

POLICE, from page 10

killed by area police and it didn't make the public record.

What we learned from a close review of the Chasse case in our film *Alien Boy: The Life and Death of James Chasse* is what police officers announce at the scene may be wildly inaccurate — but reported as fact by both the media and other parts of the police accountability system. The media — high and low — is a big part of this problem. A reporter might eventually get wised up but media churn is too fast for advocates to educate each one individually. And it's not our business to educate reporters. Editors and publishers need to invest in smarter people, inform and train them, and keep them on the good story and not report smoke.

Of those identified on our list, most are male (93 percent), most are white (66 percent) and a large number of them, by police report repeated in the public record, were imminently dangerous. Members of the Portland Police Bureau harmed more people than other police departments, but they have a larger population. Tiny Fairview, considering its small population and small police force is proportionally the most dangerous city.

Other than being male and white, the other most common quality is the number of those killed who were impaired by drugs, alcohol and/or mental illness.

Untreated, under-treated and mistreated mental illness, alcoholism and addiction profoundly affect the criminal justice system. Most persons arrested self-disclose mental illness or addiction. Fifty-four percent of persons harmed by police, from our survey, were impaired at the time. Oregon prisons hold more than 7,600 people with mental illness — 10 times the number in Oregon's psychiatric hospitals.

In many cases, we can only suppose the clinical condition, but a close reading of hundreds of articles reveals what police, family and witnesses told reporters. "Yes, he was drunk all day," or "My son had bipolar disorder." These constitute sufficient evidence for our survey, and

sufficient to beg for complete data collection by an impartial researcher.

Our list is not conclusive rigorous research, but it underscores our hypothesis — people the police kill are affected by mental illness, drugs and/or alcohol.

Is this list an indictment of the addiction and mental health system? No. These illnesses, entangled in an infinite academic argument about civil liberties and enmeshed in a hyperbolic medical industry, are complex and baffling. Their regulation is impossible, their effective treatment is purposely underfunded by local governments and therefore rare. Oregon legislators spent billions evading solutions and sending us to an early grave.

Does this list relieve police of responsibility for undue force? Absolutely not. Police — and everyone employed by the criminal justice system — are aware they routinely prosecute people with illnesses — and they remain silent. Their silence is consent, disregard, denial.

Can the list instruct police reformers? It ought to, but we doubt they have the capacity to learn. They haven't lived our experience — they don't represent the concerns or needs of people in recovery.

By looking at Portland police use of force data with a collective pre-Ferguson mind, the USDOJ came to the same remarkable conclusion — that the Portland police have a pattern and practice of undue force against people with mental illness. They hadn't reached this conclusion in any prior investigation. Perhaps Portland is unique — but since it's not unique in any other way, we doubt that too.

In response to *U.S. v. City of Portland*, the mayor's office mustered folks to report to Judge Michael Simon about repairs meant to cease the bad behavior. Those selected folks primarily represent the racial justice community, the LGBTQ community, and not, as it turns out, those most often harmed by police: people with mental illness, alcoholism and addiction. As long as — others are positioned to represent our direct interest — not getting killed like Chris Healy — it's unlikely things will change.

Why I Read to Write

by Eileen V.

I read to write because it is.

Creative, and it gets my mind off
The present. I read two books per
Week, which I enjoy because books
Take me away from worthlessness

I have felt since being homeless.

I like nonfiction books due

To my love of history, and reading

About glamorous movie stars from

Years gone by. When I was a girl, my

Mother would let me stay up late to

Watch old black and white movies, while

She'd tell me of tabloid scuttles from

That era.

The Hepburn-Tracy saga, the love story

Of Bacall and Bogey, Hemingway and his

Many wives, and of course, Penny Chenery

And her 1973 Triple Crown

Winner, Secretariat, all of which I have read.

Yes, when I read, it's like

"Calgon take me away." Books transport me.

I also take notice how writers write

And punctuate so I may get a style

For my creative writing class at

The Roots.

She Sits in the Tree

by Don Grubb

She sits in the tree

Feeling lost for choices

She's made.

Watching, hoping, waiting

For the passing clouds to fade.

Waiting for her long lost love

Looking behind, onward, even above.

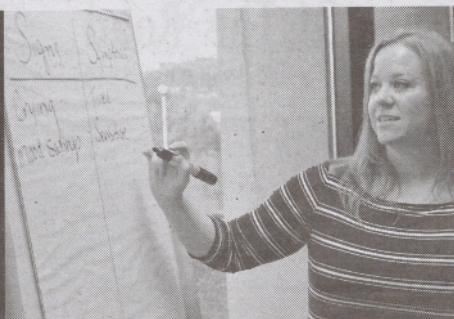
Determined to find him

This is a must

Even if the floodgates opened

And eventually turned her to rust.

**KNOW HOW: TO
IDENTIFY THE
WARNING SIGNS OF
A MENTAL HEALTH
CRISIS AND HOW
TO RESPOND.**



Your local mental health programs in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties have joined together to create a one-stop gateway where community members, healthcare providers and families can go to learn about and register for free mental health first aid trainings.

**GETTRAINED
TOHELP.COM**

Mental health matters for all

The Taft Home



Residential Care Community

Where senior and disabled adults
receive the care and respect they deserve.

Call us for more information
(503)223-2144

1337 S.W. Washington, Portland, OR 97205
www.tafthome.org