



UNION LEADER
STAN PETERS



POLICE CHIEF
PENNY HARRINGTON

Rap Sheet raps Mayor, Police Chief and Herndon

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Letters to the editor in the July edition of the *Rap Sheet*, a monthly newspaper published by the Portland Police Association, revealed that some of the rank and file in the bureau strongly support Union President Stan Peters, and have little regard for their new police chief, the new police commissioner — Mayor Bud Clark — and Ronnie Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front.

Police Chief Penny Harrington said she does not have a good feel for the comments expressed by officers were representative of the entire bureau or the opinion of those eight or nine letters printed.

Chuck Duffy, an aide to Mayor Clark, said the officers were responding to a personal letter from Clark after the firing of two officers who produced "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em" T-shirts in response to the temporary suspension of the sleeper hold. In April, Tony Stevenson died after a police officer administered the sleeper hold. A public inquest found them guilty of criminally negligent homicide but a grand jury proceeding returned a verdict of "no true bill."

In his letter to officers, Clark said he was saddened by the statements of Stan Peters, who said the commissioner and the chief did not support them. Peters also called Herndon a liar and a vulture.

In the *Rap Sheet*, officers questioned Harrington and Clark's knowledge of the Black community.

"Both you and the chief lack experience with dealing with these self-appointed spokesmen of the Black community. These people have been appearing and disappearing since 1967, starting with Kent Fort and running to this date with Ronnie Herndon."

One officer from North Precinct said officers in the Stevenson case used reasonable force to subdue a very large man. "The self-proclaimed Black leaders yelled racism and the self-serving area press highlighted White vs. Black, looking for every angle to fuel the confrontational flame."

"The members of the Police Bureau were portrayed as racists and murderers, and officers' lives were publicly threatened while the city leaders sat quietly. Morale dipped to an all-time low and confusion set in while the city leaders sat quietly."

Another officer from North Precinct said, "We are not killers. What is expected from administration is impartial investigation. Not someone to jump in the media bandwagon with a handful of radicals."

"It was this seed of frustration that gave birth to the T-shirts. The slogan was not a statement but a question directed at administration. What do we do now? Step back and shoot???"

A detective from the sex crimes unit wrote, "If you have learned anything from this episode, I hope it is Ronnie Herndon is not your friend and he will never be placated. The more you give him, the more he wants."

Officers also vented frustration over recent cuts in the bureau's

budget.

"Layoffs and the loss of the use of the carotid hold will certainly contribute to police injuries and possible fatalities. You will be at least partially responsible when an officer is killed due to lack of cover... that would have been there had you supported police and opposed cuts."

An officer from East Precinct said, "I don't feel you (Mayor Clark) will get any support from the police as you are viewed as 'anti-police' and not well informed about duties of the bureau. As for the Chief, she rates even lower than you. You will do best by appointing a new chief as Penny never will be trusted and respected again due to these past incidents."

Duffy said the summer of '85 has been "tough" for the bureau, the City and the citizens. "Times are changing. We had two serious incidents, a bureau reorganization plus budget cuts. We are trying to bring changes to the bureau. We never expected it to be easy. Some officers do not like to see politicians meddle in police business. But it's our business, too."

Duffy said the press, such as the headline in the *Portland Observer* that said "83-year-old woman murdered by police," polarized the community.

Harrington agreed with some of the sentiments expressed. She explained the hostilities officers felt toward Herndon, centered on the perception that he lied. "I even heard it when he contradicted himself on TV. Officers feel that they are being picked upon when they are trying to do a good job."

"It goes back to 'We are the professionals and the community doesn't have any business sticking their nose in our business.' That's the attitude we are going to have to change and it's the hardest," added Harrington.

Herndon said he was not concerned about the letters and challenged any officer to point at his statement where they perceived that he lied.

Jeff Barker, editor of the *Rap Sheet*, was on vacation. The *Rap Sheet* has a statewide circulation of 4,000.

SPECIAL BULLETIN

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Harrington, Peters square off over salary dispute

by Nathaniel Scott

Portland police union leader Stan Peters, by all accounts, has been drawing half a patrolman's salary since 1981 without performing any such duties.

Recently, Police Chief Penny E. Harrington ordered Peters, badge number 1860, to half-time duties with the bureau's telephone unit.

Chief Harrington said, "The bureau has recently taken a reduction of 72 police officers and every officer should carry his/her full load."

Furthermore, she said, "I don't think a person should draw a salary and work one hour a day." In addition, Chief Harrington doesn't think Peters could have drawn the salary for the past four years without the knowledge of former Police Chief Ron Stills and former Mayor Frank Ivancic.

Initially, when Peters' salary dispute surfaced, Chief Harrington's position was to "deal with the present and the future," Rudy Westerband, a deputy city attorney, said. However, in a recent interview, the chief's thinking seems to be headed in another direction.

She said she had not previously thought about asking Peters to reimburse the city the amount of money he received for the non-performance of duties, but she is now thinking about asking the City Attorney's office to look into the matter.

