

**HARDESTY from page 4**

community members about tactics or about activities or about what they'd been involved in. The people on the committee, because they didn't know police other than from that committee, believed them.

They were not getting to the problem because it was a police-led kind of effort, and the police got to frame the conversation. They didn't want anyone to talk about anything that was going to make the police uncomfortable. Well, it's uncomfortable when police shoot people in our community. That's uncomfortable. When they racial profile people, that's uncomfortable. So it didn't matter to me that people who are paid with taxpayer dollars are going to be uncomfortable in a meeting. They need to get over that.

**J.T.:** *Do you have any thoughts on how racial profiling has affected police work, specifically with gang violence?*

**J.H.:** Keaton Otis is dead because we had ill-trained gang officers riding the streets of Northeast Portland. That young man is dead because someone looked at him and thought he was African American and is between 14 and 24, therefore he must be a gang member, right? That moment when that officer made that decision to pull that young man over, they just escalated everything up until the point where they shot and killed him.

I think the police have a huge challenge because the community distrusts them because of their experience being stopped and searched just for walking down the street in their neighborhood. The police don't get a lot of African Americans saying, "I know so-and-so is a gang member, and so-and-so has a gun." They are not getting the community cooperation from people because people have observed over and over again this behavior.

When my office was on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, I can't tell you how many times I saw the police pull over young African-American men, search them, search their car, search their back packs and then let them go. Now the interesting thing about that is there is no record of those stops. Even though the Portland police keep records of traffic and pedestrian stops those aren't captured because they don't call that a traffic stop. They call that a "walk and talk." They're just trying to find out what they're doing in the neighborhood, even though they've searched them, and they've stopped them and limited their ability to move freely, they don't consider that a stop. So the data doesn't tell us how bad the situation is. But if you observe it, you can see this happens over and over and over again in certain communities.

This police chief doesn't even mention racial profiling or the plan to reduce racial profiling that former Chief Rosie Sizer actually produced a year late. It certainly doesn't come up during budget times because there were some very specific recommendations that Chief Sizer developed that had financial implications. We're in the budget season now; I've heard no one talk about how we are going to fund the plan to eliminate racial

profiling.

**J.T.:** *How do you rank current crop of mayoral candidates on issues of police accountability?*

**J.H.:** I think they're all bad, and they're not bad because they're bad people, they're bad because they don't know what they don't know yet. So I don't think that there is any one candidate that stands out that's going to do a great job reforming the police bureau. But what I'm hoping is that during this campaign season the

community will ask these candidates that want to be mayor, what is your vision of true community policing? What do you think the role of a police chief should be? Do you like the one we have? Then based on those answers, pick the best person that we think is going to move the police bureau forward. I guess the good news is that all three candidates, because they're not insiders to City Hall and downtown, could make the changes, but the question is if they will have the political will to make those changes.

**J.T.:** *What would prove to you that we have police accountability?*

**J.H.:** This is the first time in over 20 years that a Portland police officer has been indicted for using deadly force on duty – the cop who

shot the guy with a shotgun using real bullets and not bean-bag rounds.

Real police accountability would say it's impossible to think that out of 5,000 employees that nobody ever does anything wrong. So I would suspect that there are officers that would be fired, there would be officers that would be demoted, officers that would have to go through some kind of supervised training. And right now, I don't believe that any of this happens. For me, real police accountability would mean that periodically that a police officer would be fired, or demoted or sent back to retraining and that would be public knowledge.

**J.T.:** *What is the police bureau doing right?*

**J.H.:** (Pause) There are a lot of good men and women in the police bureau who go to work every day and do their job in a respectful, thoughtful manner, and I don't think there's a lot of police officers that misuse their power. But I think that police become more empowered to misuse their power when they're not held accountable. They answer over 40,000 calls a year and they don't kill 40,000 people a year, so that means most of the time they get it right. When they don't get it right, the problem is they don't say, "yeah, we messed up that one." They say it's the person that they killed who is at fault because they didn't follow directions, which I've never heard of anyone in a mental health crisis following directions.

We certainly know that there are some police officers whose names show up in excessive force complaints. But we have no certainty, quite frankly. I don't know who is a good police officer. I would hate to be in a position where I needed a police officer, and I was unsure if the one I got was the right one. That would petrify the daylights out of me. That's why so many community members are petrified of calling the police.

## I Love, Therefore I Am

By Aaron Randazzo

Trees sway, graceful attention radiating with purpose  
This acknowledgment spell blesses the air  
Appreciation: washing our eyes, brightening the surface  
Willfully shatter these routines we declare

Divine connections unwind the chattering  
Mind, a mystical moment murmuring merrily  
Art; scribbles intertwine to reveal an eternal being  
Consciousness, etched on star dust nightly

A howl of Mothers fills this eternal ocean  
New life emerges, amply ready to add meaning  
To a hungry dream; what an explosion  
Variety fills the emptiness, gently glowing

Birds drift across a shimmering river  
Serenely imprinted on the cosmic memory; listen,  
Be potential's choosing, a silent giver  
At one with totality; the spirit shines within

Grazing elk, mystic waterfall, silent rock, teach us  
Your oneness with the moment, your grace  
We've forgotten ourselves in this dream of rust;  
Society, a tradition ready to recycle and replace  
A new beginning emerges soon?

We'll remember humility, love, and compassion  
Songbird, lead us in our dream, to utopia here  
Erase this fantasy; material wealth and fashion  
We open our hearts and relinquish the fear  
To start a new collective dream  
A dream of home.

## Toxic

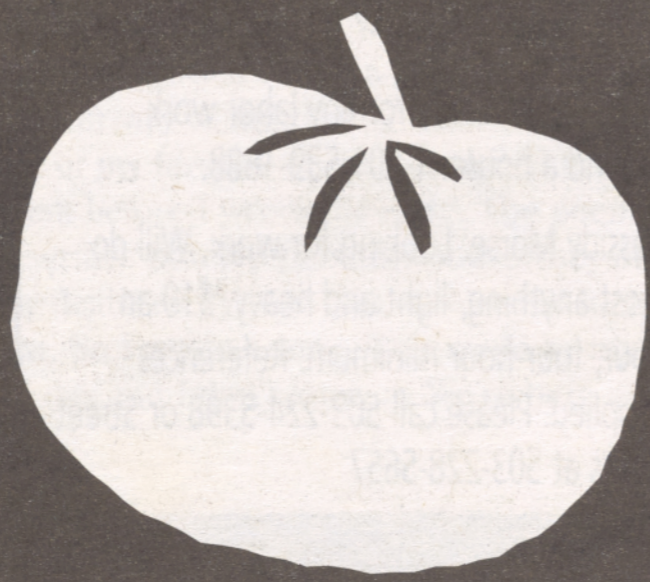
By Jason Wolf

The persistence of life is water down the drain  
I only ask of you a moment while I recollect  
Instead you choose to suck the essence out of my soul  
You drain me within an inch of my being  
Our relationship is explosively toxic  
You poison me yet you keep me alive  
To confront you is to confront a ghost  
You are a whisper in the wind  
Without you I am mere flesh  
With you I am mere flesh

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