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An unexpected visitor showed up to speak to those protesting aid to the Contras — self-proclaimed Contra Ronnie Rambo. He was given an opportunity to present his views on the aid package to be voted on March 19. Photo by Richard J. Brown



Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington discusses Portland crime problems with community members at the King Neighborhood Facility. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Chief Addresses Advisory Council

By Jerry Garner

According to Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington, crime started to increase when federal funds to the bureau were eliminated. "The police bureau used to receive millions of dollars in federal funds. This money was used to fund special projects to fight crime," said Harrington.

Harrington said the department used those funds for special mission units, fencing and sting operations. "There was also a major group of officers used to target hard core criminal, in an effort to arrest them," said Harrington.

Chief Harrington made these comments while addressing the Greater Northeast Police Advisory Council at the King Neighborhood Facility. She told the advisory council that a study commission to examine why Portland ranks first in residential burglaries, revealed that during the 70's, Portland ranked in the middle of the nation in crime. "Around 1979 Portland crime rate shot up to number one and has

stayed there," said Harrington.

She said the crime rates for cities as Kansas City, Seattle and Oakland, which is about the same size of Portland, have remained the same. The reason for this, said the chief, is because those cities do not rely on federal funds to support their anti-crime programs like Portland.

Harrington told the council that the lack of funds, along with annexation of East County and a sluggish state economy, all contributed to the increase in crime in the city. The chief told the council that although the above factors are part of the overall crime problem, the lack of available jail space is the main reason why crime is increasing in Portland. "We found that cities that have more jail space than Portland have less crime."

The chief used Cincinnati, Ohio as an example; "Cincinnati has 68 percent more jail beds than Portland and 67 percent less crime. There seems to be a direct relationship to me," said Harrington.

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Harrington said last August police arrested one man 16 times for car burglary and that he didn't go to jail but 3 times, on the other 13 occasions he was only given a citation. "In Portland we are recycling the same criminals over and over again." The chief was asked to comment on past allegations made by County Commissioner Caroline Miller that city officials aren't using existing jail space properly.

Harrington said that she doesn't agree with Commissioner Miller and responded by saying that there are some county commissioners who don't believe in building jails period.

Chief Harrington said that only is crime increasing in Portland, so are calls from citizens. She said last year the bureau experienced a 27 percent increase in the number of calls. This, according to Harrington, is attributed to annexation and false burglary alarms. "Around 90 percent of alarm calls are false; it takes several police cars to

answer each alarm."

Harrington said as calls go up, less time is spent on the investigations of other crimes. She said officers now spend only 20 minutes answering most calls except for homicide cases. She said as your time answering calls goes up; time on directive patrol goes down. "This is when you lose the battle on street crimes, therefore quality of police service decreases," said Harrington.

Those in attendance voiced their concerns to the chief on the problem of prostitution and drug dealing in Northeast. One man told the chief that the police should harass the prostitutes and drug dealers more in an effort to eradicate them from the area. "It seems as if they (the prostitutes and drug dealers) are free to operate openly in the community." Others in attendance at the meeting agreed with the man. They say more police visibility is needed in the high crime area of Northeast Portland.

Crowd Says No to Contra Aid

By Bob Lothian

Over three hundred people opposed to President Reagan's efforts to send \$100 million to the Nicaraguan contras gathered under sunny skies at Terry Schunk Plaza Saturday.

The crowd shouted "No pasaran!" which means "they shall not pass" in Spanish, they sang "We Shall Not Be Moved," and they listened to speakers who criticized Reagan's plan to beef up the army of counterrevolutionary rebels.

John Blank of the Oregon Rainbow Coalition referred to recent televised statements by the president. "I can't even watch TV anymore," said Blank. Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's president who Reagan calls a dictator, "has more of a mandate in Nicaragua than Ronald Reagan has in the United States," he added.

Reagan refers to the contras as "freedom fighters" similar to the founding fathers of the United States. "I am a contra," he said on television last week. Over the weekend, he said that atrocities attributed to the contras were actually committed by the Sandinista Army to make the contras look bad. A top administration official described Nicaragua as a "cancer" that will spread unless the aid is approved.

