POLICE SHOOT AT 4; SOME OF DOW’S KILLERS GET COMMENDATIONS

There have been a number of incidents involving deadly force and the Portland Police Bureau since we published our April issue. In two of the most recent cases, officers were wounded during their interactions with members of the public.

• On July 15, David Cassel, 38, allegedly shot himself during a standoff with Portland Police. Cassel, according to the July 18 Oregonian, was a paramedic who had responded to the July, 1984 shooting spree in a McDonald’s restaurant in California. Responding to a call that Cassel was suicidal, Officer Sze Lai came to his door and was met with gunfire; Lai was shot twice in the arm and was recovering well at last report. Two of the three officers responding with Lai have interesting family ties: one was Kathleen Pluchos, wife of the Portland Police Association’s president, and another was Mark Fortner, the widower of Collen Waibel, who was killed in a shootout with Stephen Dons in January 1998. (The paranoid among us wonder how Fortner reacted to seeing a fellow officer shot, and how fully the Medical Examiner investigated whose bullets killed Cassel. We do know that Fortner and the fourth officer, Homera Reynaga, fired back into Cassel’s apartment.)

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OREGON JOINS OTHER STATES IN LOOKING AT “DRIVING WHILE BLACK”

Whether there is racially influenced enforcement of traffic laws is a hotly debated topic, especially following lawsuits in New Jersey and Maryland. Although police deny that they engage in racial profiling, the perception among minorities is that police are decidedly racist. In a recent survey in Multinomah County, African Americans gave police a rating of 7.2 (10 being routinely unfair), compared to 4.7 among whites (Oregonian, March 2).

Some crucial information is lacking. Currently, statistics on traffic stops are only kept if a citation is issued, which happens over a million times a year. Legislation in the U.S. Congress seeks to record the race, age and gender of all individuals pulled over by police, regardless of whether a citation is given. The data could then be used to identify departments engaging in racial profiling, intentionally or not. This bill is opposed by police lobbying groups, such as the National Association of Police Officers (NAPO). NAPO’s President Robert Scully sees probable cause as an existing “essential safeguard against racial profiling” (Rap Sheet, June 1999). After all if “it turns out that the individual has done nothing wrong, then that person is free to go.” This argument sidesteps the issue of the vagueness of “probable cause,” and ignores the fact that repeated traffic stops, even if one is free to go, constitute harassment.

A 1997 Oregon law (HB 2433) increased police authority to stop and search motorists and mandated that police departments adopt policies against targeting civilians based on race. This law is being monitored to determine if Oregonians are subjected to race-based profiling. A group of 60 law enforcement officials and civil liberties advocates have admitted that relations between minority populations and police are strained, and have recommended that the legislature approve over $175,000 to study the problem and monitor complaints. Chief Moose, who is on the committee, emphasized that police deserve credit for admitting the problem, and being willing to discuss it (“Police Must Document Traffic Stops,” editorial, The Portland Skanner, March 17).

In light of Oregon’s racist history and local and national efforts, it is refreshing to know that the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon will be participating in the national program set up by the ACLU to document traffic stops of people of color—“driving while black.” Now, if only we can get them to study police harassment for “walking while black,” “hanging out with friends while black” or “living while black.”

SALEM GETS ORGANIZED

In March, Salem residents staged a march from Willamette University to City Hall to complain about police misconduct. “Latinos, African-Americans and teenagers of all races charged that they’re targeted unfairly by Salem police officers, especially for traffic stops” (Oregonian, March 16). Members of the Hispanic Leadership Group, Latinos Unidos Siempre, the Human Rights Commission, and the NAACP attended the forum, as did the Police Chief, and moderator JoAnn Bowman of Portland. While the Oregonian’s report on the meeting clearly shows Chief Myers being defensive, it also states that the complaints were filed “politely” and predicts some changes in the way Salem police do business.

One outgrowth of this march was the formation of “100 Good People,” a multiracial grassroots group which seeks to institute a police review board in Salem. Their mayor has promised that if they can get 1000 signatures asking for a review board and support from the neighborhood associations, he will put the issue before the City Council. Copwatch was invited to speak to 100 Good People in late July. The Salem folks reported they had over 900 signatures. We were able to share some of the work we have been doing since 1992 on this issue, in what seems to be a productive act of networking.

For more information or to get involved contact 100 Good People c/o SUPPORT (Support Unified Peaceful Principles and Racial Tolerance) at 503-375-7732 or write PO Box 18599, Salem, OR 97305.
PIIAC: PORTLAND'S POLICE REVIEW BOARD LOSES ITS FIRST FULL-TIME STAFF PERSON; WORK STALLS AGAIN

Lisa Botsko, the first full-time staff person for the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIIAC), hired in July 1994 after the Mayor created the new position, left her job on June 5th. Botsko definitely brought about a lot of changes at PIIAC and helped the Citizen Advisors stay on track as they heard appeals, reviewed Internal Affairs files, and created quarterly monitoring reports.

The city initiated a “limited national search” in June, and Copwatch was allowed to ask questions of the four candidates who came in for interviews at the end of July. While the process is confidential, we can assure you that if we feel that we are in any way being co-opted or used by the city to silence accountability activists’ concerns we will walk out immediately and publicly.

The new staff person could be in place by the time you read this.

Another big change is the retirement of Capt. Bill Bennington of Internal Affairs. His replacement, Brett Smith, came to his first PIIAC meeting in a sport coat, which he removed to reveal his sidearm while he testified. In a setting where civilians and police are meant to have equal footing, the overt presence of Capt. Smith’s gun was a bit unnerving.

Because both the June and July PIIAC meetings were cancelled, the last public presentation by Botsko for the board was a round of four cases being appealed to City Council on June 2. In one of the cases, #99-12, a woman arrested for domestic violence on the testimony of her mother and step-sister was patted down for weapons—by the step-sister. Apparently, Internal Affairs, PIIAC, and City Council found nothing unusual about sworn police asking the person accusing the suspect of a crime to conduct a pat-down search.

Another one of the appeals, which was quickly dismissed by City Council on the basis of a letter from the City Attorney’s office, was Portland Police Association (PPA) Secretary-Treasurer Tom Mack’s complaint that a male officer was not hired to do duty at the Rose Festival because of his gender (see PPR #16). Mack wasn’t present for his appeal, but he wrote about his experiences in the May Rap Sheet (the PPA’s newsletter). Apparently, the City Attorney felt that the IAD should not investigate the “complaint of discrimination.” Mack was outraged that IAD did not do a subsequent investigation when PIIAC sent his case back to them.

