

Back porch, where Alberta Tate was shot, 5101 N.E. 16th. (Photo: Kris Altacher)

Police shoot innocent victim

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. -Calling the death of Mrs. Alberta Tate "needless," Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, said the implementation of police procedure created more questions than answers.

The questions listed below were publicly asked by Herndon in a Tuesday morning press conference at the King Neighborhood Facility:

Why were officers in the back of the house given authority to shoot when it was pitch dark at that location?

What time was Mr. Graves shot? What was the rank of the officer who gave the order to shoot?

Were attempts made to involve medical professionals who had treated Mr. Graves?

Were policy and procedural changes made after the death of Myrna Carlson in a similar incident in 1983?

"These and several other questions need to be answered. This is of particular interest to the Black commuinity because we have had more people killed by police in the last three months than we have had during the last ten years," Herndon added.

He refused to address whether the Graves had racial overtones. "Mrs. Carlson was white and in 1983 during a domestic disturbance her dog barked while police officers were deploying themselves outside," Herndon explained.

"Her husband shot up into the air to quiet the dogs. When Mrs. Carlson came downstairs, a police officer was running between two points of cover and shot her. That incident goes beyond race. The question is, what procedural changes, if any,

cook tamales.

being struck by lightning.

were made after her death," Herndon added.

He felt the officers in strategic positions during the Graves incident were not trained or equipped to handle a hostage ordeal. "The police did not have any nightscopes or any backup lights. How was the officer in the back able to determine who was coming through the back door?"

Herndon felt the delay in deployment of the police special response team proved deadly for Mrs. Tate. "It took them hours to locate and assemble their personnel," he said.

Herndon called a community meeting Wednesday, July 10, with Mayor Bud Clark. However, he was unsure if Clark would attend. "He ran on a ticket of being involved with neighborhoods. Since every precinct in this area went for Clark, I would hope he would come out and meet directly with citizens," Herndon added.

Responding to a reporter questioning if Northeast Portland had become a dumping ground for mentally impaired adults, Herndon said, "It was a common city problem. A policy change in the mental health field returned some patients to the community without a structure to accom-

"Since they are walking up and down the street, I would hope that the police would come up with policies and procedures to handle them in a humane way," Herndon stated.

Also, Herndon disagreed with Mayor Clark's aide who said the police exhibited restraint during the seige. "As far as Mrs. Tate is concerned, I disagree.'

Sources close to the BUF said they were contemplating whether to ask for a national, blue ribbon panel to review Portland Police procedures.

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New Spanish language program to be aired on Channel 35

by Robert Lothian

"Sin Fronteras" means without frontiers, in Spanish.

According to Enrique Escobar, founder and director of the Hispanic Media Project in Portland, it also means unlimited opportunities for Spanish-speaking people, both in the media and in the wider community.

"Sin Fronteras" is the title of Escobar's new Spanish language cable television program.

It airs on Sundays at 9 p.m. on Rogers channel 35 and Liberty channel 11. Appropriately, the show made its debut on May 5th, which is Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday.

The weekly half hour program "reflects the reality of the Northwest Hispanic experience," said Escobar, with news, commentary and features.

A short feature each week, "La Mujer de Hoy," features local Hispanic women. "El Jardin de Jacinto" is about a Portland Hispanic man and his luxuriant garden.

Escobar, 37, a certified video producer, produced a series for the show, "911 Que mas," which follows a Spanish-speaking person through the emergency response network.

What is the Hispanic experience through the 911 system? I will identify reality and possible alternatives,"

Spanish-speaking people need messages that aren't diluted by culturally insensitive Anglo broadcasting, yet few Hispanics work in the local media, Escobar said.

The Hispanic Media Project helps to correct that situation by offering the training and moral support that Spanish speaking people need to get jobs in the media, he said.

In a little over a year, said Escobar, the volunteer organization has grown to a membership of 30 television producers, technicians, students and employees of local media outlets.

"Sin Fronteras" is being produced with the help of Hispanic Media Project volunteers who are learning how to produce television programs, according to Escobar. Other volunteers from the Hispanic Media Project have helped produce rock videos, political specials and commercials, he said.

"We're creating the stage from which our stars will develop," said Escobar.

Several Spanish-speaking future stars are getting their start at KBOO Community Radio, 90.7 FM. The listener-supported station recently increased its Spanish language programming to 71/2 hours, the highest amount of any local radio or television station.

Music and news for Spanishaking people can be KBOO Monday through Thursday, from 5 - 6 p.m., and Sunday, 1:30 - 5 p.m. KBOO program director Bill Wax says request lines light up during the shows, attesting to their popular-

Javier C. Baez, 24, and Damien Torres, 26, travel all the way from Forest Grove to host their show on KBOO, "La Voz del Barrio," which airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays from

Baez and Torres, both from Mexico, play Mexican music and read short statements about Mexican his-

On a recent Tuesday, Rosa Armendariz and David Bello, both from Hillsboro, were in the station learning the ropes by helping to produce the

"We'd like to train some people," said Baez. His hope is to start a radio station in Washington County that will broadcast news and music of in-





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terest to migrant farmworkers as they work in the fields.

through the Air Force to become an air traffic controller. He lost his controller job when the Reagan Administration ended the air traffic control-

Escobar said the survival skills he learned while growing up in a Mexican neighborhood in San Diego are helping him in his efforts to open up the media to Spanish-speaking

been won through "hard bargaining" and sometimes pressure from Oregon's Hispanic leaders, according to Escobar. "It's been a rough road,"

cent attempt by a local cable network to eliminate Spanish International Network programming. Another local cable company resisted his efforts to broadcast "Sin Fronteras," said Escobar.

His work with Rogers paid off, however, with an agreement that allows the Hispanic Media Project access to Rogers' studios and equipment. KATU television (Channel 2) donated used news sets, he added.

Escobar speaks of "opportunity building" and "mega trends" when he gets going on the subject of opportunities for Spanish-speaking people, the state's largest and fastest growing minority.

"We're going to be more involved in the process than you can imagine."

'Hispanic buying power is our ace in the hole. Our dollar influence in America is becoming reality and the media cannot turn their back on it

Advancement of Colored People 284-7722

A Public Service of the Portland Observer

Escobar is the son of a migrant farmworker who worked his way up

Spanish cable programming has

An example of what Hispanic broadcasters are up against is the re-

"We're not going away," he said.

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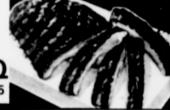
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