



Police Chief Penny Harrington listens intently at recent Boise Association meeting where latest accounts of Lloyd Stevenson death were aired. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

A new police version

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — The official police version of what happened April 20 recently was updated and caught some residents off-guard. However, the latest account related at a recent meeting of the Boise Neighborhood Association by Police Chief Penny Harrington, is closer to eyewitness accounts of the event as reported in the *Portland Observer* April 25 and May 2.

Harrington said there were three telephone calls to the police. The first car arrived at 11:05 and was called away to a higher priority call.

"Ten or 12 minutes later the store called again and said a fight had broken out with the shoplifter and they needed help now. In addition, the service station attendant called and said a fight was going on and somebody was going over there with a gun," explained Harrington.

She said the officers saw two groups of people — the shoplifter and the clerks near the store and at the other end of the parking lot another group was shouting and yelling. Harrington said the police noticed Stevenson backhand a service station

attendant and Pantley intervened. "The attendant backed up and was quiet while Stevenson was still pushing in that direction. Officer Pantley put his hands on Stevenson's shoulder and Stevenson said something to the officers he did not hear. Stevenson kept pushing and hit him (Officer Pantley). Other (three) officers jumped him from behind and each side. They took him to the ground, put the hold on and handcuffed him."

Edna Robertson, one of the community leaders Harrington called after the tragedy, immediately noticed the different story.

"I don't think the story was related to you correctly. The question in my mind is, here you have a young man who was a karate expert, who knew how to break a hold like that. I have to think someone in the line has lied to you. You did your duty and related to me what was told to you. And a lot of truth was not told to you from the very beginning."

One resident left the meeting saying, "I believe she was set up. Some of those officers didn't want a woman as chief and gave her a bum story."

Legislators nix contra aid

by Robert Lothian

As President Reagan lobbied for \$14 million in aid for the contra rebels fighting to defeat Nicaragua's Sandinista government, the Oregon legislature passed a joint resolution calling for an end to the aid.

Senate Joint Memorial 3 urges the President and Congress to provide "no further aid in any form, including but not limited to funds, material, personnel, or operational or policy guidance to counterrevolutionary or other private military or paramilitary forces conducting military activities against the civilian population, national territory or government of Nicaragua."

The memorial urges a cut-off of aid flowing through "any nation, group, organization, movement or individuals."

It also calls for the United States to assist with the earliest possible resolution of armed conflict in the Central America region, "by any means possible," including through the Contadora peace negotiations sponsored by Mexico and Venezuela.

The bill's language condemns "the campaign of terror conducted by contra military forces with the financial and material assistance of the United States government and operation and policy guidance by official United States agencies and personnel "that has caused thousands of deaths, wounding and kidnappings of Nicaraguan civilians, including many children, women and elderly persons."

With severe economic problems at home, "the money can be better spent supporting needed programs in this country," according to the bill.

Two Oregon legislators who have visited Nicaragua, Sen. Jeannette Hamby (R-Hillsboro) and Sen. Margie Hendriksen (D-Eugene), sponsored the joint resolution.

A copy of the resolution was sent to the President, the Secretary of State, Congressional leaders and Oregon's Congressional delegation, most of whom voted against Reagan's latest bid for more contra aid.

NE residents to meet state reps

Residents of North and Northeast Portland are invited to have an opportunity to discuss current legislative issues with their State Representatives on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Major issues to be discussed are: Fighting Crime — Are We Too Tough or Not Tough Enough?, What is the Legislature Doing?.

State Representatives Margaret Carter (Democrat, District 18) and Mike Burton (Democrat, District 17), have set aside this time for free "Donuts and Coffee" with constituents. The constituent coffee will be held at the Snack Bar, Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth.

The public and press are invited.

Harrison fired

by Robert Lothian

James Harrison brought a computer lab and a kindergarten to St. Andrew School during his three years as principal.

He credits the kindergarten with causing a turnaround in declining enrollment at the small Catholic elementary school with about 80 students.

Harrison said a "team concept" and sensitivity to the special needs of students, many of whom come from low income families, has made the school popular with parents.

