

Trail Blazers
Page 9

Salvadoran struggles
Page 4

Vet honored
Page 3

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XVI, Number 2
November 13, 1985
25¢ Copy

Two Sections

City settles Stevenson claim

by Jerry Garner

The family of Lloyd D. Stevenson and his mother, Mary Harvey, have settled their civil rights cases against the City of Portland, Chief Penny Harrington, and police officers Gary Barbour, Bruce Pantley, and Thomas Mitchell. As a result of the settlement, cash benefits totalling over \$2 million will be made available to the Stevenson family and Mrs. Harvey. The amount is believed to be the largest amount ever paid by the City of Portland as a result of a civil rights claim.

Under the settlement of the civil suit \$326,824 will be placed in an annuity for each of Stevenson's five children. Susanna Stevenson and her attorney, Tom Steenson each will receive \$248,463 and Stevenson's mother will receive \$50,000.

Stevenson, a Black man who was married and the father of five children, died after police applied the carotid-artery hold around his neck.

Stevenson's wife filed a \$15 million wrongful death suit in U.S. District Court, saying that her husband's death was the result of carelessness by the police and that his civil rights were violated. Named in the suit were Chief Penny Harrington and policemen Gary Barbour, Bruce Pantley and Tom Mitchell.

According to Chuck Duffy (police liaison for Mayor of Portland) Mayor Bud Clark will approve the settlement. An attorney for the city said Stevenson's family had agreed to the

proposal.

Stevenson's family's acceptance of the out-of-court settlement brings to an end all litigation regarding liability in Stevenson's death. The city of Portland will have paid out \$697,923, plus part of the \$7,750 arbitrator's fee.

Since fiscal year 1977 to August of 1985, the City of Portland has paid \$1,057,712 to individuals who have filed claims against the Portland Police Bureau for officers' misconduct and criminal behavior. According to the Bureau of Risk Management, \$986,277 was paid to individuals who suffered bodily injuries and \$71,435 was paid for property damages. Attorney's fees are not included in the above figures.

The box below is a breakdown of the dollar amount paid by the City for different police misconduct. Under each category is a list of the areas covered.

The largest amount paid for bodily injury claims during the period covered was in fiscal year 1980 when the city paid individuals \$476,940 for claims against the Police Bureau. Fiscal year 1981 was second highest when \$232,631 was paid out by the city for bodily injury claims.

