

Shootings spark riot

By James Duncan
The Clackamas Print

On March 29, the streets of downtown Portland were filled with angry protesters, many in masks, acting out against the two most recent police shootings.

Geoffery Makramara of the Rose City Cop Watch said in response to what happened that day, "The people of Portland are angry and fed up and are resisting police brutality and police violence in their communities."

Rose City Cop Watch is an organization that is committed to building community power in opposition to the police violence.

"We do that in a number of ways," said Makramara. "We have engaged in patrols where we go out on the streets and observe police behavior, follow them with video cameras with the hope of keeping them accountable for their actions and also the hope that them knowing that they're being watched and recorded will reduce their tendency towards violence against our communities."

The Rose City Cop Watch did not help in coordination of the protest but was on scene recording the police response to the protesters.

Not long after the protest got started, police were on scene.

Detective Mary Wheat, Public Relations Officer of the Portland City Police Bureau, said "We still don't know what their purpose was but apparently from what we could see in the intelligence information

that was being put out in e-mails and blogs was basically to try to get into fights with the police and to cause property damage in downtown Portland."

The protesters left damage in their wake. From pushing large green dumpsters into the streets and pushing over newspaper dispensers, to breaking a window at the Bank of America, which will cost \$8,500 to fix.

"They were very aggressive with our horses and the officers riding them. They threw large rocks, bottles, locks and tried to punch some of our officers," said Wheat. "They didn't obtain a permit, and our job was to try to allow them to get their message out in a safe manner and also to follow the laws as far as not blocking traffic ... We respond to crisis and incidents that occur in the city of Portland and our job is to keep the community safe."

Kimberly Miller, a fifth-year student of Clackamas Community College said, "Obviously the police had a pretty important part of it, but the violence probably didn't need to happen with the protesters. There are other ways to get their point across and if the police saw fit to arrest someone for destroying property or throwing stuff at the police officers themselves, then they had every right to ... I don't see just cause in the protesters' way of getting their point across. Quite frankly destroying property is not a good way. Violence is never the right answer."



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Portland Police officers stay on guard downtown after the notorious protest on March 29. Police said the protesters didn't obtain a permit.

Veteran fights stress



John Shufelt Clackamas Print

Veteran Eddie Black presents post combat issues to students in the McLoughlin Auditorium April 6. Black served as a Marine for five years during Operation Desert Storm.

By Travis Hardin
The Clackamas Print

"If you like what you see here, I will come talk to you, your family, your church, your knitting group. Anyone and everyone, I'll go talk to you. I don't care. I'll sit in a bar at the bar stool and talk to you or whatever. I've done a million different types of presentation," said Eddie Black as over 60 students and instructors greeted him on April 6 in the McLoughlin Auditorium.

From a glance, Black looks like your typical college student. A resident of Beaverton, Black is in his fifth year at Portland State University, working towards dual degrees in psychology and philosophy.

Black, however, is not your typical college student; he is much more. First off, Black is a combat veteran. Black joined the Marine Corps in 1989 after graduating high school. Black spent the following five years serving his country seeing action in Operation Desert Storm.

It was during his tour in the Corps that Black was able to travel the world five different times.

After getting out of the Corps, Black went off to college and then the events on Sept. 11, 2001, happened.

"I was on the phone with the prior service Marine Corps recruiter out of Portland saying 'Get me in.' That day, 'Get me in. I want to go back in.' [The recruiter] lost my paperwork or something. And before you know it President Bush is on the aircraft carrier saying mission accomplished."

According to Black, he went back to college after Bush made those comments aboard the carrier.

While making his coffee in the morning, Black would review his class notes for the day and watch

the television as well. He would see Marines on the screen going house to house clearing them in Iraq. He thought the war was over because of what Bush had said.

According to Black, he looked into the situation and found out that there still were a lot of combat operations occurring over in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"So I called up the Army, the Marine Corps, the National Guard and said 'Somebody get me some paperwork. I'll sign it. I don't care who you are.' The National Guard was there two days later saying, 'Here you go we got [the paperwork] right here.' Boom, I signed up and became an infantry soldier."

After Black got back home from the Middle East, he re-enrolled into college.

Black was fine, nothing was wrong with him. But he did notice something wrong among his fellow soldiers of Charlie Company. Many of his comrades were taking happy pills and sleeping pills because they either were depressed, had trouble sleeping or had anger issues.

Black saw members with 15, 16 or 17 years in the service quitting. These members only had three to five years left before they could fully retire. Alcohol and drug use was also on the rise.

Black, being a psychology student, saw these incidents as warning signs while the service, according to Black, tied these incidents to a few bad soldiers.

At the time, Black was taking a class studying anxiety disorders. A fellow classmate gave Black some information about a Web site called Returning Veterans Project and was made of local psychologists in the Portland area.

The psychologists provide free counseling to veterans and their families for as long as they need

it. Black himself spent time receiving counseling from same group.

Black decided to take this helpful information back to National Guard Unit based in Gresham.

This was the start of what is doing today. Black offers to go for free at different events throughout the state.

When asked what the purpose of the Post Traumatic Stress presentation was, Greg Myers, Vet coordinator at Clackamas Community College said, "I wanted to bring some credibility and education to the college to share his experience."

When asked how he felt about Black, Myers said he met him at another event through his presentation, and so impressed with it. He extended an invitation to come to the college. Black was asked after the presentation what was the most important thing he wanted people to walk away with. Black replied, "PTSD is permanent. It's normal to have a sort of reaction to combat. It's not abnormal."

For Black, being a combat veteran does come with a stigma.

"I have people at work who say, 'Man whoa, whoa. Don't get angry.' I was like, 'You want to see me angry. If you want to see me angry, I will show you angry. I will blow up and destroy things and then you will see angry. You will know that just because I'm talking to you like this to get your attention. That this isn't anger. It's called directness.'"

When asked what she thought about the presentation, Bethany Blakesfield, a student who attended the event, said "I was so impressed with it. With what these veterans have to deal with, both in and out of the service, and when they get back home, it could never go it."

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