Mack’s confusing appeal was made more muddled by his claim to PIIAC that he was filing as a fellow officer, not as Secretary-Treasurer of the PPA. But in the Rap Sheet, he proclaims the complaint was made by him as a “union” rep. If so, why was it not filed as a grievance rather than an IAD complaint? (If not, why did he—to be polite—give misinformation to PIIAC?)

Meanwhile, there has been no quarterly monitoring report from PIIAC since the 2nd/3rd quarter ’98 report came out early this year. That means trends, patterns, and individual cases of outrageous conduct may have escaped the public eye for ten months running.

In an interesting development in the world of civilian review, the Santa Cruz, CA police review board has voted to send the case of a protestor who was beaten and pepper sprayed in the mouth to an independent investigator (also see pepper spray article, p. 6). While that review board, like the one in Tucson and other cities, has the power to call for this kind of investigation, this is the first time Santa Cruz has used that power. PIIAC does not have the ability to call for such review.

For more info on Portland’s review system, call the Mayor’s office at 503-823-4120 or PIIAC at 503-823-4126.

TWO COPWATCH MEMBERS EXPERIENCE POLICE-CIVILIAN MEDIATION by David Lowe and Dan Handelman

Let’s say up front that there are definitely reasons to be suspicious of the police-civilian mediation program, which is part of the City’s official apparatus for resolving complaints against Portland’s finest. It would be possible, in theory, for an officer to use mediation to avoid a more serious mark on his or her record, and then, if mediation was not “successful,” that is, if both parties did not feel the situation was resolved, it could bring the investigation to a screeching halt.

However, if the officers are willing to participate in the first place, it’s probable that they will do what is asked of them by the mediators at the Neighborhood Mediation Center, which is to listen, repeat back what they hear, and to tell the story from their own point of view.

Each of us filed complaints against PPB officers, David in late 1998 and Dan in early 1999. In David’s case, an officer had told Critical Mass riders they needed to go get lights for the back of their bicycles (when a red reflector is all that is legally required); in Dan’s, a mounted police officer used his horse to force Dan against a wall during an Iraq demonstration on the Burnside Bridge.

We are both satisfied with the outcomes of the mediation process, and both came out with the following impressions:

1. The officers come to the mediation sessions on duty, so they are in uniform and are carrying guns.
2. If you can get past point #1, you recognize that this setting, unlike the street, puts you on equal footing with the police officer, who is just there as an individual.
3. While the mediators struggled to get us to apologize for the disputed situations (exercising our rights to free speech and freedom of assembly), the police officers in both cases seemed much clearer that we had no intention of apologizing or necessarily changing our behavior.
4. The officers recognized that they represent the state apparatus we each were protesting and therefore did not expect us to necessarily change the way we interacted with them. The political astuteness of the cops came as a welcome surprise.

It’s important to repeat that it really depends on the situation involved (the City won’t even allow mediation for disparate treatment—race, etc.—or use of force cases) and the particular officer, but we still support the mediation program. It’s more likely that a cop will think twice before acting the same way again if they have to look a civilian in the eye and explain themselves than if their supervisor puts them on the back and says “don’t do that again, ok?”

In a footnote to political activists, and a word to the person-at-large, remember that although the mediation sessions are confidential, you are still talking to a cop, and while you need to be truthful, open and honest, there’s no reason to say, give your entire mailing list to the cops while you’re mediating.

Good luck, and give us a call at Copwatch (503-236-3065) if you are about to or have just been through mediation.
Gambling West Linn Chief Pleads Guilty

In a surprisingly emotional op-ed piece in the May 27 Oregonian, former West Linn Police Chief Larry Gabel outlined the gambling addiction which led to his ouster from office (see PPR #17). Gabel pleads guilty on May 21 to charges of official misconduct and theft of city equipment. The op-ed was Gabel’s statement upon being sentenced to 60 days in jail and $8360 in restitution.

“I stole to satisfy my addiction,” wrote Gabel. “I bought a gun with city funds one day and would pawn it another. I knew full well a paper trail was very evident, but all that mattered was dollars in my hand and the very friendly machine that I had a full-time relationship with.”

Considering suicide at first, Gabel called the gambling addiction hotline and received mental health counseling. His most important messages: “If you have significant issues and problems, don’t hide. Deal with them. ... I have to face the consequences for my actions.”

Gold Hill Chief Convicted

Police Chief David M. Crawford of Gold Hill was put on paid leave in March. Crawford was being temporarily replaced with Jackson County Sheriff’s Deputies (Associated Press, June 9).

Apparently, the threats to George and Patricia Warner came after a short spurt of “road rage” where the menacing car turned out to be Crawford’s; upon leaping from his car he allegedly said “I can find you. I can get you...I can burn down your home.” (AP June 3). (Other information from the Oregonian, April 25, see PPR #16 for background on Gold Hill.)

Bend Family Sues

The family of Adam Gantenbein, a 21-year-old shot by Bend police in February (see PPR #17), filed a lawsuit for negligence against Officer Al Campbell and the City of Bend. Gantenbein was killed by 7 of the 15 bullets fired at him. Gantenbein’s father Calvin, a former Portland Police Officer and currently a criminal defense attorney, maintains that Campbell should not have fired his weapon through Adam’s windshield, based on eyewitness testimony and crime scene evidence (Oregonian, June 2).

Shooter Ex-Cop Strikes Again

Former Portland Police officer Steven Gomez will face a grand jury on second- and third-degree assault charges. Gomez was fed up with the force after “playfully” shooting his wife in the buttocks (resulting in the amputation of her leg) in February 1997 (see PPR #12). He attacked his former wife again on July 4. After reportedly arguing with her about her successful $5 million lawsuit against him, Gomez slapped and choked her unconscious. He then called 911 and surrendered himself to the local authorities, going so far as to remove his wristwatch to make cuffing him easier (Oregonian, April 16).

Police Volunteer Indicted

Louie Lira Jr., a volunteer “gang outreach worker” with the Portland Police, was indicted by a federal grand jury in April for armed bank robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. As reported in PPR #17, Lira had earlier been sentenced to federal prison for violating immigration laws. The robbery indictment stems from his alleged use of Police equipment to assist in a November, 1998 bank heist (Oregonian, April 16).

“Grow Light” Store Busted After Filing Suit

Last spring, American Agriculture, an indoor gardening supply store, filed a federal lawsuit against the Portland Police for violations of civil rights. Police have been using a “trap and trace” on American Agriculture’s phone for four years, giving phone numbers of incoming callers to the police without the store’s knowledge or permission (see PPR #17). Police identified suspected marijuana growers, and then monitored power usage to determine likely candidates for “knock and talk” style searches, in which police bluff their way into private homes. Other strategies in use are the “sniff and seize,” the “talk and grab,” and the “spray and cuff.”

