

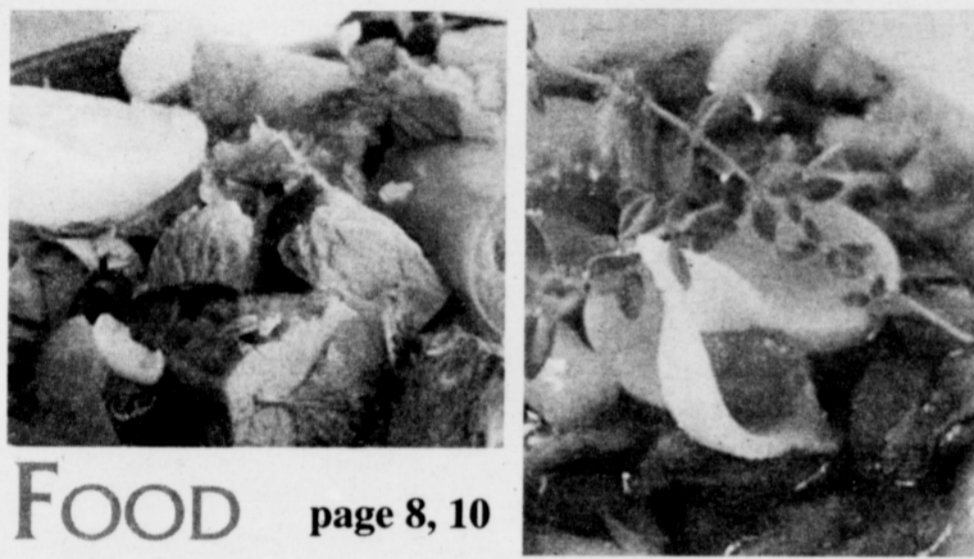
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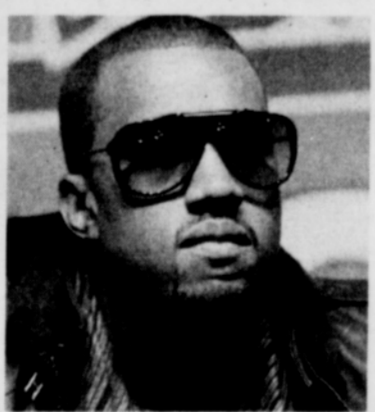
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# Fred Meyer

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## LOCAL NEWS



Assistant U.S. Attorney General Tom Perez (left), speaks as Portland Mayor Sam Adams (right) and Portland Police Chief Mike Reese listen during a news conference Thursday announcing the results of an investigation into the Portland Police Bureau. (AP photo)

# Police Use Excessive Force

### Agreement calls for reforms and oversight

The U.S. Justice Department on Thursday announced the results of an investigation into the Portland police department, saying officers use excessive force against mentally ill people — violations that include frequently discharging stun guns without justification.

The findings were the result of a federal civil rights investigation initiated last summer after a series of police shootings, many involving mentally ill suspects.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, a group of mostly African-American clergy, had wanted the probe to also include police actions related to racial profiling and discrimination, but said the results of the investigation will help make police officers accountable.

"This is a day for renewed hope and optimism for all of the people of Portland," said Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes, chair of the AMA coalition. "With the power and resources of the federal government behind us, our long community struggle to reform the Portland Police Bureau draws strength. We are no longer the only voices seeking justice for community members brutalized by Portland Police."

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Thomas Perez said the Department of Justice and the city have reached a preliminary agreement on reforms, such as increased training, expedited investigations and increased community oversight of the changes.

Perez said the DOJ found that encounters between the Portland

Police Bureau and "persons living with mental illness too frequently result in the unnecessary use of force or in a higher level of force than was necessary."

The federal agency opened its investigation in June 2011 to examine whether Portland police engaged in a "pattern or practice" of excessive force when dealing with the mentally ill.

Portland's mayor and police chief cooperated with the investigation, Perez said.

"It's disappointing to hear that the Department of Justice believes that you haven't got it right," said police Chief Mike Reese.

Federal officials have conducted similar reviews in other states. Se-

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