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L-R: Ed Blackburn, Political Director and Terry Anderson, Secretary of the Oregon Rainbow Coalition, discuss their participation in the National Rainbow Coalition Convention held in Washington, D.C.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

## Commission Hears Conflicting Testimony Concerning Reorganization of Drug Unit

by Jerry Garner

A special commission appointed by Mayor Bud Clark to evaluate the effects of Chief Penny Harrington's reorganization of the Police Bureau's drug unit, heard conflicting testimony last week.

The panel, which consists of former U.S. Attorney Sidney I. Lezak; Multnomah County Senior Circuit Judge John C. Beatty, Jr. and Col. Doyle Watson Deputy Superintendent of the Oregon State Police.

Chief Harrington defended her decision to reorganize the drug unit saying, "it was a wise decision and the new drug enforcement unit is working well."

Harrington said although drug enforcement dropped during a four to six month period last year after budget cuts, there was a 31.2 percent increase in drug arrests from the first three months of 1985 to the same period this year. According to Harrington, 101 arrests have been made by narcotics detectives since April 1, 1985. "Drug enforcement has increased, not diminished," said Harrington.

Harrington's reorganization of the drug unit was defended by her two Deputy Chiefs. "It is a good, solid unit; drug enforcement is an extremely high priority of the Portland Police Bureau," said Deputy Chief Robert M. Tobin.

Harrington's critics painted a different picture to the Commission. Lt. Charles Karl, head of the new Narcotics, Vice and Intelligence Section, told the Commission that his unit is only 50 percent as effective as the unit Chief Harrington disbanded. He said the new drug unit is inferior, compared to the old unit.

Karl's analysis of the new unit was shared by Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Charles Ball. Ball, who prosecutes drug cases in Multnomah County, challenged Chief Harrington's statements concerning the effectiveness of the reorganized drug unit.

Ball said he has seen a "dramatic

decrease in the productivity of the Police Bureau". He said his office is receiving "fewer and inferior cases from the new unit."

Not only was Harrington's decision to reorganize the drug unit criticized by members of the Bureau and outside law enforcement agencies, her claim that drug arrests are up was disputed.

Sgt. Edward May, a night supervisor in North Precinct, told the panel that Harrington's assertion that drug arrests were increasing could be misleading. According to May, "the three months selected to represent arrest statistics of the old unit were from the period when members of that unit were winding down efforts in anticipation of dissolution."

Chief Harrington presented a surprise witness to the Commission. E.L. Willoughby, Willoughby is Chief of Police in Salt Lake City, Utah. Willoughby said there is no simple solution to drug trafficking. According to Willoughby, "there is no set or sure fired way to handle America's drug problem today." Willoughby said he supported Chief Harrington, and thought it was unbelievable she was tied up in a hearing.

In other related news, the Multnomah County District Attorney's office dropped cocaine trafficking charges against J. Daniel Steffey. Steffey, an aide to Portland Mayor Bud Clark, was under investigation on allegations of selling cocaine. The case was withdrawn, said Deputy District Attorney John C. Bradley, because Steffey's son refused to testify before the Grand Jury about his father's activities.

The younger Steffey was cited for contempt of court for refusing to answer questions, and spent one day in the Multnomah County Justice Center jail. After withdrawing the case from the Grand Jury, Bradley asked Multnomah County Circuit Judge James R. Ellis to release Jeffrey Steffey.

Bradley called Steffey's refusal to testify before the Grand Jury "repugnant to our system of justice."

## Report From the Rainbow Convention

by Bob Lathian

Six Oregon delegates attended the founding convention of the national Rainbow Coalition in Washington, D.C. over the weekend.

The convention drew 850 delegates from 41 states. It was charged with the idealism of the Rainbow's goal of a multi-issue, multi-racial nationwide political organization, reported delegate Ed Blackburn, political director of the Oregon Rainbow Coalition.

"People were inspired," Blackburn said.