"We started something here three years ago," he said. "We like each other, we enjoy working together and that's being broken up."

In March, Harrison was informed by St. Andrew pastor James Coleman that his contract would not be renewed, allegedly for refusing to recognize the authority of the St. Andrew school board and parish council in a dispute over whether the St. Andrew Clothes Closet should continue at the school.

Five teachers and the school secretary — almost the entire staff — resigned in protest of Harrison's firing, and a group of parents picketed Sunday services at St. Andrew Church.

"Next year, you're going to have a completely new school," said Harrison. He said that if he was offered his job back he would probably refuse because of what he described as insulting treatment by the church leadership.

Harrison said he is filing a grievance with Portland Archdiocese school officials.

The trouble began with the Clothes Closet, which draws up to 150 low-income people to the school on Thursdays for free clothes.

Harrison said Clothes Closet clients wait in the hall and roam the school, disrupting classes and bothering students. One little girl went home with wet pants because she was afraid to go to the bathroom, and the kindergarten teacher told him that "Thursdays are wasted" because of the noise, said Harrison.

"I don't think (the Clothes Closet) should operate while school is in session," he said.

He offered suggestions, including moving the Clothes Closet to a room with an outside entrance, but his suggestions were ignored, according to Harrison.

Holding the Clothes Closet outside of school hours or moving it would be inconvenient for clients suffering from hard times, according to the church leadership, who have

steadfastly refused any changes. They say that Harrison has done a good job as principal but that he failed to understand the church's mission to low income people.

When Coleman asked Harrison to sign a letter supporting continuance of the Clothes Closet at the school, Harrison refused. He said his refusal was based on Portland Archdiocese regulations which mandate him to protect the educational environment and which stipulate that church leadership should stay out of school administration.

"I am irritated that I have been appointed as professional to administer the building, and my professionalism isn't taken seriously," he said.

St. Andrew is known for its many programs for low income people, and for offering sanctuary to Central American refugees. But underlying St. Andrew's progressive image, said Harrison, is a paternal, "do-gooder" attitude coming from some members of the school board and the parish council.

"I think the school board and the parish council are more concerned with the image of St. Andrew than the reality," said Harrison. "Nobody talked about the justice of the decision. The parents wanted to talk about justice."

At one meeting parents were told there was no room on the agenda to discuss their concerns, he said, and so they moved to another room and began planning the picketing. During another meeting at the end of April, the church leadership refused to give clear answer about why Harrison was fired, and 15 people walked out, according to Harrison.

Harrison said he has received no written documentation of the charges against him. "I have been given vague statements but no reasons. . . due process was not involved," he said.

At Irvington and King Schools, said Harrison, parents agitated to get rid of teachers and principals they felt were racist. At St. Andrew, they said, "they are saying let's keep people in the interest of good education."

"I think the picketing shows that people believe this is a good school and they want to keep it."

Harrison lives with his wife Barbara and three daughters (one attends St. Andrew kindergarten) in the Laurelhurst area. He grew up in New York City, receiving a B.A. from Hunter College before leaving for West Africa and two years as a Peace Corps teacher. He taught at Cleveland High for seven years and at Grant for one year before coming to St. Andrew.



JAMES HARRISON (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Crisis hotline needs volunteers

Metro Crisis Intervention Service is seeking caring, non-judgmental individuals to do telephone crisis counseling during business hours and on overnight shifts. No experience is needed. An extensive training program is provided. Training and counseling takes place downtown Portland. Registration for the summer session begins immediately. Classes begin June 1 and will be taught Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and some Saturday mornings through July 2nd. Class size is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information call 226-3099.

Metro is a 24-hour telephone counseling service that provides informa-

tion, referral and counseling at no charge to callers. The agency receives approximately 3,000 calls a month from people with a wide variety of problems such as depression, alcohol and drug issues, parent/child conflict and thoughts of suicide. All calls are confidential and may remain anonymous. The agency is staffed by carefully screened and well-trained volunteers who are under the supervision of master's level crisis team supervisors.

The service was founded in 1979 and is funded by Multnomah and Washington Counties and is a United Way agency serving the Tri-County area.

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