

# Group offers reward for cop mug

## Flyers intended to alert public of return

**Ben Maras**  
OPINION EDITOR

Two weeks ago, Portland Police Officer Scott McCollister returned to work despite a massive public outcry that he be given the boot, demonstrated by flyers that began to spring up downtown, offering a bounty for his picture.

So far, the posters have only incurred ridicule. Mayor Vera Katz has already spoken out against them, as has Police Chief Derrek Foxworth, and the general consensus of the city seems to be that Rose City Copwatch (RCCW), the organization offering the reward, is completely in the wrong and should be punished for their request.

For those unfamiliar with the situation, McCollister shot and killed an unarmed African American mother of two by the name of Kendra James in May. During a routine traffic stop, McCollister ran James' name through the computer and found that she had an outstanding warrant for her arrest. With this information alone, McCollister broke bureau policy and entered her car, at which point James put her car into drive. McCollister drew his 9mm pistol and shot and killed James.

A massive civil rights backlash, similar to Rodney King's case, immediately followed. Former Portland Police Chief Mark Kroecker promised a full investigation of the McCollister case. In the

end Kroecker declared that McCollister never should have put himself in the position that he did, and he would be punished for his breaking of policy—not for the death of James. Immediately following the incident, Kroecker resigned from his position, sending shouts of joy throughout some Portlanders.

Now, after five and a half months of unpaid leave, McCollister is returning to the force, which worries many. This prompted RCCW to request a photo of McCollister, saying that he is dangerous and it is the people's right to know what he looks like, similar to the way flyers would be circulated through a neighborhood into which a sex offender had moved.

The City of Portland, along with the Portland Police Department (PPD), refused to release a photo of McCollister, as Oregon State law prohibits the release of a public official's photo without their explicit permission. This prompted RCCW to distribute flyers offering a bag of groceries worth \$40 to whoever furnishes the organization with McCollister's photo.

While this may seem absurd, some think that providing the public with a picture would be the least they could do for putting a "killer" back on the force. Whether or not McCollister was in the wrong could be debated for hours, but if he did in fact go through the proper legal channels and was found innocent,

then why is the city trying to hide him from us?

Yes, police officers are granted a certain amount of rights other citizens usually would not have, because the job is so stressful and demanding, but with this comes responsibility for their actions. McCollister's first reaction was to shoot James rather than use the mace cops employ so much against protesters or use the textbook self-defense techniques they are trained in. Although it was later found that James had small amounts of cocaine in her blood and hence the mace might not have been as effective, that fact was not known at the time and therefore is irrelevant.

An independent, unbiased committee must investigate the McCollister case, because it is unreasonable to think that the police department could be impartial with one of their own kind. Such an investigation could begin to put the issue to rest and please those on either side of the debate.

Officers have the right and duty to defend themselves and others, but they cannot abuse their power. Although James was very much in the wrong, she did not deserve to die for her actions.

There is no black and white in the world, and both individuals are at fault. James although called a "crackhead" by some, has already paid the ultimate price. All that is asked is that McCollister take more responsibility for his actions.

# The boundaries of technology have far exceeded the limits of sanity

**Isaiah Creel**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Technology is apparent throughout this campus. From high-tech classrooms to automatic doors, CCC is on the cutting edge of the technological front. The question is: are all of these technological advances improving civilization, or just perpetuating the slovenly attitude typically displayed by the American population?

The answer: both. The slovenly American is in fact the cutting edge of the technological front. If a product facilitates laziness, it is by necessity, technologically advanced. Automatic doors are a great invention, because they allow handicapped members of society access to their various places of interest. They also allow some of those non-handicapped people a chance to expend less energy than they normally would.

The most trivial of these automatic devices come in the bathroom. Isn't it great having a toilet that flushes itself, so nobody has to get their hands dirty? Isn't it great not having to touch that filthy door handle that some commoner might have touched? Isn't it also great becoming so dependent on machines that human beings become obsolete?

Some may say that thinking like this is counterproductive and that keeping your hands clean is a necessity. While hand sanitizing is necessary and the idea of machines ruling over civilization is rather far-fetched, constantly worrying if hands

are clean is in itself foolish.

Yes, contracting a disease from filthy conditions would be a horrible way to die, but getting run over by a speeding limo would be just as deadly. The point is that no one can predict their own demise (clairvoyants perhaps excluded) and whether through personal injury or through deadly virus, every human by nature will die.

This is not to say that everyone should go out looking for death by fighting bulls or not washing their hands, but just be aware that death is imminent. Maybe not today, and maybe not tomorrow, but one day and all the hand-washing and disinfecting will come to naught.

By depending on the machines to do the work normally done by humans, such as flushing the toilet, humans become more and more dependent on the machines to survive.

In the days of our ancestors, there were no

automatic toilets (or toilets themselves for that matter) and they got along just fine. Since the advent of the technological-age things like automatic doors, automatic toilet flushers and personal computers have become so commonplace that life without them would seem dull or downright impossible.

None of this is to say that these marvelous contraptions are detrimental to society; quite the contrary. Our ancestors would gaze in wonder at these advancements and praise the thinkers responsible. This is only a warning not to become too dependent on these wonders as they run on principles that would not be possible without humans behind them.

Take then the opportunity to think about what things a person can do that a machine cannot and don't put so much trust into any automatic device, because when they realize they have been used for all of these years they might become aware of how much we depend on them while they really don't need us at all.

