks included the national director of security for Planned Parenthood, who was apparently flown in to speak. A researcher from OHUS described how animal rights “extremists” confronted him, called him names, and wore T-shirts (!), causing him to enlist the aid of a bodyguard.

The Mayor permitted a panel of five people from the “opposition” to testify prior to other community members, nearly all of whom also opposed the task force. Prior to the September 11 attacks, 21 labor unions and several community groups wrote resolutions opposing the PJTTF and sent them to Council. While some of those groups shied away from testifying in person, quite a few—including the ACLU, NAACP, League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women, and the Japanese American Citizens League—spoke up for civil rights. A former abortion clinic worker also testified to help refute prior claims that the PJTTF is necessary to protect such clinics.

Other “opponents,” including the ILWU Local 5, VOZ workers’ rights education project, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee, and Copwatch.

Testimony highlighted past and current civil rights abuses by the FBI, the internment of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor, and the PJTTF’s interference with Portland union organizing activity (see PPR #24).

Although the hearing went on for over three hours, there was not enough time for all of those who had signed up to speak, and so Council postponed the vote to the following week.

On October 3, the City Attorney and the Mayor’s office provided answers to questions raised during the first hearing. Most significantly, their answers revealed that civilian oversight for the FBI is prohibited, although it is unclear if there is any legal basis for that restriction. While several members of Council seemed adamant that any “intelligence” gathered on Portland citizens needs oversight, most seemed willing to risk the dangers of letting the PJTTF operate without an independent review mechanism in place. It is profoundly disturbing that the Council would abdicate its ability to review the work of eight police officers by allowing them to officially link with the FBI.

Mayor Katz announced that she (through the City Attorney’s office) had reviewed all twelve of the Task Force’s files generated between January 2000 and August 2001. Since the FBI’s files cannot be reviewed by external oversight (including the Mayor), those files were most likely generated by the CIU acting outside of their roles as deputized federal agents for the Task Force. Guidelines for differentiating between CIU cases and PJTTF cases were not given, yet FBI guidelines allow the opening of case files on mere allegations of criminal activity. Therefore, it’s possible that the CIU acts in accord with Oregon law when files are stored with the Police Bureau, but hands over to the FBI any information collected in violation of that law. Without oversight, there is no way to know what is actually happening.

When the vote came up, Commissioner Hales aptly pointed out that we need to fight terrorism, but, he said, a permanent task force is not the best way to do it. The police can cooperate with the FBI when a real threat occurs. Hales cast the lone “no” vote, thwarting the emergency ordinance, which required a unanimous vote. The activist community enjoyed a short-lived victory for civil rights as the Mayor scrambled to put the ordinance on the October 10 agenda for its first reading as a non-emergency measure.

During the new ordinance’s second and final reading on the 17th, Commissioner Hales again took a brave stance with the only “no” vote. He went into a lengthy explanation that included his concern about an “erosion of community policing” since the early 1990s, that led to the use of numerous specialized task forces with special tools like the Rapid Response Team, the Auto Theft Task Force, etc. Hales stated that the PJTTF was just one more case of specialized assignments dealing with the “threat of the month.”

Hales raised another issue: “What do we do when eight is not enough—when we have a significant problem, how do these eight officers work with everybody else?”

The Mayor, livid at Hales’ evanescence, stated: “eight times eight is not enough, and we do, in fact, bring in as many officers as we need to make sure that we have enough protection for both the demonstrators and the public, so it’s far more than eight when necessary.” (An interesting comment considering that the issue on the floor was supposedly terrorism, not demonstrations.)

Commissioner Saltzman tried to refute various testimonies prior to his “yes” vote. In response to a charge that pitting the abortion rights folks against other members of the community was unconscionable, Saltzman stated that the Council didn’t orchestrate the pro-choice panel that spoke on September 26th. (At that hearing, it was clearly stated that the “pro” side were people who had been invited to testify, so it must have been the police who invited them.)

Commissioner Sten said that he and the Mayor supported third-party oversight of at least the CIU portion of the task force and that the oversight would most likely come from the new “Independent” Police Review Division (IPR), not the City Attorney (who would represent the City if one of the files existed in violation of Oregon law). Although the IPR is limited by its structure and lack of true independence (see article, p. 1), this may be a viable first step at cracking open the PJTTF’s files.

In conclusion, the PJTTF was technically delayed until November 16 since non-emergency ordinances go into effect 30 days after passing.

We hope that people in other cities will take a stand and put their local governments and police on notice that civil rights violations will not be tolerated.

