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Margaret Carter, Dist. 18 Rep. and over 600 people attended a rally in support of former Police Chief Penny Harrington. Photo by Richard J. Brown

600 Rally in Support of Harrington

by Bob Lothian

As he finished his comments honoring former Police Chief Penny Harrington, Herb Cawthorne asked the 600 Harrington supporters gathered at Terry Schunk Plaza Sunday to rise and give her a standing ovation.

Applause and cheers filled the plaza across from City Hall as Harrington stepped to the microphone.

"This is the best day I've ever had," said Harrington, who had a "People for Penny" button pinned to her gray suit.

Harrington pledged to the crowd of well-wishers that she would not give up her efforts to reform the Portland Police Bureau.

"They need to understand that they work for you . . . and that you have a right to tell them what to do," she said, drawing more cheers and applause.

"I pledge to you that I am not going to go away," said Harrington. "They need to change, and I'm going to make them change. Will you help me?"

Harrington said she will continue her efforts by working with community groups to reform the bureau from the outside. She urged her supporters to write the mayor and city commissioners to request that the new chief be selected from outside the state.

Harrington also said that state laws need to be changed so that binding arbitration in disputes with the police union does not allow the chief's decisions to be overturned. That happened when the two officers who sold the "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em" T-shirts were reinstated after they were fired.

The two-hour rally, sponsored by a group called "People for Penny," was held in a festive atmosphere under sunny skies. As a group of three women musicians entertained, children played with balloons that said, "People for Penny."

Volunteers passed around a petition asking that the Mayor and City Council continue the programs started by Harrington. Over \$200 was collected, and a stack of cards filled out with names of volunteers willing to help on the campaign.

Nine speakers honored Harrington for her achievements during a Portland Police Bureau career that spanned 22 years, a career capped by her becoming the first woman police chief in a major American city.

"Yes, because she was a woman," was the reason she was forced to resign, said Cawthorne, president of the Urban League of Portland. As she began to imple-

ment changes seen as contributing to better police-community relations, rank and file officers and bureau management, largely male-dominated, refused to follow Harrington's leadership, Cawthorne said.

State Representative Margaret Carter urged the formation of a broad-based coalition to continue the work of opening up communication between the Police Bureau and the community.

Raymundo Marin, executive director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, commended Harrington for starting a cross-cultural training program for officers, for communicating openly with the black community during times of crisis, for opening up recruitment of minority officers, and for protecting the rights of Hispanics by refusing the immigration service access to the police data system.

"Penny . . . you have given hope to women and ethnic minorities that it is possible to achieve," Marin said.

Sandy Nelson, chairwoman of the Buckman neighborhood association crime prevention committee, reported that burglaries in Buckman were reduced by almost one-third due to the work of the Juvenile

Services Unit set up by Harrington.

Rodney Page, director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, praised the volunteer jail chaplain corps set up by Harrington. She achieved "one of the finest records in such a short time of any police chief this city has ever had," Page said. Harrington's program to reform the bureau was a "new blueprint for peace and justice in this community," he said.

Chrys Martin, representing the Portland Institute for Managerial and Professional Women, praised Harrington's managerial skills. "I saw her leadership qualities lead to success in nearly everything she tackled," Martin said.

"You bet I support her," said Northeast Portland resident Liberty Lacy. "She wasn't there very long, but she won't be forgotten," Lacy said.

Rick Rickett, a Southwest Portland resident, praised Harrington for trying to remove a "bigoted mentality" from the Police Bureau.

"They came in like an attack force in the black community and she was telling them that they work for us," Rickett said. "She said she was going to work for the black community and that's why I'm here."

Overt Acts of Racism on the Increase in U.S.

by Jerry Garner

Last week a racism incident in Cleveland resulted in a Black man wounding 8 Whites after a mob had gathered outside his house. The White crowd was protesting the presence of a Black family in their community.

This Cleveland incident is just one example of the increasing number of racial incidents occurring nationwide. Other examples include:

- Last December in Portland a Black man was stabbed to death by a White man who wanted to break in a new knife with the blood of a nigger. The victim was accosted as he rode his bicycle along Union Avenue on his way home from work.

- In 1981 in Mobile, Alabama a Black teen-aged boy was killed by two Ku Klux Klansmen after they beat him with a tree limb, cut his throat three times, strangled him with a rope and left his body dangling from a tree. The murderers said they killed the victim because "he was Black, and to show the Klan's strength in Alabama."

- In Philadelphia of this year, more than 300 Whites marched around the home of an interracial couple. The night before, about 400 marched around the home of a Black family, shouting "we want you out."

- In Quincy, Massachusetts a Black girl at an elementary school was taunted by White kids after an employee was made up as "Aunt Jemima" and entertained elementary school students in the mostly White Boston suburb.

- In Portland, Oregon, two White police officers assigned to the training unit sold T-shirts which read, "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em" on the date of the funeral of a Black man who was strangled to death by White officers.

Historically, the United States has been a racist society. In the years since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, race relations have improved greatly. This is due to the government's active participation in programs designed to promote racial equality and the teaching of compassion toward others by parents to their children.

In spite of this, racism continues to be a major problem in the United States as we enter the 21st century. What is more shocking is the fact that the majority of Americans don't seem to care.

In fact, racist, White-supremacist organizations like the Aryan Nations Church, the Covenant, the Sword and Arm of the Lord, Neo-Nazi, the Posse Comitatus, the Christian Defense League, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Order have been active in a campaign of terror across the nation.