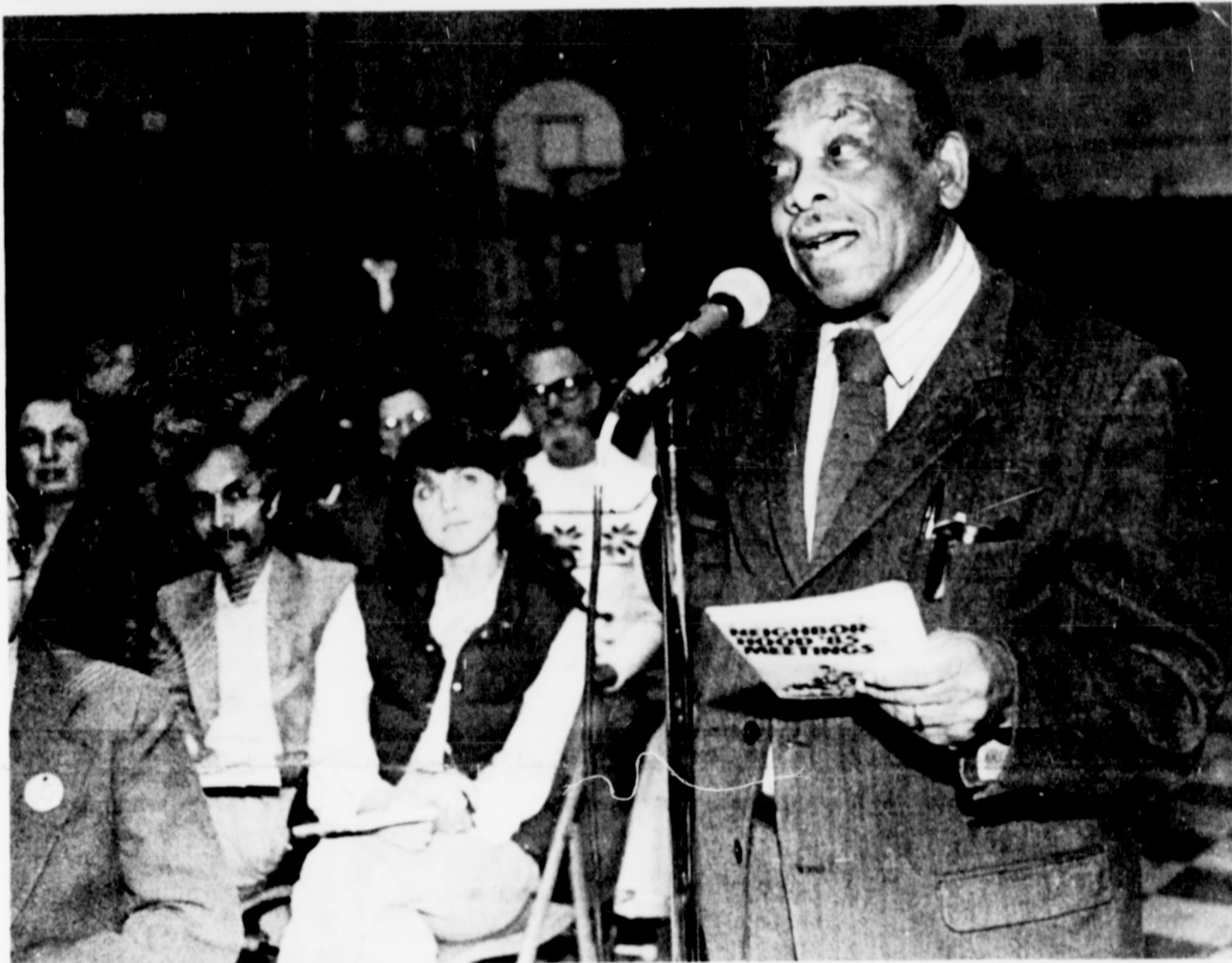
As for property damages, fiscal year 1977 was the year the city paid the most in claims which totaled \$18,360. The second highest was in 1981 with \$17,729 paid to individuals for property damage.

Portland Police Bureau Liability Claims Paid

From Fiscal Year 1977 to August 1985

	AMOUNT PAID
USE OF WEAPONS	\$116,082
Fleeing suspect shot—excessive force	
Innocent by-stander shot	
Accidental discharge	
Failure to control access to weapons by others	
Excessive force with nightstick	
Improper or negligent use of tear gas	
EXCESSIVE FORCE WITHOUT WEAPON	251,636
Other undue force	
Illegal arrest with undue force	
ARREST WITH WARRANT	123,955
Illegal arrest, defective warrant	
Illegal arrest, no jurisdiction	
Illegal arrest, fraudulent basis for warrant	
ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT	53,875
No probable cause	
Cancelled "Wanted Notice"	
Mistake of law	
Wrong person	
FAILURE TO ACT	14,426
Willful negligence	
Failure to protect informant	
Failure to cancel "Wanted Warrant"	
MISCELLANEOUS	251,680
Civil Rights violations	
Harrasment	
Damage to suspect's property (including vehicles)	
Stolen property	
Failure to care for custody items	
No notice of Impoundment (vehicle)	
Illegal tow-away	
Failure to notify of Hold/Release	
N.E.C.	

(Information on where the remaining \$174,622 was paid out to was not indicated in the records provided by the Bureau of Risk Management. However, a likely area this amount may belong under is "Traffic" since no amount was listed in this category.)



Rev. John Jackson, one of the handful of Blacks that attended the meeting, criticizes the *Oregonian* on the way Blacks are covered in the newspaper. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Oregonian listens to community

by Robert Lothian

For the first time, the top echelon leadership of the *Oregonian* came to Northeast Portland last week for a meeting at King Neighborhood Facility.

The forum was one of a series organized by the *Oregonian* to hear criticism and to gather suggestions from readers. Fourteen executives and editors responded to questions fielded by *Oregonian* publisher Fred Stickel.

Many questions from the 85 people present dealt with the *Oregonian's* coverage of prostitution, drugs, crime, and specifically, why the paper couldn't publish the names of prostitutes' customers arrested by police, as a deterrent to prostitution trafficking.