For more information, see sidebar (next page) on San Francisco’s JTTF, visit our website at www.portlandcopwatch.org or call Copwatch at 503-236-3065.
KROEKER’S KORNER

Behind Portland’s headlines about the Chief of Police

Since the last issue of the PPR, Portland’s Chief Mark Kroeker has done some effective public relations work to counteract his image as a bigot and authoritarian.

Looking Out for the Little People

Kroeker’s rapport with rank-and-file officers has yet to recover from his first act as Chief—forcing the cops to get military-style haircuts. Nevertheless, with contract negotiations between the City and the Police Association looming, Kroeker has made a proposal to give all patrol officers three-day weekends by extending shifts from eight to ten hours (Willamette Week, September 5).

The Chief also wants to reinstate the practice of issuing cell phones to officers. City-funded cell phones were yanked from the Police in 1997, due to gross misuse of the devices for personal business.

It remains to be seen whether such overtures will sweeten the bitter pill of the City’s budget woes enough for the PPA to swallow. The Mayor has announced that the City will seek to eliminate several Bureau positions, as well as increasing the cost of health care borne by the rank-and-file.

Speaking Out Against Bias Crimes

Responding to the rising tide of post-September 11 racism and xenophobia, Kroeker made strong statements to the local media: that bias and hate crimes were not to be tolerated; that people should not make assumptions about others based on race, religion, or national origin; and that the Bureau was encouraging Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent to contact them if they felt threatened (Portland Tribune, September 25).

We have to offer some praise to the Chief for making such statements so quickly and forcefully. However (you knew there would be a however, right?), these sentiments, no matter how sincere, cannot magically dispel the fear and mistrust many immigrants, refugees, and people of color have of the police. Kroeker’s words cannot supplant the reality of racial profiling, brutality, and the misuse of lethal force that is all too often aimed at immigrants and people of color. While applauding the Chief’s rhetoric, we continue to ask ourselves: can it erase the damage of the deadly police shooting of immigrant José Mejía Poot? (See p. 6 and PPR #24.) If Mejía’s friends, family, or peers were the victims of a hate crime, would they call the very Police Bureau which murdered one of their own? Unfortunately, it seems that Kroeker is not asking these questions of himself.

SERT HAZING INVESTIGATION “DRAGS” ON

An internal Police Bureau investigation into claims of hazing, sexual harassment and discrimination by the elite Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) was concluded in September after seven months, but will not be made public for some time yet.

In May, Officer Liana Reyna filed complaints with the City and State alleging that the SERT’s training program was a sexually hostile environment and that she was discriminated against for her gender and sexual orientation (Just Out, October 19). Reyna’s complaint details SERT training practices including strip tease, feigning sex and defecation, public humiliation, and forcing trainees to work overtime without pay.

Following the allegations, Chief Kroeker disbanded the SERT team for seven weeks while officers were interviewed. Kroeker also refused to heed recommendations that the matter should be investigated independently of the Bureau (see PPR #24).

Sources inside the Police Bureau told Phil Stanford of the Portland Tribune that the foot-dragging of internal investigators is due to the fact that high-level officers are or have been part of the SERT program and that the allegations implicate officers at every level of the Bureau.

In addition to the Bureau investigation, the Oregon Board of Labor and Industries is conducting its own investigation into the matter.

PRO-POLICE PARADE PERMIT PROCESS PERPETUATED

In September and October, City Council made changes to the system for obtaining permits for public events. To their credit, they adopted many suggestions which came from the May Day Coalition, the ACLU, and Peace and Justice Works.

These reforms include the removal of permit fees and the waiving of insurance requirements for smaller events.

However, much power still remains in the hands of the police. They will have the ability to revoke permits on the spot so long as they “attempt” to contact the event organizers first to resolve any problems.

Originally, the City asked that large activities provide event monitors, and give those people’s names and contact information to the police. As revised, there can be a head count of the monitors to satisfy the police that enough are present to conduct a march, leaving the City to decide how many monitors a march needs.

A number of ambiguities remain in the City Code and Administrative Rules. For instance, it is unclear from the Rules whether organizers of a march of over 200 people which does not have animals (other than dogs) or vehicles (other than bicycles) have to pay $585 for a permit (they don’t). It similarly seems that the police can shut down or modify a march 15 minutes before an event’s start time if the predicted number of participants is not there, since the Code gives police discretion “within” 15 minutes. However, the City claims they only invoke this clause beginning 15 minutes after the proposed start time.

In sum, the Council seems more interested in regulating free speech than encouraging it.

