

# Stevenson was kind, calm professional

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Tony Stevenson is a man remembered with adjectives such as kind, courteous, respectful and intelligent. According to friends, co-workers and eyewitness accounts, the circumstances surrounding his death runs counter to everything Stevenson stood for, his behavior at work and his interaction with the public and law enforcement personnel.

"He set himself up to be everyone's protector, and that was his downfall," said Stevenson's mother, Mary Harvey.

Known throughout the community as Tony or L.D., Stevenson was born January 17, 1954 in Oakland, California. The oldest of four brothers

and one sister, Stevenson attended Oakland and Fremont High Schools, where he graduated in 1971.

From high school, Stevenson went directly into the Marines and was honorably discharged in 1974. "His military experience created his interest in security work," Harvey added.

In 1974, Stevenson attended Portland Community College where he majored in criminal justice. While in school he started his distinguished career as a security officer.

George Tarver, a security officer who knew Stevenson since 1974, said, "As a security officer, he was the calmest guy I knew. He was very good to work with because he was a caring co-worker. When you went on duty, Tony was the first to ask you

how you were and if there was anything he could do to help."

In May, 1983, Stevenson started working as a security officer for Fred Meyer stores. "He was one of our best employees. He was well-trained and very business-like," said Richard Dehaan, vice president of security. "We are set back by this tragedy and are awaiting all the facts, there was never a problem with his attitude and he was very respectful of authority."

Dehaan added that Stevenson had numerous contacts with law enforcement agencies and officers. "There were never any problems."

"I've seen L.D. under pressure," said Billy Maxey, one of his co-workers. "He would never break

stride. He was trained not to initiate contact with the public."

L.C. Odie, of Ranger Security and Fred Meyer, added, "He was a very likeable person. His understanding of his job and the community was great."

"When I heard what the police were saying, I knew it was out of Tony's character. I've seen him talk shoplifters out of confrontation. He was real mellow," added Terry Tims.

"He was righteous and did everything to work within the system," noted Wesley Johnson, a family member.

In his only public statement, Stevenson's father, James Harvey, said, "My son has been murdered by the police and the people who did it are free."

## Hunger in Portland

### Food demand doubles

by Robert Lothian

"Hunger in America is a national health epidemic," according to a report released recently by the Physicians' Task Force on Hunger and the Harvard School of Public Health.

An estimated 20 million Americans are suffering from chronic hunger, more than at any time in the last 15 years, said the report.

Physicians and health specialists spent two years studying conditions in 14 states. They visited large cities, small towns and rural areas.

Investigators checked the contents of cupboards and refrigerators in hundreds of homes.

They found children looking for food in dumpsters and 90-year-olds subsisting on white beans and potatoes.

Federal policies of the last six years are to blame for the hunger epidemic, said the report.

"The recent and swift return of hunger to America can be traced in substantial measure to clear and conscious policies of the federal government," it said.

Cuts in programs for pregnant women and infants, elimination of school lunches and food stamp cuts have contributed to the hunger problem, according to the report.

Locally, Portland social agencies report dramatic increases in the demand for emergency food.

June Tanoue, director of the Inter-agency Food Bank, said requests for food from the Food Bank have increased from 97,000 in 1981 to 342,000 in 1984, in Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark and Columbia counties.

That's an increase of about 250

percent. The population of those four counties served by the Food Bank is about 1 million.

Hunger is definitely a growing problem in the Portland area, said Tanoue.

"The food industry has been donating more food, which is nice, but it's not nearly enough," she said. "We could be distributing twice as much, I feel, as what we are distributing now." In 1984, 2.6 million pounds of food was donated to the Food Bank, said Tanoue.

"It's not the transients that everybody hears about" who are receiving the food, she said. "These are people who have worked all their lives, but because of the economy — (layoffs) and plant shut-downs — they find themselves without work."

Tanoue said about 50 percent of the people receiving emergency food are single mothers.

Tim Jones, director of emergency services at Immaculate Heart Church in Northeast Portland, said the demand for emergency food and clothing has doubled since 1983 at Immaculate Heart and St. Andrew churches.

