POLICE NEWS

Portland Police Officers Shot

2612 SE 111th Avenue

On Tuesday, January 27, 1998, at 11:54 AM, three Portland Police Officers were shot while contacting the resident of a house at 2612 SE 111th Avenue. One officer dies as the result of her injuries, a second officer is in critical condition, and a third officer was shot in the hand. The suspect was later placed into custody and is recovering from wounds at a local hospital.

Officer Colleen A. Waibel, 44 years of age, a 17 year member of the Portland Police Bureau, and a 6 year police officer died as the result of gunshot wounds suffered during the incident. Officer Waibel was assigned to East Precinct.

Officer Kim M. Keist, 39 years of age, a 15 year Portland Police officer and former St Helens Police officer is in critical condition at a local hospital. Officer Keist is assigned to the Drug and Vice Division.

Sergeant James Hudson, 42 years of age, a 20 year Portland Police officer, was treated and released for a gunshot wound to the hand. Sergeant Hudson is assigned to the Drug and Vice Division.

Officers from the Drug and Vice Division, along with uniform officers contacted the home of Steven Douglas Dons, white male, DOB. May 17, 1960. The officers were at the location as part of an ongoing investigation involving the house at 2612 SE 111th Avenue. While at the location, exigent circumstances directed officers to force entry into the house. Inside the location, Steven Dons fired several gunshot rounds at the three officers. Sergeant Hudson was able to return fire which allowed cover officers to remove the fallen officers. Once officers were outside the location, a perimeter was set up and the SERT Team called.

At 2:24 PM, SERT members placed Dons into custody. Dons had exited the front of the location, but refused to comply further to officers' directions and was shot with a less lethal round. An arrest team placed him into custody and he was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Dons is in police custody recovering from his injuries.

Portland's Marijuana Task Force (MTF), A Deadly Mistake

Officer Colleen Waibel has paid the ultimate price for adult marijuana prohibition, she gave her life. Folly becomes tragedy. But now it's time for others to pay as well.

By our reckoning that buck stops at Mayor Vera Katz, Police Chief Charles Moose and Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk. All 3 big supporters of the MTF's infamous 'knock and talk' policy which lead to last Tuesday's deadly shooting.

As we've been saying for years; scrap the MTF.

"This is outrageous conduct on behalf of our so-called leaders," said League director Floyd Landrath addressing a Wednesday night meeting of local activists and MTF victims. "How many more people will die in this futile `war' over a harmless, even beneficial, plant?

"Suspect Steven Dons may have pulled the trigger, but only after prohibitionists like Katz and Moose loaded the gun," Landrath said making an obvious reference to the Mayor's and Moose's blatant - albeit politically correct - attempt to hide behind "gun control."

Blaming the right to keep and bear arms for Waibel's death is morally and intellectually bankrupt. Like her crocodile-tears, the Mayor's words ring hollow and the Chief's grief, insincere.

There are unanswered questions about Tuesday's MTF fiasco. But in the end they are meaningless without a more basic examination of drug laws that simply do not work and make police work even more dangerous than it already is. So that Officer Waibel's tragic death may not be in vain, let us hope and pray it will become a catalyst for such an examination of adult marijuana/drug prohibition in the first place. Let those who are willfully blind be thrown up the scrap heap of history, again.

On Friday, January 30, at 10a.m. representatives of Portland NORML, Oregon Cannabis Tax Act and the League Held held a press conference at the Phantom Gallery, 3125 SE Belmont Street in Portland and at which time several past 'victims' of the MTF were also present. We are united with all who join with us in calling for the immediate dissolution of the Police Bureau's Marijuana Task Force.

Editors note: These are not the views of the Portland Observer Newspaper.

Statement By Mayor Vera Katz

Mayor Vera Katz released the following statement regarding the shooting of three Portland Police officers in Southeast Portland.

"This is a dark day for Portland."

"We have lost a friend, a colleague, a dedicated police officer. I know I speak for the entire City Council and each citizen of this city when I offer the families, colleagues, and friends of this officer my deepest sympathy and condolences."

"We are all saddened with the knowledge that she will never return to her husband and two sons, or see her parents who live nearby in Hillsboro.

To honor the memory of her life, and her long service to the citizens of this community, I have asked all flags to be lowered to half-staff until after the funeral service.

I will also postpone my annual State of the City Address, scheduled for Friday, January 30, 1998, in honor of her duty and sacrifice to the city."

"On behalf of the City family, I also want to extend my best wishes and sympathies to the other officers who were wounded -- one seriously, and one who suffered less severe injuries and stayed at the scene to help his coworkers."