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Christensen, whose contempt for the public has never been a secret, actually praises the video for using 70 percent of its hour-long running time to present “how to recognize a physical threat and ways to de-escalate without ever having to resort to force.”

This praise is immediately offset by a mildly disturbing tidbit: “There is even a small portion on how to act so that you can create witnesses who will testify that you didn’t want trouble. The remaining 30 percent of the tape suggests ways to physically respond when de-escalating doesn’t work.” Does this mean that the police learn how to appear as though they don’t want trouble—by merely saying the right words for witnesses—before they go in to beat on someone?

Kurt Nelson, in an interesting piece contemplating the September 11 attacks, considers the difference between police and the military. His October column notes that the police have “a daily commitment to the very concept of justice” while military personnel “care nothing for justice now, only the attainment of our national priorities... In doing so, some innocent people will suffer... This is not about justice, this is about the safety of our citizens.” These are interesting concepts, and except for the fact that Nelson seems to be citing the military’s actions as justifiable, and implies that all police action is done in the name of justice and preserving and protecting liberty, we might even nod in agreement.

“I want the community to know that the recent shootings are a reflection of segments of today’s society to push the envelope, challenge the rules, disobey the law and disregard the mandates of the citizens of Portland wanting civilized and safe neighborhoods and streets... Sometimes peace comes with the ultimate cost.” —PPA President Robert King (August Rap Sheet).

Duke Smith (retired), used the front page of September’s Rap Sheet to jump on the Oregonian columnist Steve Duin for referring to the Washington Post statistics on Portland’s police shootings rate. Those statistics show Portland as fourth highest nationally in police shootings per murder (see PPR #24). Smith began by focusing on crime rates instead of police shootings, then noted that from 1990 to 1999, 658 officers were “murdered” on duty in the U.S. (No mention here that only two of those deaths were in Portland.)

Then he pointed out that a Department of Justice Study claims 294 civilians were “justifiably” killed by police in 1999, while over 15,000 people were murdered by other civilians. By his logic, then, one is 53 times more likely to be killed by a fellow citizen than a police officer—but that still doesn’t address the issue in its local context. In Portland, there are only about 20 homicides a year and about two to four of those are police shootings. This means (again following Smith’s logic) it is only five to ten times more likely in Portland to be a homicide victim than a police shooting victim. It’s not actually a comforting thought that if you are killed in Portland, there’s a 10-20% chance it was by a police officer.

Dipping back into other statistics, he notes that taxi drivers are killed on the job at a rate of 1 in 5587, whereas for police officers it is one per 22,727.

In other words, police claims that they have the most dangerous job are clearly false; Portland needs more training for officers on alternatives to violence, and Steve Duin is probably owed an apology by Smith, who compared Duin to rabid anti-Communist Joe McCarthy.

“War Stories” Show Cruelty, Law Policing

Loren Christensen, who retired several years ago from the Portland Police, has decided to use the Rap Sheet to publish “war stories”—allegedly humorous tales of his times in Vietnam and on the streets of Portland, usually with a twist ending.

(He’s trying to encourage other cops to write in, but so far, no takers.)

In the August issue, he degrades a panhandler who approached his car asking for a dollar. Christensen calls the man’s face “the most horrible face ever given a human,” and refers to him as an “aberration.” The high-larious twist is that when Christensen refused to give because he only had a 20 dollar bill, the man offered to give him change from a big wad of cash. So, the panhandler had money! What a humorous anecdote.

In September, Christensen relates another side-splitting story about how he used to torment his fanatically neat partner Ralph, nicknamed “Mr. Clean.” Christensen would drive their patrol car up near prostitutes and ask them questions so they would lean into the car and be right in Ralph’s face. In the end, “Mr. Clean” threatened to kill Christensen if he did it one more time, and Christensen swerved back into traffic when he heard “the distinctive sound of Ralph’s gun breaking leather.”

Christensen’s story reveals a few troubling attitudes. First, he thinks it is funny to engage a person in dialogue because he knows their presence and demeanor will bother someone else; second, his partner’s threats and disregard for gun safety are also treated as humorous; and third, he doesn’t seem to be interested in pursuing the arrests of the prostitutes or any of the “customers” they were bragging to him about, meaning he could have been a lousy cop or just an advocate for legalizing prostitution. We would never have guessed.

“You are an idiot.”—Last sentence in a letter from Peter Simpson of the Gang Enforcement Team, sent to the Oregonian to dispute another person’s opinion that police in Bend may have over-reacted when they shot a teenager several years ago (August Rap Sheet).

