

# Police Union President Stan Peters raps city officials

Anti-pornographer to speak at Reed



STAN PETERS

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Jerry Garner

"The Portland City Council is spending taxpayers' money on dumb projects and could care less about the city's crime problems," said Portland Police Union President Stan Peters.

Peters made this statement at the general meeting of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association. Peters was invited to the meeting as a guest speaker. During the Neighborhood meeting, Peters told the crowd who gathered at Holy Redeemer School, "the city has reached a crossroad in how we approach crime. Portland ranks first in residential burglaries, and the city's crime rate is growing faster than any other major city in the country. Portland is the only city that hasn't shown a decrease in the rate of crime in the last three years."

Peters was critical of city, state, and county officials. Throughout his speech, Peters stated that elected officials are part of the reason why crime is on the rise in Portland. Chief Penny Harrington was the target of the majority of Peters' criticism.

Peters told the audience that the inability of the police to fight crime in Portland has been "due to a number of major events that have occurred in the past year."

Peters said as soon as Harrington became Chief, she disbanded the drug

and vice division. "Overnight the Portland Police Bureau went from having more than 20 officers assigned to full-time status in drug and vice duties, to having only five detectives who have no prior training in drugs and vice." According to Peters, Portland has the lowest number of officers assigned to drug and vice duties than any other city on the West coast with a population of 250,000 or more. Peters blamed Chief Harrington for the increase in prostitution in the city since the vice unit personnel was reduced.

Peters said there is a direct relationship between drug trafficking and residential burglaries since those who commit residential burglaries are drug users. "Without the effective enforcement of our drug laws, we cannot bring residential burglaries under control."

Peters said Chief Harrington's administrative policies have been disastrous, and her decisions have increased the crime rate in Portland. However, Peters also stated that those decisions alone aren't totally to blame for the increase in the city's crime rate. "City officials must provide more jail space to lock criminals away. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners have repeatedly voted to shift funding from correctional facilities to community correc-

tional programs." Peters feels that such facilities are a waste of citizens' money. "We don't need costly, bleeding-heart programs that don't work."

The city could provide more jail space if it was their priority to do so said Peters. He continued by saying enough facilities already exist in Portland to provide needed jail space for criminals. "It takes money and the city has the money to do it. They lie to the citizens when they say they don't. The city is going to give \$6 million to the Performing Arts Center. How can the city be spending money on the Center, when citizens are afraid to walk the streets?"

The Police Union President said the court is granting criminals more procedural rights than the United States Constitution. "A search and seizure could be permissible under the federal Constitution and within the guidelines, but the entire case against a defendant can be thrown out under the Oregon Constitution. We need certainty in criminal law if the police are to do their jobs."

Peters said the Police Bureau is facing severe internal problems. He said that morale is the lowest in his 20 years as a policeman. "Officers feel that the administration does not support them."

Andrea Dworkin, considered the most outspoken feminist on the issue of pornography, will speak on "Pornography and Civil Rights," on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. in the Reed College Commons. Tickets are \$5 in advance at Bass Ticket Outlet, Meier and Frank Downtown, and A Woman's Place Bookstore; \$7 at the door; student rates available. The lecture is sponsored by the Reed College Women's Center in cooperation with Lewis and Clark Women's Center and Portland State Women's Center.

Best known as the leader of the anti-pornography movement, Ms. Dworkin is co-author of the Minneapolis and Indianapolis ordinances that define pornography as a civil rights violation against women. She has also written five books including *Pornography: Men Possessing Women* and the feminist classics *Woman Hating and Our Blood*.

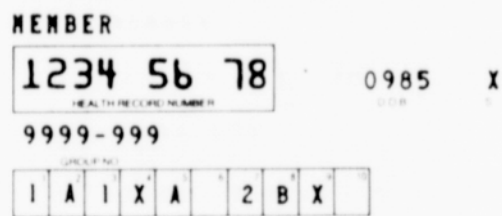
Called the "eloquent feminist" by syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman, Ms. Dworkin has also been hailed by Gloria Steinem for offering "...not just a voice of anger and justice, but also compassion and redemption."

A graduate of Bennington College, Ms. Dworkin also writes for *Ms.*, *Mother Jones*, *Feminist Studies*, *San Francisco Review of Books*, *Village Voice*, *The Second Wave*, *off our backs*, *Chrysalis*, and *Sojourner*.

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