When contacted about the possibility of reimbursement, Peters said, "I wouldn't agree to reimbursing the money paid over the past four years." He added, "Nobody forced the City into any contract" and maintained he had fulfilled all obligations required of him.

A growing number of Portland citizens are watching the unfolding of the

drama with growing concern. And one taxpayer citizen is considering bringing suit against Peters himself, saying, "Every dime of that money should be repaid."

Regarding a Portland taxpayer citizen's rights: Can he or she bring suit against a city employee to recover City money. *The Observer* sought the opinion of two different legal consultants.

Stevie Remington, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon said, a private citizen chances of "Bringing a suit (against Mr. Peters) in the federal courts is limited. But in the state court is would be probable."

One the other hand, an attorney in private practice who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "A taxpayer of the City of Portland can make a demand on the City of Portland to recover the money paid to Stan Peters."

The anonymous source added, "If the City does not comply with the demand, the citizen is free to initiate the suit."

Judging from the turn of events, a quagmire has developed. Undoubtedly, the City, especially the police bureau, is in need of money. One very graphic example is the save the horse patrol drive. And to make matters worse, a number of citizens are upset over what they perceive to be "Mr. Peters' unprofessional manner."

It seems, at least at this point in time, that Portland's police department is destined to remain in the media spotlight. The answer seems to lie in the convention of a body who has the authority to analyze the situation and make recommendations that will be implemented. And judging from the urgency of the matter, the saying "haste makes waste," does not apply in this instance.

Repression of Falashas in Israel

(Editor's Note: The Black Jews of Ethiopia, also known as the "Falashas," are Black people, natives of Ethiopia, who are Jewish, and have lived in Ethiopia since before the time of Christ, according to some accounts. Reports of their repression by the government of Ethiopia, together with pressure from the international Jewish community and the current starvation in Ethiopia, have only recently caused the Israeli government to significantly aid the Falashas in their ancient desire to leave Ethiopia to go to the "promised land," i.e., to Israel. The following article appeared in the Mexican daily, *El Dia*, on May 5, 1985, under the headline, "What promised land?")

Translation by John Blank

While the State of Israel and the CIA renew the transport of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to the supposed "promised land," more and more newspaper accounts are appearing according to which these new Jewish immigrants are still not finding the promised terrestrial paradise; rather they are finding themselves hit by racism and discrimination.

Curiously, after the Grand Rabbinate declared that the Falashas were really authentic Jews, it has imposed on the recently arrived Falashas the obligation of submitting themselves to a ceremony of "ritual conversion" (by immersion) as if they were some simple aspirants to the Jewish faith.

Another Falasha complaint is that their youth, in spite of being in the country less than six months, are already being forced to enroll in the Israeli army.

Falasha "ghettos" have already made their appearance, and according to the aforementioned accounts this ghettoization has not been by the choice of the recent immigrants, but because of the attitude of rejection and isolation on the part of an important sector of the Israeli population.

Perhaps the most patent episode of this discrimination occurred last March 9th, when a group of Falashas tried to approach the Wailing Wall, but were violently repelled by the guards, who refused to recognize that "that bunch of Blacks" was composed of true Jews.

Concentration camps

Another complaint of the Falashas against the Jewish state concerns the fact that, until now (May), the majority of those recently arrived have been confined in "reabsorption centers" where, apart from seeing their liberty severely curtailed, the Falashas receive no type of preparation for entering into Israeli life.

Departure from these centers, on the other hand, seems to be conditioned on the acceptance of a determined destination: If an individual accepts being sent to the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, he'll be able to leave the "reabsorption center"; if he doesn't, the procedures for his establishment in Israel become delayed and troublesome.

Cheese Day: July 20th

Cheese and butter will be distributed to the public Saturday, July 20th, at many site throughout Multnomah County, including two in North Portland. Roosevelt High School and Jefferson High School will serve the same zip code areas as in past distributions of U.S. Department of Agriculture surplus commodity foods.

These distributions are for households with income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, which means a monthly income of \$569 or less for a single person, \$764 for a family of two, \$959 for three persons, or \$1,154 per month for a household of four persons. The amount continues to go up for larger households.

Persons seeking to receive the cheese and butter must bring identification showing proof of where they live. The centers will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help process those seeking to receive the cheese and butter. Volunteer persons may also be eligible to receive the free commodities, but they may be others from the community who just want to help in this mass project. Interested people should call 286-8371 for details.

LET'S TALK.

As we all know, the breakup of the old Bell System created changes in phone services and prices. And the changes will continue for some time to come.

We at Pacific Northwest Bell's Let's Talk Bureau have the job of keeping up with these changes and answering your questions about them.

It's our job at Let's Talk to keep you informed. For example, some rates for local services are increasing, to meet the actual costs of supplying the services. At the same time some long distance rates are going down.

We will be publishing messages about these and other changes in the weeks ahead, and we are always available to speak with you about any phone-related matter.

Call us toll-free at 1-800-555-5000 any time. And Let's Talk.