"We want to know who these people are driving ten times around the block, watching our daughters," said Helen Stoll, a member of the Hollywood Neighborhood Association and the Hollywood Boosters.

"You may publish the names of some of your own staff, and have egg on your face," said Dick Sauter, owner of the John Palmer House on N. Mississippi Ave.

Executive Editor William Hilliard responded that the *Oregonian* had published the names of "johns" in the past, but stopped on moral grounds. "We're not here to shame people, that's not our job," Hilliard said.

Robert Phillips, affirmative action officer for Multnomah County, praised the *Oregonian* for what he said was responsible coverage of the T-shirt incident, but he criticized lack of minority coverage.

"Part of the reason the Civil Rights

Act was so successful," Phillips said, "was because the news media played such a responsible role."

Hilliard responded that as a regional paper with a large circulation, the *Oregonian* must try to have something for everyone, and not cover only minority news as some small papers do. He listed several recent stories about Southeast Asians in response to criticism about coverage of that group.

"You've got to watch for it on an almost daily basis," he said about minority coverage. He admitted, "We are not always aware of things that people think we ought to be covering."

"I urge you to contact us, use the phone numbers that are listed there, write letters," said Metropolitan Editor Bob Caldwell.

"What is your affirmative action record?" asked Rev. John Jackson, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and co-founder of the Black United Front.

Hilliard answered by saying that out of 304 news/editorial employees at the *Oregonian*, there are four Blacks, four Asians, three Hispanics, "and a lot of whites." He outlined a series of *Oregonian* affirmative action efforts including summer internships, college recruitment, and a minority journalism conference at the Hilton Hotel sponsored by the paper.

"We do make an effort to bring minorities into the newsroom," Hilliard said. Assistant Managing Editor Judson Randall is the man to talk to about minority recruitment at the paper, he said.

Jackson said he compared editorials on South Africa from the *Oregonian* and from southern papers after a recent trip to the South, and he

found those from the South more enlightened. He also criticized the *Oregonian* for covering more "smiling Black children" than "grown up Blacks."

Bob Nelson, chairman of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, said the *Oregonian* coverage of crime in Northeast was giving the area a bad name and the media were holding the community hostage.

But Charles Ford, coordinator of the King Neighborhood Facility, called for more crime coverage. "With the kind of activities going on right now it can't continue," he said. Ford praised the paper for holding the forum and expressed hope that it could be an annual occurrence. "I hope there can be some kind of for-

mat where citizens can come to you and voice their concerns," Ford said.

Other readers wanted more and better coverage of animal rights groups, natural birth control, abortion, eastern Oregon, camping, PSU, drunk drivers, and positive police actions. Several criticized *Oregonian* headlines and others said their letters were being edited out of context.

Publisher Stickel said that each of the forums was taped, and the tapes will be called for suggestions. He cautioned that it may be a year or more before improvements are worked into the paper, but he also said the *Oregonian* is capable of change. "Just look at a paper five years ago compared to today," he said.

Statement by Commissioner Bogle on Stevenson settlement

The Bureau of Risk Management and our attorneys have recommended that this lawsuit be settled and that a portion of the settlement proceeds should be used to make immediate cash payments of \$248,463.00 to Lloyd Stevenson's wife, Susanna Stevenson, and \$50,000.00 to his mother, Mary Harvey. They further recommend that a portion of the settlement expenditures should be used to purchase for \$326,824.00 an annuity from a life insurance company to provide future benefits over a number of years for Susanna Stevenson and her children. These benefits will provide a monthly income for Susanna Stevenson and her children. These benefits will provide educational benefits for each of the children. The amount of the future payment benefits to the family far, far exceeds the cost of the annuity.

I recognize that nothing the City does will ever replace this valuable life lost. However, I feel this settlement represents the best possible conclusion to this tragic incident.

Tony Stevenson is gone and no mortal can bring him back. However, we here on Council can provide for Tony's dream—his children's future.

This settlement will provide for their needs through early adulthood, their basic needs growing-up and their education are being provided for.

I personally hope and pray they will seize upon this opportunity to grow and flourish and I also hope without bitterness.