A surprise breakthrough at the convention was the representation by farmer and labor delegates, drawn into the coalition by Jesse Jackson's recent campaign outreach, he said. Those groups will add momentum to Jackson's next run for president, according to Blackburn.

A main purpose of the convention was to set up a nationwide Jackson campaign network.

"I think it's going to be tougher, so he's really got to get organized," Blackburn said. "I came away feeling this thing really has a chance to go."

Jackson is campaigning now for congressional candidates, mainly in the south, according to Blackburn. "He has been campaigning constantly."

Jackson was present and accessible at the convention, the delegates reported. "He'd be out walking in the hall and pretty soon there'd be 20 people around him," Blackburn said. "He worked very hard to make it happen."

In classic style, Jackson passed the hat and received \$100,000 in pledges and donations from the delegates. He promised to return to Portland, proba-

bly next fall, said Blackburn.

Oregon Rainbow Coalition secretary Terry Anderson said considerable time at the convention was spent hashing over a set of by-laws needed to get the national organization off the ground.

"I was most impressed with the enthusiasm of the delegates," Anderson said. "For a national convention with people coming from all over the country, there was very little discord."

"It was really nice to meet organizers from all over the country," Anderson added.

Blackburn said that during Jackson's major address to the convention Friday night, "The spirit of Martin Luther King was very much alive."

"He was talking about farmers joining hands with urban blacks," Jackson also spoke in favor of a Martial Plan for the family farm, on the need for the

Rainbow Coalition to reach out to labor, and on foreign policy. "Rainbow over Rambo," said Jackson the slogan.

Blackburn said that Jackson warned delegates that the coalition could become an easy target for "a campaign of rumors, lies and disinformation" similar to that directed against the civil rights movement.

"It's not just running for the nomination anymore. We are organizing around a political agenda threatening to people in high places. What we're doing is very serious," Blackburn said.

He announced the next Rainbow general meeting for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 20th, at the PACT Center, 4707 S.E. Hawthorne, and a Rainbow multi-cultural dinner for Pine Street Theater June 1.

## Nurses Could Strike

by Bob Lathian

Portland area nurses are preparing for a strike. Informational picketing continues at several hospitals, and at least one nurses union local has approved a strike authorization vote.

Kathy Schmidt, president of the Oregon Federation of Nurses, said her union local, which represents nurses at Kaiser Sunnyside and Interstate clinics, approved a strike vote last week. That means a strike could begin after a ten day waiting period, or early next week, she said.

Nurses at Bess Kaiser and St. Vincent hospitals could also join the strike.

Schmidt spoke to a rally of about 100 nurses Friday in Overlook Park, outside the Kaiser Interstate clinic and across the street from Kaiser headquarters. She said that management has refused to budge on four key issues — staffing, work hours, pensions and wages.

"Just stuff it, is pretty much what they said," said Schmidt.

As she spoke, a small plane circled

overhead, piloted by a nurse. The plane towed a sign which said, "Kaiser — Settle With OFN RNs."

Sheri Knapp, a registered nurse who works in the emergency room at Bess Kaiser, said nurses were overworked due to inadequate staffing. "The patients that are coming into the hospital are sicker, but staffing hasn't changed in 15 years," Knapp said.

"You do care," said Oregon AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Bob Baugh. Baugh, whose wife is a nurse at Emanuel Hospital, said, "I know what it's like to be married to a nurse who comes home and worries about patients."

Baugh warned the nurses about what he said was a statewide pattern of management attempts to beat back wages and break unions.

Kaiser management responded later that the nurses' charges about staffing and the other issues were unfounded.

## Driver's Training for People with Limited English

Portland Community College is offering behind-the-wheel driver's training for students whose English speaking skills are limited.

Instructors Bill Arnes and John Dennecke said the class, titled English as a Second Language Driver's Training, has been designed to help foreign-born students pass the Oregon driver's test and qualify for operator's licenses.