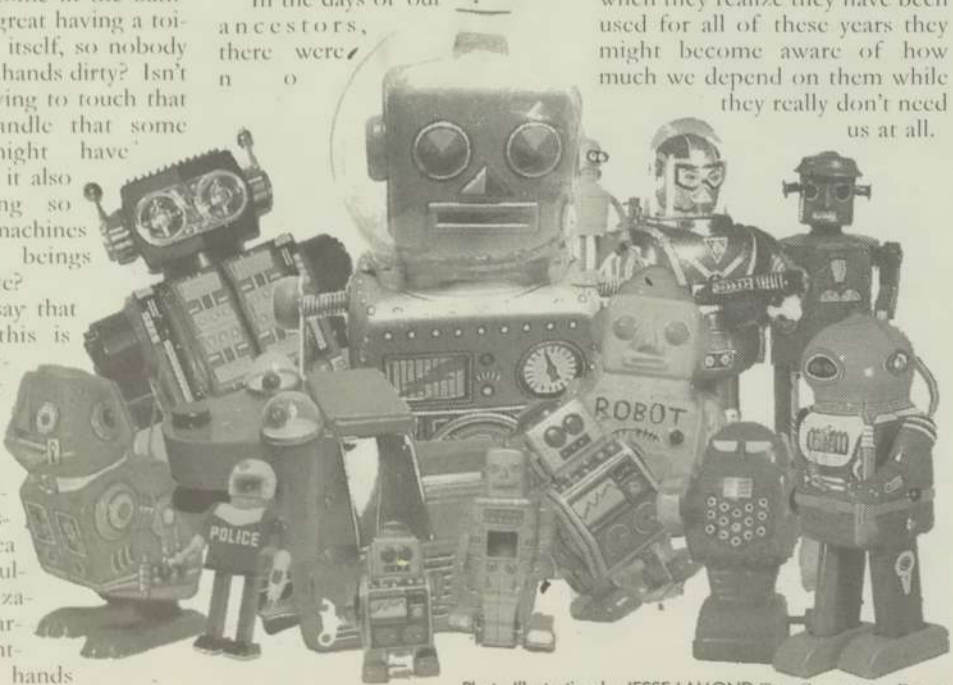


Photo illustration by JESSE LAMOND THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

PUBLIC SERVICE  
ANNOUNCEMENT

**ARMED AND DANGEROUS  
KILLER RELEASED TO EAST  
PORTLAND!**



On May 5, 2003 Officer Scott McCollister shot and killed Kendra James, an unarmed, 21-year old African-American mother of two. After a 9 month vacation, Scott McCollister was re-armed and released to YOUR community on February 5, despite widespread demand for his firing.

The Portland Police have taken great care to keep any photos of McCollister out of public circulation. They protect him despite his crime, as they have always done. The community has a right to know what this predator looks like. For that reason we are sponsoring a contest: we will reward the first person who provides a photo of McCollister with a free bag of groceries, worth \$40. We see this as a first step towards getting McCollister off the police force!

To claim the prize, contact  
**ROSE CITY COPWATCH**  
at 503-993-9464 or info@rosecitycopwatch.org.

SCOTT MCCOLLISTER IS A WHITE MALE, 27-28 YEARS OLD, MEDIUM BUILD, LAST SEEN WEARING ALL BLUE. THIS POSTER IS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO BRING PUBLIC SCRUTINY TO THE PRACTICES OF THE PORTLAND POLICE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND THIS MAN!

PHOTO COURTESY OF The Portland Tribune

This flyer has been distributed by the Rose City Copwatch organization after the Portland Police Department refused to release a picture of Officer Scott McCollister, who shot Kendra James last May.

## Portland Police answer questions about the Kendra James shooting

Following are the Portland Police Department's response to questions asked by members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance. More may be found at [www.portlandonline.com/police](http://www.portlandonline.com/police)

**Q:** When [Chief Kroecker] announced the suspension of the officer involved in the shooting of Kendra James, he stated that he had concerns leading up to the shooting of Kendra James. What were those concerns?

**A:** Chief Mark Kroecker stated in media interviews that though he thought the officer involved did not shoot Kendra James out of malice or bias, and the shooting was ruled justified, there were tactical errors that were made by the officer that led up to the shooting. It was because of those tactical decisions that Chief Kroecker felt it necessary to discipline the officer involved.

**Q:** There were two, less lethal weapons used on Kendra James, pepper spray and a Taser. Was there an equipment failure or were they not properly used?

**A:** The investigation determined that the Taser deployed, but the Taser probes contacted Ms. James' clothing, but not her skin, not allowing for the desired effect. As to the pepper spray, the Police Bureau was able to conclude that Officer McCollister did pull the canister from his belt. Investigators are able to conclude from tests that Officer McCollister's pepper spray canister was operating correctly. Forensics examination determined that no evidence of pepper spray existed inside of the car. Investigators were unable to conclusively determine whether or not Officer McCollister's thumb depressed the discharge button.

**Q:** What is the City's medical liability for a police-shooting victim? What is the amount of the medical liability?

**A:** The city is self-insured and each case is handled individually. There is no set amount.

E-mail letters to [chiefed@clackamas.edu](mailto:chiefed@clackamas.edu) or bring them on a floppy disk to RR135 by this Friday at 1 p.m. Please include your name and limit all letters to no more than 200 words.

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