In June, police raided the store and the home of the manager. Officers seized computers and documents, but no arrests were made. Capt. Ferraris, head of the Drugs and Vice Division, said that there is no connection between the timing of the lawsuit and the raid (Oregonian, June 5). The investigation continues, despite Circuit Judge Michael Marcus’ questioning why, after investigating around 500 suspected growers, police are still collecting evidence.

According to the Oregonian, Marcus compared the four-year investigation to planting petunias in a hole so deep that you need a ladder to climb out.”

Lawyers for American Agriculture believe police are illegally gathering evidence and that the suspicious timing of the court cases and the search warrants is an attempt at intimidation.

This case is particularly significant because it is probably the Marijuana Task Force’s surveillance of American Agriculture which led them to the raid on Stephen Dons’ house in January 1998, an event that ended with one dead officer and a wounded Dons who later died in police custody (see PPR #14).

NYPD Officers Indicted in Diallo Shooting

A grand jury has indicted the four officers who shot Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo 41 times, killing him in his Bronx apartment building (see PPR #17). The officers are part of the Street Crimes Unit whose all-white members wear plain clothes and travel in unmarked cars. The case drew increasingly boisterous protests, with over 1000 people getting themselves arrested, including Jesse Jackson and actress Susan Sarandon. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani eased his confrontative support of the officers as the protests have grown, and most of the protesters had their charges dropped. (New York Times, March 27 and Associated Press, April 3).

NYPD Officer Indicted for Sodomying Louima

Officer Justin Volpe has admitted to shoving a stick into Abner Louima’s rectum while the handcuffed Haitian immigrant was held by another officer in a precinct bathroom. Volpe said he was mad and intended to humiliate Louima because he mistakenly thought Louima had struck him during a struggle at a nightclub. After other officers testified to seeing Volpe go into the bathroom with a stick and brag later about his acts, Volpe pled guilty to avoid a life sentence. Mayor Giuliani used this testimony to prove his claim that the “blue wall of silence” is a media myth. Only one of the other officers charged in the incident, Charles Schwarz, was found guilty--of civil rights violations (New York Times, May 26 and stop-police-brutality-lawsuit June 8).
Millions Organize, March For Mumia

On April 24th, 15,000 people congregated in San Francisco to take part in the Millions for Mumia march. There was a simultaneous demonstration in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They were there to ask that Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was convicted of killing a police officer and is on death row, be given a new fair trial. Mumia—despite being on death row—has spoken out against injustices such as police brutality, the prison-industrial complex, and the criminalization of the poor. Mumia knows from experience just how unfair the “justice system” can be because when he was first brought to trial he was too poor to afford adequate legal defense and the necessary investigators. He has been fighting for 17 years to receive a new trial. During this time much evidence has come forth which could prove his innocence. Unfortunately, the prosecutorial misconduct that his first trial reeked of is all that will be reviewed in the appeals process if he does not receive a new, fair trial.

This situation compelled demonstrators to take to the streets, chanting slogans like “we’re going to tear down the prisons wall for wall!” and “Free Mumia.” Throughout the march, the police were decidedly quiet—despite how forcefully the police associations have come out against Mumia.

After the march there were speeches by such notable speakers as Angela Davis, and a tape from Mumia thanking everyone for coming out. By the end of the event, it was clear that people had to go back to their towns and do solid organizing work.

That was what the Portland Free Mumia Coalition had in mind when they cosponsored the “Open to the Truth” conference against the prison-industrial complex April 10-11 at Portland State University. The conference served as precursor to the Millions for Mumia march. Copwatch was invited to give a training workshop at the event. The event turned out well, but in order to free Mumia it is going to take much more grassroots support. It is truly an urgent situation for Mumia: his last state appeal was denied and his health is in a fragile state.

For more information on Mumia’s current situation, or to find out what is going on in Portland call the Portland Free Mumia Coalition at 287-4217.

COPWATCH AND CUSPR: ORGANIZING FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

In addition to our presentation at the Prison-Industrial Complex/Mumia gathering in April, Copwatch held a training in July at the Spurkraft warehouse.

At this time we are putting a call out to individuals and organizations involved in Communities United to Stop Police Repression (CUSPR), the Coalition that organized last October’s march from NE Portland to the Justice Center. We hope that people will organize another event for this fall.

If you’d like to be involved in planning an event, or if you’d like to schedule a “Your Rights and the Police ” seminar or Copwatch training, please be in touch with Copwatch by mail, phone or email: PO Box 42456/Portland, OR 97242; (503) 236-3065; copwatch@teleport.com.

Clackamas County Deputy charged with sexual abuse

Michael Plozke, 53, a Clackamas County sheriff’s deputy, who was voted 1994 Officer of the Year, was arrested and indicted with 15 counts of sexual abuse of an adolescent. These incidents took place while Plozke was off-duty.

Plozke was booked in jail but was later let go on his own recognizance. Plozke is currently enjoying paid administrative leave while the case is being resolved (Oregonian, July 20).

Washington Deputies shoot man who has shotgun

Washington County Deputies shot 57 year old William John Phillips to death after he allegedly ran out of his apartment with a shotgun. No one else was injured despite an atmosphere that neighbors claim “sounded like a war zone.”

There were as many as 15 members of the county’s tactical negotiations team, 10 uniformed deputies, and five hostage negotiators called to respond to the dispatch “that a despondent man was in his apartment with other people and at least one gun.” It is not known whether he was holding people against their will.

It is reported that Phillips allegedly shot first and police responded. Currently the Washington County District Attorney’s Office is investigating to determine how many shots were fired, how many shots hit Phillips, and whether the shooting was justified (Oregonian, April 16).
PEPPER SPRAY: “SAFETY”, PAIN, DEATH AND LAWSUITS

SCIENCE SAYS PEPPER SPRAY HARMFUL, COPS THINK THAT’S THE REASON TO USE IT

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning human rights organization Amnesty International calls it torture, a New York-based law enforcement training institute calls it “brutal,” but a US Federal Judge ruled that the direct application of pepper spray to the eyes of nonviolent protestors is both legal and reasonable. Law enforcement agencies across the continent have become increasingly reliant on the use of this noxious chemical in recent years, though several studies point to its dangerous and potentially lethal health effects.