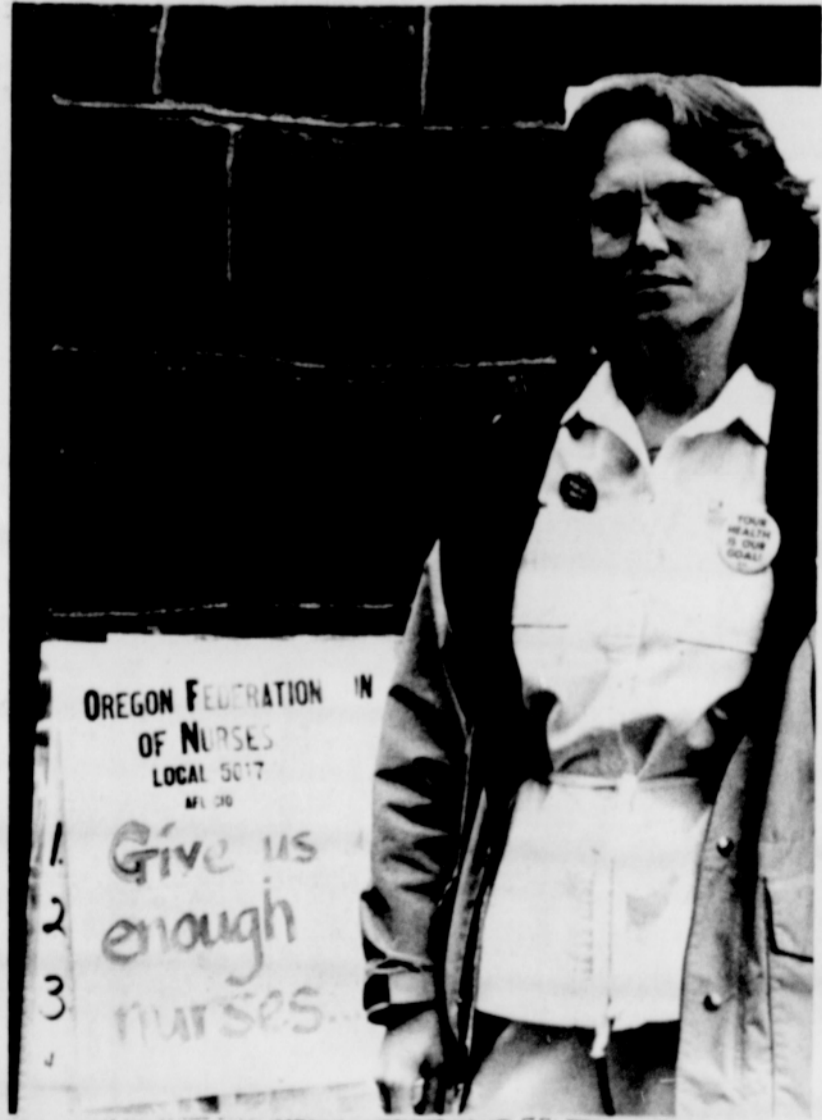
The course consists of six hours of driver's training and 30 hours of classroom instruction. An Oregon driving

permit is required before enrollment.

The ten-week program will be available at two PCC locations: the library at Ross Island Center, 649 S.W. Porter St., starting April 10, and Room B-30 of Southeast Center, 2850 S.E. 82nd Ave., starting April 11. Classes will meet both places from 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost of the course is \$30.

More information about English as a Second Language Driver's Training is available from Community Services, 240-5303.



Kathy Schmidt, President of the Oregon Federation of Nurses.

Photo by Richard J. Brown



Saturday April 12, 1986 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church the Tri-County Section of National Council of Negro Women sponsored a Youth Awareness Workshop. The workshop attracted young people from the ages of 13-21 and covered subjects concerned with Problems with Being Young, Personal Appearance, Personal Finance and Accounting. Above Leslie Hurst, Comptroller of the Currency with the U.S. Treasury Dept. talks to one of the groups about personal finance and consumer tips.

Photo by Richard J. Brown