



Police News/Vancouver

Portland Police Want SERT Team to be Reinstated

Rank and file say Chief Kroeker's Suspension of SERT Team Was a Mistake

(AP)—Portland police officers want to reinstate the department's 28-member tactical team, saying they are in jeopardy without it.

Chief Mark Kroeker temporarily disbanded the Special Emergency Reaction Team last week for an inter-

nal investigation into allegations that the team inappropriately hazed its new members.

The Washington County sheriff's office and Oregon State Police will step in to handle emergencies in Portland, but leaders of the 950-member

Portland Police Association called the chief's move to suspend SERT officers a mistake.

They are concerned that Washington County and state police officers are not familiar with Portland buildings and that their response time to

an emergency will be too long.

"Our members feel it's a safety issue," said Officer Leo Painton, secretary-treasurer of the police union. "Our officers count on the SERT team. They work with and trust these officers. They're not going to have the same level of confidence in a team they're not familiar with."

Kroeker said the situation is not "ideal," but has full confidence in Washington County's 33-member Tactical Negotiation Team and the 30-member Oregon State Police Special Weapons and Tactical Team.

Lt. Rich Hildreth of Washington County's Tactical Negotiation Team said his officers would be able to respond to a Portland emergency without trouble.

Washington County would be called first, and state police SWAT would be a backup.

Last year, SERT responded to 55 calls — 32 high-risk search warrants, 13 hostage situations and 10 dignitary protection details.

Kroeker said the investigation could last six weeks. It stemmed from an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint filed

shortly after the team's only woman officer resigned from SERT in January. Investigators are reportedly investigating hazing allegations that may have included striptease acts. Portland police said they have known SERT officers to engage in so-called initiation rites to promote cohesiveness.

Those rites have reportedly ranged from having new members clean and carry equipment, sing songs and wear silly hats or women's clothing, to having officers' chests or arms tattooed with the team's mascot, a bat.

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This Week in History

April 4, 1968 civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn.
April 5, 1951 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet Union.
April 6, 1909 explorers Robert E.

Weather

Through the Weekend

Today Partly Cloudy
56° F High
43° F Low
Thursday Scattered Showers
58° F High
45° F Low

Friday Rain
54° F High
43° F Low
Saturday Showers
54° F High
42° F Low
Sunday Showers
57° F High
61° F Low

Thought for the Week

If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could be better changed in ourselves.
—Carl Jung

Peary and Matthew A. Henson became the first men to reach the North Pole. The claim, disputed by skeptics, was upheld in 1989 by the Navigation Foundation.

April 7, 1862 Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

April 8, 1973 artist Pablo Picasso died at his home near Mougins,

France, at age 91.

April 9, 1865 Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

April 10, 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey announced he had purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals.

Investigators Don't Know How Girl Died

The death of a 14-year-old runaway whose body was discovered last week is still a mystery after an autopsy failed to determine the cause of death.

The body of Whitney Greenes

was found on the patio of her mother's Vancouver apartment.

Greenes' head was bloody and bruised, but the autopsy found no skull fractures that could cause death.

Blood and tissue samples will be sent to the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory for toxicology tests.

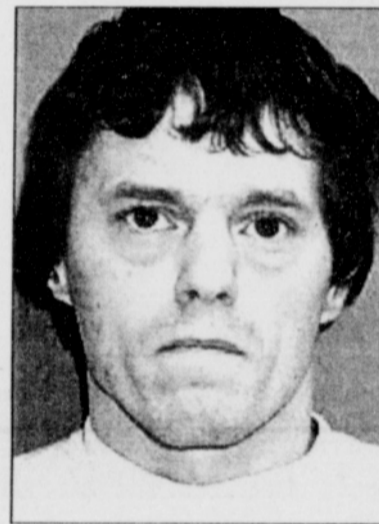
Those results should be known in six to eight weeks.

Youth Worker Charged With Sex Abuse

(AP)—James Earl Pepperling, a 39-year-old man who once worked with mentally and emotionally disabled children has been charged with sexually abusing and sodomizing a 2½-year-old boy, police said.

Pepperling is accused of molesting the son of family friends in their home between August and February, said Sgt. Scott Ryon of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Police believe there may be more victims.

In June, Pepperling was convicted of having sex with a 21-year-old mentally disabled Molalla woman. Under a plea bargain, he was sentenced to 90 days in jail and five years' proba-



James Earl Pepperling

tion after pleading guilty to second-degree sexual abuse. "He did what he had to do to have sex with her," said Bill Sawyer, Pepperling's Clackamas County probation officer.

"She couldn't make her own choices because of her disability." In 1995, Pepperling supervised troubled youths on the night shift at the St. Mary's Home for Boys in Beaverton. Since then, records show he has worked in the Clackamas Education Service District and at Gladstone High School, McLoughlin Middle School, Inza R. Wood Middle School, Lewelling Elementary School, Hallinan Elementary School and Ninety-One Elementary School.

Abortion Doctor's Suspected Killer Arrested

(AP)—BUFFALO, N.Y.—The man suspected of killing abortion doctor Barnett Slepian in a 1998 sniper attack has been arrested in France.

James Kopp, 46, was one of the FBI's most wanted fugitives.

The 52-year-old Slepian, just back from synagogue, was heating soup in his suburban Amherst home in October 1998 when he was gunned down with a single shot through a window.

Kopp, of St. Albans, Vt., became the subject of an international manhunt the following month.

Nicknamed the "Atomic Dog" in anti-abortion circles, Kopp had been

arrested in several states since 1990 for protesting abortion. His car was spotted in Slepian's neighborhood in the weeks before the shooting, and was found abandoned at Newark International Airport in December 1998, authorities said.

He was formally charged the following May in state and federal complaints with second-degree murder and with violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act by using deadly force against an abortion doctor.

Both charges carry a penalty of up to life in prison. The federal charge also carries a fine of up to \$250,000.

Investigators said at the time that the discovery of a scope-equipped rifle buried near the Slepian home a few months after the shooting represented a major breakthrough. Slepian was shot with a rifle.

Kopp also had been linked, through DNA testing, to a strand of hair found near where the sniper fired, law enforcement sources have said.

Marilyn Buckham, director of Buffalo GYN Womenservices, told WIVB-TV that the arrest will give some closure for the staff and Slepian's family, calling him "our doctor and our friend and our colleague."

How Long Does It Take You to Get to Work? To School?

What is Congestion Costing You? Would a New Bridge, New Lanes, More Transit Or Light Rail Help?

Come Let Us Know What You Think:

I-5 Options Open House & Workshop
April 11, 2001
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Red Lion Inn at the Quay
100 Columbia, Vancouver, WA

Portland / Vancouver I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership

Don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas on how to manage and improve congestion in the I-5 corridor between Portland and Vancouver. Options are being developed now! Make sure your ideas are on the list! Please join us, and tell us what you think!

For further information or translation services, please call 503-731-8565 or 360-905-2054, TDD: (800) 735-2900. Children are welcome.

Please visit our website at: www.I-5partnership.com for more information about this project.

Employer's Showcase Job Fair

Connecting your Career with your Community

2001

Jantzen Beach SuperCenter

Thursday, April 12th and Thursday June 21st
10am-3pm