When Judge Vaughn Walker ruled that the Eureka, California Police acted justly in prying open peaceful protestors’ eyes and dousing them with pepper spray (see PPR #16), civil liberties advocates warned that the ruling would give cops a free ticket to torture social justice activists. Unfortunately, they appear to be right. Berkeley’s Copwatch Report (February 1999) states that less than a month after the federal ruling, California’s Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) voted to recommend direct application of pepper spray to the eyes of non-violent protestors. Two cops serving on POST’s “guideline development committee” were responsible for the forceful eye-swabbing of Earth First! protestors in October 1997. As Berkeley Copwatch has pointed out, these trends are moving politics back to the pre-Civil Rights era when police beat nonviolent protestors with impunity while arresting them. The POST recommendations, they note, effectively abolish the formal distinction between passive resistance and violent resistance. Under its recommendation, police will be justified in meting out the same physical force to a teenager who goes limp at a sit-in as they use in subduing a brutal rapist who attacks police while being taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the Ottawa police are suing the continent’s largest supplier of pepper spray, for reasons more guided by fiscal prudence than human decency. The Ottawa police department and two officers are defendants in a suit filed by a man who was pepper sprayed after police entered his home looking for another man. The plaintiff, Jean-Paul Gravelle, continues to suffer from bronchial asthma and other respiratory ailments as a result of the spraying. The Police have in turn sued Defense Technology Corporation of America, who the police claimed assured them pepper spray was a “safe” product, free from “side effects” (Ottawa Citizen, June 2).

In terms of civilian use, a convicted robber in California who used pepper spray in the commission of a crime was given a “four-level increase” in his sentencing when U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Helen Frye called pepper spray “an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious injury” (Copwatch Report).

Given that the Canadian police and a California judge are now both claiming pepper spray is harmful, it is clear that the continued use of this weapon by police forces constitutes an awareness of its possible effects and a callous disregard for public safety. The American Civil Liberties Union found that police use of pepper spray contributed to at least 40 in-custody deaths in California between 1993 and 1997. Pepper spray is used routinely by the Portland Police and was probably associated with the in-custody deaths of Brian Fenton, a young African-American, in May 1998, and the death of Dickie Dow in October 1998.

For more information on pepper spray, see PPR #11-13, 15 and 16. Contact Berkeley Copwatch at 2022 Blake, Berkeley, CA 94704

Pepper Spray in the News

-Mike Dubay wrote a medical research paper stating that “in humans, OC [pepper] spray is associated with severe twitching of the eyes, stinging, lacrimation and spasmodic closing of the lids.” It can also cause inflammation, loss of reaction to stimuli, loss of sensation, and corneal abrasions. (Berkeley Copwatch Report, February, 1999)

-The Modern Warrior Institute in New York claims that “manufacturers have been misleading in their advertising and the chemical agent is not as effective as they claim, adding that repeated use of the substance, if ineffective, is ‘brutal.’” (“Making Contact”, June 30,1999--also see PPR #13)

-Lewis Rivera, a homeless man in Miami, Florida was doused with pepper spray and died in police custody in May. While the ACLU of Florida is investigating the possibility that the pepper spray caused his death, the police claim the man was suffering from “alcohol withdrawal” and that pepper spray probably had nothing to do with his death because “he was walking and talking” just before he died. (Miami Herald, June 8, 1999)

-Daniel Ramirez, after being chased by L.A.’s gang task force, was pepper sprayed, handcuffed, and died about thirty minutes later. While police say the bag of drugs found in Ramirez’s throat caused his asphyxiation, pepper spray’s known effects include the restriction of air passages and probably played no small part in Ramirez’s death. (Local Review/LA Times, June 4&9, 1999)

-In Santa Cruz, anti-war activist Steve Argue was beaten and had a pepper spray canister shoved in his mouth, discharged and then sprayed in his eyes after he attempted to stop an officer from separating a woman and her child. Argue was nearly comatose as he lay a 5 minutes’ drive from a hospital while police waited an hour to get treatment for him. He was held in solitary for 72 hours. Activists are organizing for Argue’s legal defense. (e-mail from Food Not Bombs [sffnb@iww.org], May 28, 1999)

Supreme Court Rules Search & Seizure of Passengers OK

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to uphold the right of cops to search a passenger’s belongings “whenever there is reason to believe that there is contraband or evidence of criminal wrongdoing hidden in the car.”

The National Association of Police Officers (NAPO) executive director Robert Scully praises the Supreme Court for “giving officers the tools they need to do their jobs” (Rap Sheet, June 1999).

The ruling overturned a Wyoming court’s decision which would have allowed police to search only “containers” in the car belonging to the vehicle’s driver.
PORTLAND POLICE LAMENT ‘HERO’ (KILLER) COPS TREATED BADLY BY THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA

In the April 1999 issue of the Portland Police Association’s newsletter, the Rap Sheet, editor and former Portland cop Loren Christensen wrote about “Hero cops maligned by the media.” He refers to the times when “the you-know-what hits the fan, all your survival training kicks in, and your trained actions save your life or the lives of others. But in so doing, the perpetrator is hurt, or killed…. You’re OK, you did the right thing. You…saved yours or someone else’s bacon. In police vernacular—it was a clean deal.

“Yet! You are sooo wrong.

“As the dust begins to settle and you are looking for some clean underwear, the media sweeps in with their bright lights, hairspray, and News Helicopter Air Whatever. ‘Did the police overreact [sic]?’ they ask urgently and pointedly into the camera. ‘Was the victim—this father of two, this high school football star, this man who loved his mother so much, this racial minority, this sexual minority, this mentally challenged, this vertically challenged, this visually impaired, this balding, this danduff flaker; this menopause sufferer—shot unnecessarily by the police with their high-tech weapons and gestapo tactics?’

“Before you even begin your reports, the special interest groups are panting with surprise as they plan their defaming sound bites before the news cameras, their accusatory letters to the editor, and what songs they will sing as they march through the streets with their candles and sad expressions.”

LC goes on to describe how AP reporter Larry McShane has written a book, Cops Under Fire: The Reign of Terror Against Hero Cops. The book apparently profiles officers whose lives were “turned upside-down” after shooting incidents. “Regardless of the solid evidence supporting the officers’ actions, the aftermath turned into a nightmare for them and their families. Every case involved colored, though not just white officers defending themselves against suspects of color. In some cases, the officers were of color, but McShane has found...Black versus blue has moved in as a replacement for black versus white.”

“As police forces become more integrated, it seems that the race of the suspect is more important than the race of the officer involved. The cops are always blue, regardless of heritage.” (How astute!)

Apparently, many of the cases headed to court, where in all but one case, still pending as of the book’s publication, the officers were found not guilty. Christensen states that in many cases, “jurors were incredulous that they were even brought to trial.”

In May’s Rap Sheet, Christensen follows Greg Pluchos, PPA President, for a day. Apparently, Pluchos is currently working on officers’ rights in deadly force and death-in-custody situations. Police detectives handle such incidents as criminal investigations. Pluchos looks at his job this way: “We have to find a balance between the district attorney’s and the community’s right to know with those rights of a police officer in a criminal investigation.”