These hate groups all believe in a pseudo-Christian doctrine called "Identity." Members are anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-Jewish, and anti-Hispanic. Adherents of these groups believe Christ was not a Jew, but an ancestor of British, Germanic and Scandinavian peoples.

Usually, these extremists back their so-called Christian beliefs with violence. In December of last year in Seattle, 10 members of the neo-Nazi group the Order were convicted in the U.S. District Court on 20 counts of a 21-count indictment charging them with racketeering, conspiracy and a number of other federal crimes.

Last November at a Portland Motel,

the leader and founder of the Order, Robert Mathews, fired two shots at FBI agents, wounding one agent. Mathews and other Neo-Nazis had come to Portland to attend a general meeting in which members would discuss plans establishing a new headquarters near Mount Hood. Two weeks later, Mathews was killed during a 36-hour siege with 150 FBI agents on Whidbey Island, Washington on December 8, 1984.

Acts of overt racism are not just limited to anti-Semitic groups. Historically, government officials, the legal system, and the religious community have sanctioned or practiced racism. The same holds true today, examples include:

- An appointee by the Reagan Administration's to the copyright Tribunal co-authored a book in 1982 that stated American Blacks "insist on preserving their jungle freedoms, their women, their avoidance of personal responsibility and their abhorrence of the work ethic."

- Jerry Falwell, leader of an organization called Liberty Federation and former leader of the Moral Majority, once called South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, who is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, a "phony." Falwell travels throughout the world promoting the White South African government.

- Last December a federal judge in Birmingham, Alabama ordered former governor George C. Wallace to devise a plan to remove remnants of segregation from Alabama universities.

- In August of 1983, a White real estate broker tried to hire an undercover informant for \$1 million to murder Mayor Harold Washington.

- A Reagan appointee for a federal judge position was rejected by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The nominee was Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, III and was accused of being anti-Black. Sessions once referred to the NAACP as "un-American and Communist inspired."

Acts of overt racism are not limited to White, there are now Black racists such as Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr., Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Pendleton has repeatedly defended the Reagan Administration's assault on affirmative action and civil rights. Pendleton has labeled Black civil rights leaders as "immoral and racist."

Looking ahead, prospects for better race relations in this country are bleak. This country's relationship with South Africa has alienated Blacks. It is the preception of many Afro-Americans across the United States that President Reagan is a racist. Reagan's attack on affirmative action programs and lack of sensitivity to legitimate concerns of Blacks has reinforced this belief.

Also, there are many hate groups operating throughout the U.S. Shortly after the conviction of the 10 members of the Order, Morris Dees, founder of Klanwatch, a branch of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Birmingham, Alabama, said this, "I know there are many hard-core, neo-nazis around that this verdict won't do anything to stop them. The real hard-core leadership in the Klan has turned neo-Nazi. These people are still out there."

Harrington said her relations with the Black community alienated police members

by Jerry Garner

Former Portland Police Chief Penny E. Harrington said her relations with the Black community angered some members of the Police Bureau and the Police Union.

"I feel my relations with the Black community alienated some of the officers and the Police Union. I would say that half of the officers in the Bureau approved of my efforts to improve the Department image with the Black community, and the other half didn't," said Harrington.

Harrington made this statement during an interview from her West Linn home. She was asked if racism is a problem with the Portland Police Bureau? "Of course, racism

is present in the Bureau. Not only can racism be found in the Bureau, it can be found in most institutions in the United States."

When Harrington was asked how widespread racism is in the Bureau, she said, "there was no way to measure how widespread racism is in the Bureau," but she knows that it is there. I am aware of the presence of racism in the Bureau. Black officers used to report to me informing me about the racist jokes they overheard White officers telling."

Harrington said until the Bureau hires more minorities and officers, change their attitudes, relations between minorities and the police will

continue to be volatile."

"When I was in charge of personnel, we hired several minorities (especially Black officers). The Police Union was totally opposed to what we were trying to accomplish," said Harrington.

Harrington said the Union made accusations that they weren't following the rules. She also said the Union was against her minority recruitment push she was planning before she resigned.

Harrington was asked why the Union and some members of the Bureau were against the idea of recruiting more minorities? "I don't know. Maybe the Union thinks we are going to somehow cheat and

give minorities an advantage in getting hired. They (the Police Union) don't understand affirmative action."

The former Chief stated that she tried to change the attitude of police officers in an effort to improve relations with minorities. "It is really tough to change attitudes. Attitude is what gets the police in trouble with the public all the time. Attitude is what caused the T-shirt incident, attitude is what caused the oppoosum incident, and attitude is what the majority of citizens complain about."

Harrington said there are two ways to change attitudes. "One way is to change behavior and the other is to change the rules. There-

fore, I implemented some real strict rules on how officers treat people and the way they talk to people. I put a ban on being discourteous to the public. I told officers if you are disrespectful to people, if you are rude, and if you swear, you will be disciplined." She said, "If the police get in a habit of treating citizens courteously, their attitude would change also."

Harrington said another way to change the attitude of officers is to bring in more minorities. "If there were more minorities on the police force, the White officers would change their perception of minorities. Equally important, minority officers then would have a little

more moral support and speak out more when things are wrong. They won't be as isolated as they are now."

Harrington said as long as Stan Peters is President of the Police Union, relations with the Black community and the police will continue to be strained. "For example, he once called Ron Herndon, Co-chairman of the Black United Front, a vulture. When he makes statements that are perceived as racist, people say they don't want to work in the police bureau if this is the type of officers that are there. His statements give the bureau a

cont. on page 4