"I would also like to personally thank all the other members of the bureau who, despite their feelings of loss, stuck to their posts and showed us the true meaning of duty and courage."

Portland Police Association

The Portland Police Association would like to express its outrage at the actions of the news media in recent critical incidents involving Portland Police officers.

Those actions have not only exposed police officers to needless danger, but have seriously invaded the privacy of police officers. It is time for the media to begin acting responsibly in the way it reports matters concerning the police.

Tuesday, as the SERT team was surrounding the perimeter of the house occupied by Steven Dons, who had just allegedly shot three police officers, helicopters from local television stations hovered overhead, sending live pictures of the scene to televisions throughout the Portland area.

All the suspect had to do to know where police officers were positioned would have been to have turned on the television.

The television stations rejected repeated requests from the Police Bureau to stop the transmissions, apparently believing that a boost in their ratings was more important than the lives of Portland's Police Officers.

We share Chief Moose's anger at the irresponsible behavior of the television stations. We believe that it is time that journalists understand that their actions can expose police officers to danger, and that they could well be the cause of a police officer's death.

Just as irresponsible were the actions of a reporter who apparently went through a phone book calling individuals with the same last name as one of the officers who had been shot.

This reporter eventually contacted a relative of one of the officers, who in turn called the spouse of the officer.

Until that moment, the spouse had not heard that the officer had been shot.

So, in the interests of five minutes of fame hopefully produced by some sort of instant reaction, the privacy of the officer's family was horribly invaded. T

he men and women of the Portland Police Association urge the media to do some serious soul-searching.

Even one additional paper sold or one additional rating point is not worth jeopardizing the lives of Portland's Police Officers nor is it worth invading the privacy of their homes.

We hope you will reevaluate the tactics used to gather news footage.

We know that you have a duty to keep the general public informed of local news events but we believe your viewers and the other citizens of Portland would be willing to wait for sound stories that do not jeopardize the safety of the community.

The men and women of the Portland Police Association also have a duty to protect this community and the media's behavior lately is jeopardizing our ability to perform this sworn duty.

Leo F. Painton
President
Portland Police Association

Senator Wyden's Public Statement

on the President's State of the Union address

"By focusing on Social Security reform, educational quality, and health care reform, the President zeroed in on the key issues I heard Oregonians talking about in my twelve Town Meetings this month."

Congressman Earl Blumenauer

on the President Clinton's State of the Union Address:

" I was especially heartened by the President's strong commitment to education, which couldn't come at a better time for Oregon public schools. With more teachers in the classroom, smaller classes, and help with the cost of school construction, Oregon schools will be in a much stronger position to guarantee quality public education for all our children. The President tonight helped pave the way, and my hope is that Congress can act quickly to bring these initiatives to life," Congressman Blumenauer said.

Helping the family is first priority for Springfield

Tom and Marcy Addis of Springfield feel that one of the nicest things about winning the $2.5 million jackpot in the Jan. 17, Megabucks drawing is being able to help others.

Helping their family is the first priority for Tom and Marcy, who claimed their prize at Lottery headquarters in Salem on Jan. 21.

"This is just wonderful," said Marcy. "it feels so good to know we'll be able to help the kids." The Addis's used the "Quick Pick" method to select their numbers, and matched all six numbers drawn to win the big prize.

The Addis's are the Oregon Lottery's first Megabucks jackpot winners for the new year, and the games 149th millionaires since the first Megabucks tickets went on sale Nov. 20, 1985. Counting shared jackpots, there have been 183 Megabucks jackpot winners.

Happy Birthday Jacquelyn N. Palmer
From all your family & friends Best Wishes

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Hon. Glenda A. Hatchett

Judge Glenda Hatchett, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Emory University School of Law, is Georgia's first African-American chief presiding judge of a state court, and the department head of one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country, which includes Atlanta and nine other municipalities. Prior to joining the bench on March 1, 1991, Judge Hatchett was a senior attorney and national and international spokesperson for Delta Air Lines.

She has been highlighted in Ebony Magazine as one of the 100 Best and Brightest Women in Corporate America, and is a past recipient of the Bronze Woman of the Year Award.

Recognized nationally as a authority on juvenile and social issues, Judge Hatchett is a frequent speaker and lecturer throughout the country. She has appeared on Nightline, Good Morning America , MacNeil/Lehrer, CNN and numerous other television and radio programs. She has testified before both houses of Congress, and has chaired the National Forum on Youth Violence for the US Department of Justice.