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PORTLAND’S 100-YEAR “HERO COP” LIST IS SHORTER THAN 10-YEAR CITIZEN LIST
The Portland Police Association points out that Portland’s Memorial for fallen cops represents 25 dead, who left 21 widows, 1 widower, and 37 children growing up with one parent (KOIN-TV, July 23). However, they do not seem to have such statistics on the over 25 people killed by police or who died in police custody just in the 1990s.

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STUDY RECOMMENDS CPR
Six months after Dickie Dow’s death, a panel released a report recommending (DUH!!!) that the Portland Police resume training their officers in CPR. (Oregonian, April 30)

Although police in all surrounding jurisdictions have continuing training courses, the Portland CPR refresher course’s heart stopped beating in 1992 (see PPR #16).

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1998 POLICE WHO DIED IN LINE OF DUTY:
AGAIN LESS THAN 1/2 SHOT
In 1998, 156 officers died on duty nationwide: 63 were shot, 48 died in car wrecks, 15 were struck by cars, 9 died of illness, 7 drowned, 4 died in motorcycle accidents, 4 died in aircraft accidents, and 6 perished in unexplained ways. So, 40.4% were shot in the line of duty and the rest were all accidents or illness. (Rap Sheet, July 1999)

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SHOOTER COPS AND AWARDS TO DOW’S KILLERS
(continued from p.1) Alex Venn and Timothy Musgrave (Oregonian, June 22).

- We also want to give some details on a shooting from March 16th, which was reported in a short blur in PPR #17. Gresham Officer David Snider was wounded when Quinton Keppinger, age 31, shot him during a traffic stop. Keppinger was chased down by Portland Police and crashed into a phone pole. He was shot after a three-hour standoff and was wounded in the head, cheek and leg. He may have been shot by Snider, but it may also have been one of the Portland officers (not named in the March 16th Oregonian article).

- Meanwhile, in the adding insult to injury department, Chief Moose gave letters of commendation to four of the officers involved in the October killing of Dickie Dow (see PPR #16). Officers were called to the scene when a school police officer felt threatened by Dow, a 37-year-old developmentally disabled man. Eight officers piled on Dow after pepper spraying him, noticed he wasn’t breathing, and called an ambulance. Witnesses say the police did not attempt to revive Dow; they even turned away the help of a neighbor who offered to do CPR herself. The early stories were that the PPB was no longer trained to do CPR, so the police did not attempt to revive Dickie; the story later changed during the grand jury inquest, with police claiming that they did do CPR, even though they allegedly weren’t trained to do so. On July 22, Moose honored four officers for helping to save Dickie’s life (KOIN-TV, July 23).

This is a slap in the face not only to Dow’s family, but to the community as a whole. It is reminiscent of when George Bush pardoned several key Iran-Contra figures in December 1992 as he was leaving office, insisting in unexplained ways. So, 40.4% were shot in the line of duty and the rest were all accidents or illness.

To register complaints call the Chief’s office 823-0000 (takes no messages, but takes calls 9-5 M-F); or the Mayor’s office 823-4120.

There is a memorial fund set up at US Bank branches, and the family has been holding memorial vigils third Fridays after dark at N Lombard and Fenwick.

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1998 POLICE WHO DIED IN LINE OF DUTY:
AGAIN LESS THAN 1/2 SHOT
In 1998, 156 officers died on duty nationwide: 63 were shot, 48 died in car wrecks, 15 were struck by cars, 9 died of illness, 7 drowned, 4 died in motorcycle accidents, 4 died in aircraft accidents, and 6 perished in unexplained ways. So, 40.4% were shot in the line of duty and the rest were all accidents or illness. (Rap Sheet, July 1999)

To register complaints call the Chief’s office 823-0000 (takes no messages, but takes calls 9-5 M-F); or the Mayor’s office 823-4120.

To help Dickie’s family, contact Justice For Dickie Dow at (360) 576-0384 or dowjustice@uwsest.net.

There is a memorial fund set up at US Bank branches, and the family has been holding memorial vigils third Fridays after dark at N Lombard and Fenwick.
It is important, however, to recognize the systemic nature of police abuse, misconduct, brutality and corruption. No matter who runs a department, without safeguards protecting the community, there will always be problems. We don’t know whether Moose’s permanent replacement will be better or worse. If we had a system of truly community-based policing, in which the people directly control policy, training, and enforcement issues as well as having an independent review board with the ability to do its own investigations, it doesn’t matter so much who the chief was.

That said, the significant issues which Moose influenced as Chief. Probably the most positive was the creation of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), a group of about 100 officers who have been given 40 hours of training in dealing with potentially mentally ill citizens. The training involves ways to de-escalate situations, rather than the usual police tactics of sliding up the scale of the use-of-force continuum. While the number of incidents in which “unruly” civilians are shot by police has decreased, CIT officers are not always on the scene. It seems logical that all 1000 officers be given complete CIT training.

On the negative side were Moose’s angry outbursts, which effectively distracted the public and the media from the issues at hand. In November, 1998, Moose lambasted the citizens of Northeast Portland and swore he’d move away, keeping the focus off the use of the “beanbag” guns; his tirade against news helicopters got more attention than the fact that Stephen Don’s” naked, injured body was taken away on the back of a paramilitary police vehicle rather than in an ambulance.

In terms of the overall police practices, it is hard to judge what changes have taken place. It is clear from word on the street that racism still exists within the Bureau, and the occasional headline lets the public know that shootings, beatings, and other forms of police violence have not gone away. These issues reflect the racist, violent nature of the U.S. government, and the nature of the legal system as it exists today.

It is important to remember the two cases in which Moose refused to agree with PIIAC. Both cases were sent to him by majority votes of City Council, who passed on recommendations from the PIIAC Citizen Advisors that there was police misconduct. Mayor Katz, who is both Commissioner of Police and the commissioner in charge of PIIAC—an apparent conflict of interest—was the only one to vote “no” in both cases. But because the review board’s findings are recommendations, despite the fact that they come from our elected City Council, the appointed Chief was able to ignore those findings. When challenged before Council to publicly explain such cases, Moose refused. He claimed he might change a finding if an officer came into his office crying, and for him to report that publicly would “make a mockery of the system.” Actually, the Chief’s ability to cut offf debate in Council about requiring his presence mocks the system.

Sure, the Council may have backed down because of Moose’s quick temper. And Moose may have hung on to his job so long because it scores great public relations within Portland and around the country to have an African-American police chief. But those of us who work on the issue of police accountability year-round know that most police are not European, Asian, African, or American, but they are police officers whose color is blue. Their power lies in protecting one another while protecting those in society who have power and money from those who do not.

Most of this article also appeared in the August Portland Alliance.