POLICE MISCONDUCT: NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Cincinnati Police Officer Acquitted in Shooting Death

On September 26, Cincinnati police officer Stephen Roach was found innocent of negligent homicide and obstructing official business in the shooting death of Timothy Thomas, an unarmed, 19-year-old black man. The April 7 shooting sparked three nights of uprisings (labelled “riot”) which resulted in dozens of injuries and more than 800 arrests.

Thomas was the 15th African American man killed by Cincinnati police since 1995. Roach is the first Cincinnati police officer to go to trial on charges of killing a suspect in any of those cases.

Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge Ralph E. Winkler ruled on the case, heard without a jury at Roach's request. Roach did not testify. Winkler said, “Police Officer Roach’s action was reasonable on his part, based on the information he had at the time in that dark Cincinnati alley.” Winkler went on to add that Roach had an “unblemished” record whereas Thomas was wanted on outstanding warrants (Oregonian, September 27).

After hearing the verdict, Thomas’ mother Angela Leasure said, “Why is it that officers are not responsible for their acts when other citizens are?... [U]ntil serious changes are made in our police department, this will happen again.”

She may be right: In a 23-page report issued the week of October 22nd, the Department of Justice (DoJ) told Cincinnati “it should make sweeping policy changes to prevent the unreasonable use of police force” (Reuters, October 26). The report was issued by a task force formed on the heels of the April uprisings. The report found that Cincinnati Police Division “regulations on the use of force were ill-defined, allowing for possible abuse.” The CPD could face legal sanctions if it does not implement the DoJ's recommendations.

Unlucky 13: Scandal in Miami Involves Unjustified Shootings, Conspiracy of Silence

Thirteen current and former Miami police officers have been indicted by U.S. attorneys for shooting unarmed people and then conspiring to lie about what they saw. They falsified reports. They tampered with crime scenes. They stole property. Federal charges include “conspiracy to violate the civil rights of citizens of Miami, obstruction of justice, and committing perjury before a grand jury.” A guilty verdict could mean five to ten years in prison and a $250,000 fine (Oregonian, September 8).

The People’s Police Report is published three times a year by Portland Copwatch, a civilian group promoting police accountability through citizen action. (Portland Copwatch is a project of Peace and Justice Works, a tax-exempt educational organization.) For our “Proposal for an Effective Civilian Review Board” send $3.00 to Portland Copwatch PO Box 42456, Portland, OR 97242, or find it online at our website: www.portlandcopwatch.org. Subscribe to the PPR for $10 a year (Oregonian, September 8).

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Call us at (503) 236-3065 for more info; report incidents with the police or Sheriff’s deputies to the Copwatch Incident Report Line at (503) 321-5120.
This issue printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper!
**Pay No Attention to the Silly Newsletters**

In July, Rap Sheet editor and retired cop Loren Christensen sent a pep talk to the Portland Police Association’s membership: “Ignore the Cop-Bashers.”

Says Christensen, “While they put on a show of being outraged every time officers use force, the reality is that they squirm with delight at such incidents. They publish silly newsletters about it and they rent shabby storefronts in Old Town where they get aroused whenever the police are forced to defend themselves against someone they deem ‘powerless.’” We assume when he says “they” that he’s criticizing the “cop-bashers” for deeming the police brutality victims as “powerless,” not praising the cops for doing so.

He continues: “Know that these professional protestors and all those self-proclaimed leaders of various groups that the City kisses up to are not the majority. Most of them are using you only to get their 15 minutes of fame. The majority of the people you serve believe you are doing a wonderful job.”

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**Glimmers of Hope Where We Can Find Them**

We’re always being told to say nice things about the cops. So yes, we thank the police for not attacking this year’s May Day parade or any of the several peace marches that have broken out spontaneously in the last few months since September 11.

On that note, Captain Jim Harvey (retired) wrote in September’s Rap Sheet about an incident in Seaside on Labor Day Weekend, 1963, at which he and other Portland officers in plain clothes joined a crowd that was engaged in a standoff with Seaside and State police. He noted that, to his surprise, the “disorderly” crowd was really made up mostly of curious spectators, and that “it pays to know the makeup of the crowd in order to take the most appropriate police action.” Of course, infiltrating the crowd in plain clothes as a social experiment is one thing, but doing so to relay information to other officers and make arrests is constitutionally questionable.

In a similar vein, Loren Christensen reviewed the video training tape “The Moment of Truth: How to Physically, Mentally, and Legally Survive a Street Fight” in the July issue. (continued on p. 10)