Ironically, hunger had been nearly eliminated as a health problem in the U.S. by the early 1970s, according to the Physicians Task Force on Hunger report.

If Republicans and Democrats cooperated, the report concluded, the hunger epidemic could be wiped out in six months for about \$7 billion, or the cost of two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Next week: A Northeast Portland church fights the epidemic of hunger, and its problems with the Food Bank.

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN JOBS-NOT WAR



Central American teachers touring the West Coast are (l-r) Carlos Escobar, El Salvador; Carlos Zunica, Honduras; Dionisia Cossio, Panama; Walter Valencia, Guatemala, and Yolanda Lacos, Nicaragua. They spoke Sunday at the Northwest Service Center, describing conditions of life in Central America and the role of education in greater understanding between peoples. The Portland leg of the tour was sponsored by the Portland Labor Committee on Central America/Caribbean. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Young Black males target of NUL pregnancy program

Moving directly to the heart of an increasingly serious problem in Black America — teenage pregnancy — John E. Jacob, president of the National Urban League, announced last week the opening phase of a Male Responsibility Program that has already received the enthusiastic endorsement of the nation's major Black media groups.

The program, which Mr. Jacob said "was put together with a minimum of money, but a wealth of volunteer help from the Black community itself," is aimed at young Black males and uses several mediums to act responsibly in their relationships with the opposite sex so as to avoid fathering a child they are in no position to take care of.

"We recognize that this is a straightforward, hard-hitting message that represents a new approach. However, the statistics clearly indicate that other approaches aren't working as well as we would hope. Now we have to speak frankly to our young Black males and tell them that being a teenage father does not make you a man, and the smart thing to do is to avoid fatherhood at an early age," Mr. Jacob said.

The campaign uses several striking posters, newspaper and magazine ads, and a radio commercial by popular recording artists James Ingram

and Howard Hewitt. It was created on a pro-bono basis by the New York based advertising firm of Mingo-Jones.

The original idea grew out of several meetings of the NUL's Male Responsibility panel comprised of 12 outstanding Black entrepreneurs and corporate executives. The panel agreed that one of the most effective ways to reach young Black males was through a visual approach and through radio.

The uniqueness of the NUL's new campaign lies in the identification of young Black males as the target audience and in the use of language that speaks to the "macho" image. While there are any number of teenage pregnancy programs aimed at females — and the NUL through its affiliates conducts over 30 of these — this is the first national program directed to Black males.

The campaign is also unique in that it is almost entirely a volunteer effort. In addition to the donation of creative talent by Mingo-Jones, a group of inmates at the Green Haven Correctional Facility collected their own money to buy the paper stock and then printed the first 2,000 posters on the institution's printing press with the approval and support of prison officials.

## Homeless included in plan

City Commissioner Margaret D. Strachan submitted the Annual Portland Housing Management Plan to the City Council on Wednesday, April 24.

The 53-page document outlines the city's housing plans and policies for the coming year and reviews its past work. For 1985-1986, it sets forth six new recommendations for study and implementation plus 12 from last year's report.

This year, the plan urges the City to increase housing for the homeless — especially families. Recommendations include better use of the existing resources of the Portland

Housing Authority as well as single-family residential properties owned by the city.

"Despite the city's fiscal problems," says Strachan, "we need to press ahead to ensure that all citizens — the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, and others — have adequate housing. The homeless need an advocate. For us to do that means more work, effort, and creativity in making each dollar we have go further and do more."

The plan advocates that the city purchase additional low income housing, especially in north Burnside. It proposes that the city buy some of the older hotels there.



Lincoln High School's involvement in Communications' Equality = I.C.E. Club presented the 3rd Annual Spring Fashion Production, "Cross Cultures of Fashion," to a very enthusiastic audience. The finale brought on students wearing clothes of different parts of the world

and waving flags from the country represented along with other models to the music of "We Are The World." The show was produced under the direction of Debonaire Productions. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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