MOOSE SHOWS SENSITIVE SIDE AT CITY CLUB

On July 23, Moose spoke about “The State of Portland’s Police” at the City Club, a policy discussion group made of local elites. Moose kept up his well established routine of mild controversy by gently chiding his liberal audience—and expecting too many social problems to be solved by the police.

The lecture began as a predictable laundry list of the Bureau’s accomplishments. Moose bragged that public complaints to internal affairs have significantly declined in the last two years. From the Chief’s position this must seem a welcome relief. However, from our experience helping people navigate the confusing and demoralizing complaint system, it seems that such a drop in complaints is at least partially attributable to inadequate public knowledge of the current system, and the frequently justified belief that it is stacked in favor of the police.

The remainder of Moose’s address was a welcome criticism of society’s insensitivity in the ongoing reliance on law enforcement to solve social problems. The Chief argued ardently for increased drug treatment programs in the community. According to Moose, treatment reduces the likelihood of re-arrest by 75%. Equally passionate, Moose’s pleas to increase public involvement in schools and affordable housing. He even made reference to the widening wealth gap and economic insecurity as part of the root cause of crime.

Moose stated that if the City continued to hand the police money and expect them to do everything, they would gladly take it and try. But he argued that instead, education and social spending should become higher priorities. Otherwise, he assured, the Bureau will get larger, arrests will increase, and the Oregonian will be reached.

We then asked the search committee to continue to actively solicit the opinions of the public at large all the way through the interview process. Shortly thereafter, the Oregonian solicited opinions. The first two were from a representative of the business-oriented Citizens Crime Commission and Portland Police Association Oregon Police lobbyist Liz Cruthers. Copwatch forwarded a notice to the Oregonian that we hoped they’d solicit opinions from the homeless, Latino, African-American, Native American and other communities that have yet to be published; we also sent them our five points listed above.

COMMENTS EXCERPTED FROM MAYOR’S WEB SITE POLL

Copwatch reprinted 16 of the 63 responses received on the Mayor’s website in June, representing about 25% of all opinions, which seemed to promote police accountability. Another 12 of the 63 (about 20%) were simply “nominations” or otherwise not substantive, so we believe the 16 we found reflected a significant sentiment.

(1) open to an independent civilian review board, like Copwatch [sic], which I believe serves an integral function in Portland, and could serve as a forum for communication between the police and the community… (2) willing to break the “code of silence” and truthfully address the problem of police corruption… (3) respond to the citizens’ demands like the Task Force that pays for itself by siezing private property in ways that are Constitutionally questionable at best… (4) open to an independent civilian review board, like Copwatch [sic], which I believe serves an integral function in Portland, and could serve as a forum for communication between the police and the community… (5) respond to the citizens’ demands like the Task Force that pays for itself by siezing private property in ways that are Constitutionally questionable at best… (6) willing to break the “code of silence” and truthfully address the problem of police corruption… (7) willing to make his officers accountable… (8) more responsive to Portland’s Gay & Lesbian population… I still hear complaints of police insensitivity and even harassment from friends and local organizations… (9) work on issues that are not connected to the police and the law…. (10) be active in the community, be concerned about the community, be friendly to the community, be active in the community, be concerned about the community, be friendly to the community…” (11) be active in the community, be concerned about the community, be friendly to the community…” (12) will consider the feedback from the community… (13) will consider the feedback from the community… (14) sensitive to the community… (15) a police officer’s daughter) Public service, interaction with the public, and mutual respect… (16) experience working with the Hispanic community, and, preferably, speaks Spanish, as that community is greatly under represented, ignored and much maligned in Portland.
Two Portland Officers fired for lying

The June 30 Willamette Week named two Portland Police bureau officers “Rogues of the Week.” Kenneth Ellison, who allegedly ran his police car into a solid wall, was fired June 16. Donald Warren, fired on May 11, allegedly called in sick one day when he apparently wasn’t. In an unsurprising move, the Portland Police Association has filed grievances for both cops.

media made passing reference to the purposes of the action, they consciously chose to spin the demonstration as an uncontrollable riot. They reported that attendees “banged on cars...and shouted at motorists” (Oregonian, June 20), yet neglected the fact that some cars were actively trying to run over pedestrians. One passenger even leapt out of a car and whacked a protestor on the head with a wrench. Throughout the event there was a large police presence in full riot gear which decidedly set the tone for the events that were to transpire.

The demonstration turned up about 300 attendees. Police had brought radios in order to listen to music that was to be broadcast all day on Radio Free Cascadia (a low-power community station) but were disappointed to find the signals crossed with a classical music station. It was then that people became bored and began to stray from the meeting point. Police encircled the places they thought people were headed such as City Hall and Nike Town. It was the opinion of many that the participants were ready to disperse at this point, but were afraid to because of past experiences. Many people had been targeted at previous demonstrations after they began to leave in smaller groups. When the crowd reached Washington-Jefferson Park, police started shooting tear gas and going after anyone they could catch. They were seen using pepper spray on people even after handcuffing them and forcing them into pain compliance holds.

According to the June 19 Oregonian, the police did not begin arresting people until nearly five hours after the protest began. The article quotes City Councilor David Kelly as saying “The police showed amazing restraint.” Police making the first arrests hours into the protest was a form of “restraint,” but Kelly must also consider firing tear gas and making random arrests “restrained” to make such a broad statement.

Eventually, twenty-one people were arrested, mostly on charges of disorderly conduct and rioting. All riot charges were subsequently dropped except Robert Thaxton’s. He remains in jail at PPR deadline. He originally faced a charge of attempted murder of a police officer, which has since been downgraded to assault, and also faces the charge of inciting a riot. These are serious charges that seem extreme—or, more precisely, intimidating. On a flyer calling for aid to Thaxton, he is quoted as saying one of the officers who threw him down, whacked him in the head, and broke his nose “threatened to come ‘get’ me in the holding cell later. He also told me that I was lucky he didn’t pull his gun and shoot me.”

Police were also busy harassing videographer Timothy Lewis. They held him in jail just long enough to secure a search warrant to confiscate his tape, then they let him go and dropped the charges. Lewis, who works with the Eugene-based community access show “Cascadia Alive!”, has been arrested at earlier events while attempting to videotape. Though the District Attorney “determined that Lewis’ tape was legally seized as part of a search warrant and can be used in investigation of the riot,” (Register-Guard, June 22) it is customary for a journalist’s notes—or in this case, raw footage—to be protected materials unless they have been published. One “objective” mainstream station, KVAL, agreed to cooperate with the police.