Human rights organizations, on the other hand, have charged the contras with torturing and murdering civilians. Over 11,000 Nicaraguans have been killed by the contras since the border war began, reported Bob Rini, coordinator of the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee.

"The contras are not freedom fighters, they are not the equivalent of our founding fathers and they don't believe in freedom at all," said Rini.

Millie Thayer, a Portland teacher who worked in Nicaragua for a year, described gains made by Nicaraguans since their 1979 revolution toppled the dictator Somoza. A government vaccination program has virtually eliminated polio, thousands of Nicaraguans have learned to read in a literacy campaign, opportunities have opened up for women, and seven political parties participated in the recent presidential election, she said.

"Does this sound like a totalitarian dungeon to you?" Thayer asked. The crowd responded with a resounding, "No!"

But the progress she observed is being hampered by contra attacks, Thayer continued. In 1984, she said, 180 teachers were killed and 153 schools and 38 clinics were destroyed by the contras. "I saw schools and clinics that were razed to the ground," she said.

Mary Medved, a member of the board of Catholic Peace Ministries, reported that the Catholic Church in the U.S. has come out against contra aid.

Medved visited the Nicaraguan town of Ocatal in 1984 after contras attacked and destroyed a radio station, a coffee processing plant, a granary, in addition to murdering several civilians. Six children were made deaf by the sound of exploding mortar shells, Medved said. "That's just one human instance of the effects of contra aid."

Portland Observer photographer Richard Brown spoke of his visit to Bluefields, On Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, where the population is mostly black. The contras attacked Bluefields, he said, hoping the town's residents would rise up against the government. "The result was that the residents of Bluefields ran the contras back into the sea," Brown said. "And when they start running contras back into the ocean, I hope they don't forget the contras here in the U.S., those self-admitted contras," he added.

Brown's photos of Nicaragua and of the Oregon National Guard training in Honduras have appeared in the Observer and in Willamette Week.

Following Brown was a special guest, a gung-ho U.S. military adviser fresh from the jungles of Central America — "Johnny Rocketlauncher" and his M-16 machine gun named Jeanne Kirkpatrick. He was joined, to the crowd's delight, by a shirtless macho character in a Reagan mask called "Ronbo."

All of those in the audience who had visited Nicaragua, about 40 people, then gathered up front to shout "No!" to contra aid before leading a march to Pioneer Square.

Largest State Employers Sponsor Job Information Fair

The two largest employers in state government, the departments of Transportation and Human Resources, along with the Urban League of Portland, are sponsoring their third annual Job Information Fair.

The event will be held Wednesday, March 26, at the Martin Luther King Elementary School Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. "Those interested can drop in at any time," stated Vicki Nakashima, Civil Rights Manager for Transportation.

Personnel officers and affirmative action representatives will be available to answer questions on an individual basis. Many employees working in jobs of interest will be present to give firsthand information.

"The goal of the fair is to inform community members about jobs and

how to apply for them," said Nakashima.

Also in attendance at the Fair will be the State Personnel Division, the Oregon State Police, the Governor's Affirmative Action Office, and S. Brooks & Associates — who was awarded the Department of Transportation on the job-training/supportive services contract to help target minorities and women for construction jobs.

The Department of Transportation has six divisions: Highway, Parks and Recreation, Motor Vehicles, Central Services, Public Transit and Aeronautics.

Human Resources has eight divisions: Adult and Family Services, Children's Services, Corrections, Employment, Health, Mental Health, Senior Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation.



The guest of honor for a tea sponsored by Links, Inc. of Portland at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center was Benjamin Holt. Holt plays Figaro in the Portland Opera production of The Marriage of Figaro. Above, Holt chats with (l-r) City Comm. Dick Bogle, Holt, Addie Jean Haynes, President Links, Inc. and Robert Bailey, General Director of the Portland Opera.

Photo by Richard J. Brown