Clearly, not everyone was on the same wavelength; even within the anarchist community there are many differences of opinion on whether property damage is violence. While some activists involved in planning the demonstration were willing to sit down ahead of time with police to discuss the peaceful protest they had planned, others arrived on the scene who eventually smashed windows at “a bank, a hotel, a fast-food restaurant and a furniture store” (Oregonian, June 20).

It is clear that harassment continues as Eugene Police again overreacted at a July 16th Reclaim the Streets action. Local activists report this event turned up 200-250 people (though the Oregonian said 25).

It was another attempt to focus on the issues of global, corporate dominance. Some demonstrators even brought windows in case people who had their windows smashed in June wanted to smash back. When 3 people showed up in masks, police leapt into action, pulling their face masks off and searching them. They let two go later but held the other one overnight for the possession of a knife—which they termed a “concealed firearm violation.” People were concerned that this was a direct attack on their right to protect their identity, with the aid of masks, from police who have been known to harass activists.

The Associated Press (July 17) proclaimed “Law and order reigns as anarchists march,” noting that police remained on the periphery “to avoid any feeling of intimidation.” On the other hand, KGW-TV showed footage of helmeted State Police practicing attack formations while carrying nightsticks in the days before July 16.

While some folks have taken their protests to City Hall, others thought that events like the Reclaim the Streets demonstration would be a good time to discuss how to deal with police harassment. It is another example of different people using different tactics when trying to make change.

In related news from Eugene, Brenton Glicker, 15, whose house was raided in connection with the Nike Town “riot” of October, 1998 (after his fingerprint was found on a protest sign—see PPR#17), was convicted of second degree burglary and disorderly conduct. He was charged mostly on the basis of the political literature found in his room. Police allege that Brenton then violated his terms for release by being at the June 18th demonstration.

Information for this article was gathered from interviews with individuals in Eugene, as well as the Oregonian, Associated Press and the Eugene Register-Register.

There are more Reclaim the Streets demonstrations planned for the third Friday of every month. A forum is also being planned for August 24th at Harris Hall in Free Speech Plaza at Oak and 8th St. to discuss the events of the June 18th action.

Folks can send support for Robert Thaxton or Brenton Glicker and find out more information by writing Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, PO Box 1131, Eugene, OR 97440.

City continues to ignore youth self-determination

Police and Mayor Vera Katz revamped their strategy to cut down on youth presence in downtown in the form of tougher anti-cruising ordinances. The police are currently putting up roadblocks along Southwest Broadway after 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

While police claim that the “majority of the people who have been involved in the issue are extremely pleased” they seemed to have ignored those most affected by these ordinances. During the spring break weekends alone youth received 368 tickets for cruising.

But there are always exceptions—police have generally been letting drivers through that are planning to spend money in restaurants or have other “legitimate travel needs.” (Oregonian, May 5). The effect of these ordinances are to treat youth like invisible persons. They are not wanted in downtown if they do not have money to spend. Their input always seems to be ignored in considering such discriminatory ordinances.
UNIFORM MADNESS

In the May Rap Sheet letters section, Assistant Chief Prunk gets a pen-full from Michael Villanti (affiliation unknown) and John Scruggs (Northeast Precinct), who were shocked that Prunk went to Salem to testify against the bill which would ban live media broadcasts of police actions. What’s worse, they say, is that though other police officials were there testifying for the bill, Prunk spoke against it while wearing his uniform.

This was followed up in June by retired Officer Elmer Brown, upset that Chief Moose would not allow officers to wear uniforms when testifying about making it a class C felony to assault a cop. On the other hand, groans Brown, Moose marches in the Gay Pride Parade in uniform.

It is hard to say if these are political decisions, dividing police management from the rank-and-file, or just decisions being made from the Chief’s public relations office. In any case, we should all keep our eyes open for what police do when in or out of uniform. (See picture of CW Jensen, right.)

FREEDOM’S JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE

An anonymous law enforcement officer from Maryland wrote an article, reprinted in the July Rap Sheet from The Shield, about what he believes a prisoner’s life is like. The tone is pretty much, “Hey, taxpayers, thanks for sending me to the country club.”

Here’s a quote: “I can watch TV,... play cards and games, basketball in our gym, or go outside in suitable weather ...We have plenty of exercise devices...to keep our bodies in shape.” His imaginary inmate is so excited he gets this all for free—plus access to a great legal library, and the ability to tie up courts with lawsuits! “We don’t have to work, cut grass, shovel snow or other unpleasant tasks. We let you and your tax dollars do that for us. Our only problem is that they never let us serve our complete sentences.” He even refers to police transport to and from court as “chauffeurs” paid for by the government.

Of course, he fails to mention that the people in jail have no freedom to move about, visit their loved ones, or call (for the most part) get treatment, training or financial support to keep them from ending up back in prison once they get out. Or that prisoners’ rights are constantly being chipped away, as they also suffer beatings at the hands of brutal guards, or are set up to be beaten by other prisoners while guards turn the other way. Or that boneheads like him make life so miserable for ex-cons on the outside that they never get a chance to reintegrate into society.

But we guess we’d all like to live in jail given this cop’s pretty picture of it.

TIRED PROTEST SLOGANS

In May, Loren Christensen’s opinion piece was titled “The Sixties live on in Portland.” Here, LC berates activists who shout “Stop the senseless killing!”—Stop the bloodbath!—Stop the rape of the land!”, demeaning the causes by referring to these slogans as “their tired chorus of demands” and “their hastily drawn signs.” He calls the protesters “shabbily dressed” and notes that they sing “We shall overcome” to ad nauseum.

He mentions the recent protests both for and against the U.S./NATO war on Yugoslavia. He recalls that in the 60s, “the militant fresh air crowd protested against pollution-belching technology and established something called ‘Earth Day,’ a day we still celebrate in 1999. Today, their children tie themselves to trees and lie down in front of logging trucks.”

He claims that the police were brought to be responsible in the public eye for “all that was wrong in the country,” saying “it’s happening again.” He complains that the hundreds of protesters against the cops who shot Amadou Diallo 41 times in New York don’t “protest against the rising number of assaults against police officers.”

ADVOCATING FOR PRISONERS MAKES LAWYERS MONEY... SOMEHOW...

In the July issue, Christensen tears into an advocacy group called Survivors Advocating For an Effective System (SAFES). He lists SAFES co-founder Michele Kohler as a guy, despite the fact that she is a female whose father was killed in a violent crime many years ago.

Christensen writes, “At first I thought they might be just another hand-wringing, let’s-hold-a-candle-light-vigil group of sad faces.” He notes that unlike CrimeVictims United, who are pushing for get-tough laws, SAFES thinks the system “focuses too much on retribution rather than rehabilitation. They are also opposing mandatory minimums and, of course, the death penalty.” Then he reveals the main difference—that Kohler is—(sinister music please)—a defense attorney.

So, since “We’ve all seen defense attorneys pull every scummy trick in the book to keep their predator out of jail”, he knows that SAFES is just “these defense attorneys, all wrapped up in a pretty acronym,... want[ing] people to let them speak for victims of crime.”

It never really becomes clear just how defense attorneys plan to make money from this scheme, nor for that matter does Christensen recognize the possibility that defense attorneys involved may themselves have been the victims of violent crime.

INFLUENCING YOUNG MINDS

In the July issue, guess who (editor Christensen) wrote a diatribe against professional wrestling, a career he admits to having dabbled in himself. His main point is “what is all this doing to young viewers?” He mentions that pay-per-view shows feature “mock crucifixions, S&M scenes, wrestlers mooning the audience, obscene finger gestures, and semi-clad women playing subservient roles to the men. On one show, there is even an African-American pimp parading his ‘hos.’”

LC goes on to criticize the head of the World Wrestling Federation, Vince McMahon, for saying “You don’t see guns, murder, knives. We resolve our differences physically in a wrestling ring. How bad is it compared to a Stallone or Schwarzenegger movie?”

LC asked a 10 year old what he liked best—the kid answered “how they all get hurt.”

Now, let’s apply this same criteria to all the cop novels LC reviews, cop movies, real-life and dramatic cop shows and movies, and think about how impressionable young cops and cop wannabes might be influenced. Not to mention that the Rap Sheet is available at the public library for our young ones to read freely. Thanks, LC.

The Rap Sheet can be obtained from the Portland Police Association, 1313 NW 19th, Portland, OR 97209.
Police Snitch Program Draws Heat from Community

In January, the Portland Police launched a program encouraging students to turn in their peers suspected of drugs or weapons possession. The “Crime Stopper” program, enthusiastically backed by Mayor Vera Katz, pays junior snitches up to $1000 to anonymously inform on classmates if their information leads to an arrest or conviction. Critics, including Copwatch, point out that providing monetary incentives to anonymous informers is a highly dangerous and irresponsible way to enforce laws. Although we can all recall that high schools are notorious for adolescent backbiting, elitism and often violent harrassment, the police assure the public that they can “tell in a matter of minutes if someone reporting a crime is not truthful” (Oregonian, April 1).

Johann Mathiesen, a member of the Southeast Portland “Brooklyn Action Corps” neighborhood organization, claims that his son, a middle-school student, was falsely accused of marijuana possession by an anonymous student. Mathiesen and the Brooklyn Action Corps are considering a vote to ask the school board to cancel the program.

Tardy Cop Breaks Law

In late June, Portland officer Douglas L. Oliver was cited by the Oregon State Police for reckless driving, unlawful operation of an emergency vehicle, and fleeing and attempting to elude officers. Oliver illegally used his police cruiser’s emergency lights and sirens as he sped on Interstate 5 from Portland to Lane County, where he was late for a court appearance. State Police officers tried to pull Oliver over, but he would not comply. He has been transferred to a desk job and an Internal Affairs investigation is pending (Oregonian, June 21).

Police Cheat on Overtime

Testing the mettle of Acting Chief Lynnae Berg, an internal investigation of police involved in “Operation North Star,” turned up 30 officers who “pocketed $165,000 in federal grant money since June 1997” (Oregonian, August 6). North Star was the undercover drug sweep that the Portland Police Bureau set up using a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant.

Commander Robert Kauffman of Central precinct was demoted to Captain (of Tri-Met security), and Sgts. Richard Barton and Bradford Bailey were suspended without pay.

The August 10 Oregonian reports that the Department of Justice is considering civil and criminal charges against the officers, though ones who have cooperated with authorities might be spared. The article also notes that the amount of the original grant was $300,000—meaning the fraud involved over half of the funds.

Iraq Protesters Set Free; Police “Lawful Dispersal” Rules Challenged

Eleven of the protestors arrested in December at a protest against the U.S. bombing of Iraq (see PPR #16) were given a big boost of support by Judge Michael Marcus. Marcus ruled that the charges of “failure to disperse,” which depended on a “lawful order” to leave the demonstration, were not legitimate because the law allows officers to order people to disperse even if they are not breaking any particular law. The police deciding that the protest itself was unlawful violates the Oregon Constitution.

The August 6th ruling, which does not necessarily affect the eleven or more protesters who were charged with other offenses, could change the way police do business in the future and further uphold our rights to demonstrate.
POLICE AND STEREOTYPES

Retired Portland officer Duke Smith complains in the May Rap Sheet about a talk show hosted by Rick Emerson of Portland. Emerson questioned whether police deserve more respect than anyone else. Smith reports that people called in with “the usual horror stories: rude cop, tough cop, mean cop, surly cop, he didn’t do anything cop, lech [sic] cop, ego cop and so forth.”

Suddenly, after a cop called in, Emerson changed his tone and began asking for good cop stories. But to Duke, it was too late. It was time for the former cop to stereotype people who promote police accountability. “You spew out this diatribe and feed the militant, anti-government types, the cop haters, the schizoid conspiracy theorists, the hate mongers and all the other fringe loonies that bob along in the sewers of wrath. You use your forum to legitimize the hate these people have, and you make it more difficult for the police to deal with them.”

And speaking of stereotypical cop behavior, check out Loren Christensen’s July book review of Make ‘Em Talk: Principles of Military Interrogation. He mentions that a lot of the book is inappropriate for civilian law enforcement, but recommends the chapters outlining the following techniques (those who have had Copwatch training will recognize some of these): “Direct approach; silent approach; We-already-know-everything approach; Resistance-is-senseless approach; Good guy-bad guy approach; Fast-and-furious approach; Love approach; File-and-dossier approach.”

So when you think the police are acting out a pre-planned scenario, you’re probably right.

SPEAKING OF BOOK REVIEWS

In the April Rap Sheet, former PPA President Jeff Barker reviews Christensen’s new book, Skid Row Beat, A Street Cop’s Walk on the Wild Side. Christensen’s book consists of stories from the ’70s to the present from Portland’s street cops, though he has apparently changed names to protect the obnoxious.

His chapters are “Characters, Sex, Violence and Bodily Excretions.” Barker writes, “We have come a long way since the days when it was still a crime to be drunk in public, and the beat cop was expected to ‘take care of business’ on his district [sic].”

He quotes Christensen saying the book is “not for the easily offended, the overly politically correct, or those who view community policing as a religious experience.” To be clear, Barker states that “some of the anecdotes are so disgusting you will have to put the book down.”

We wonder if he means ones about “bodily excretions” or the ones about cops “taking care of business.” (for more, check out LC’s website, www.aracnet.com/~lwc123.)