

Portland prepares for Bush, Kerry visits Friday

Police and protesters both plan to step up their presence for the events

AVIVA L. BRANDT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PORTLAND — The presidential campaign is a marathon for candidates, who crisscross the country for months, trolling for votes.

And providing security when Democrat John Kerry and President Bush both come to town on Friday isn't much different than handling the Portland Marathon, Portland Police Bureau spokesman Officer Greg Pashley said.

"We will be handling this like any big event in town where there will be crowds," Pashley said.

Pashley said the Police Bureau wasn't worried about being stretched too thin with both candidates in town on the same day. He expected all of the city's nearly 1,000 police officers to be available for duty.

"We just have to plan for all kinds of contingencies," Pashley said. "It depends what

they do all day. If they're at private functions, it's different concerns than if it's public rallies. It just depends on their itinerary."

Kerry's campaign announced Monday he would attend a morning rally at Portland's Waterfront Park. A Bush spokeswoman said Monday that Bush's itinerary would not be available until closer to Friday.

When Bush and Kerry were both in Davenport, Iowa, last week, robbers struck at three banks, apparently expecting police to be too short-handed to follow up. Police had two suspects in custody Monday.

Pashley said a similar crime spree could happen in Portland on Friday, but police would be ready for whatever happened.

"Anything's possible. They're blaming the bank robberies on the fact that the candidates were in town. I don't know if there's any correlation," he said.

As a swing state, Oregon has seen quite a bit of the candidates, and handling their visits is becoming old hat for Portland police, Pashley said.

"These guys come to town often enough, we're getting used to it," he said. "This is a city that has a lot of major functions anyway. We just have to dig in our heels."

Pashley said he could not estimate how much it would cost the city to provide security for the two candidates.

When Bush visited Portland last August, the city spent \$116,575 in police overtime costs, said Scott Farris, spokesman for Mayor Vera Katz. The preliminary estimate on Kerry's fund-raising visit in May was \$60,000, he said.

The city has a policy of billing campaigns for fund-raising visits. The Bush/Cheney campaign "politely declined" to pay the bill after August 2003 visit, and the city can't legally pursue it, Farris said.

"Some people thought we were flaky when we started this in 2002, but it's becoming a national concern," Farris said. "Lincoln, Nebraska, sent bill to the Republican National Committee for a visit from Cheney. This is an issue that's getting a lot more attention from cities that are strapped for cash."

Meanwhile, activists are starting to make plans for protests against both Bush and Kerry.

The alternative media Web site www.portland.indymedia.org, a clearinghouse for such information, said plans were still coming together.

The Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, which often organizes protests and rallies, also was still in the planning stages, said volunteer Will Seaman.

The group plans a rally, "but not a protest," at the Kerry event to emphasize its message on the peace movement, Seaman said.

A protest is in the works for the Bush event, but until the Bush campaign releases its itinerary, nothing is definite, he said.

Bush's last visit to Portland in August 2003 drew 3,500 mostly peaceful protesters. But a visit a year earlier resulted in police using tear gas and non-lethal bullets to disperse demonstrators.

Relatively few protesters turned out for Kerry's last visit to Portland in May.

Aviva L. Brandt is a writer for the Associated Press.

NEWS BRIEF

Man faces charges in hit-and-run incident

Twenty-one-year-old Jermaine Nelson was arrested Sunday and charged with three counts of first-degree attempted assault, DUII and felony hit-and-run after an early morning incident at Club Tsunami.

According to a Eugene Police Department press release, at 2:04 a.m.,

Eugene police officers responded to reports of a dispute at the club, located at 2222 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd..

According to witnesses, a fight broke out on the club's dance floor and several people were injured. Bouncers escorted the involved parties outside the club, where the fight broke out again.

Nelson and several others allegedly jumped into a gray 1993 Buick four-door vehicle and attempted to

flee the parking lot, hitting several people and two parked vehicles.

Three people were transported by ambulance, and one by a friend, to

Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Nelson was discovered with his car at 7:15 a.m. parked on the north-bound shoulder of Interstate 5.

According to the release, Nelson was on his way to his home in the Portland area when he ran out of gas.

— Ben Brown

FUTURE

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feet; the existing complex will see some 18,000 square feet of renovations.

Zavala said allotting money for capital repairs construction is very important.

"The budget will maintain and improve existing facilities in great need of repair," she said. "If we don't address these needs, some buildings may not be useable in the future."

Zavala said that although the University isn't facing particularly grave construction concerns, Oregon State University does have buildings in dire need of repair.

Acting OUS chancellor George Pernsteiner said in a press release Oregon university campuses need \$40 million a year in capital repair funds just to stay even. Without this money, the deferred maintenance will continue to back up and buildings will

become run down.

Ramey said Frohnmayer made the decision on construction needs, prioritizing projects by which have the greatest need and are most beneficial to students, also taking into account private fund raising. All five projects were partially funded by gifts or grants.

Zavala said the board used specific criteria when deciding which projects to include in the capital construction budget. The board looked at whether the project were addressed in the University Master Plan, demonstrate need, support the board's priorities, provide cost savings and are University priorities.

Ramey said the Board will submit its request for funding to Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Kulongoski and his staff will review and possibly revise the budget and present the budget to the legislature.

Ramey said the earliest that construction would start is summer 2006.

omiedrauhorn@dailyemerald.com

LLC

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East 15th Avenue in response to the Living Learning Center, the University is continuing with the expansion.

"We decided even if it's not required we are increasing parking anyway," Tepfer said. "We've been looking at 15th Street for the Living Learning Center for a while."

While parking is being redesigned with the center in mind, Tepfer said no new parking lots were being built to accommodate it.

"We don't provide parking on a building-by-building basis," Tepfer said. "We do it by demand."

Eyster said when the center is complete, it will allow the University to decrease density in other residence halls by renting more rooms as singles. Also, the University will not use the center to drive enrollment, Eyster said.

"There will be more students living on campus, not coming to campus," Eyster said. "Three-hundred and eighty-five more students living on campus translates to fewer cars."

The University issues between 6,500 and 7,000 parking permits a year for its 3,300 spaces. Stamm said the discrepancy between permits and spaces

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— Mike Eyster
University Housing Director

is because of variations in student schedules. Some only come to campus during half of the week, others only in the mornings, for example.

Eyster said DPS plans to limit the number of overnight permits issued to restrict the number of cars residence hall student bring to campus.

Stamm said the Living Learning Center will not substantively add to the University's parking problems.

"The University has long emphasized that if you live on campus, you don't need a car," said Stamm.

The plan is for parking on East 15th Avenue to re-open Sept. 15, before students begin arriving for classes, Stamm said.

benbrown@dailyemerald.com

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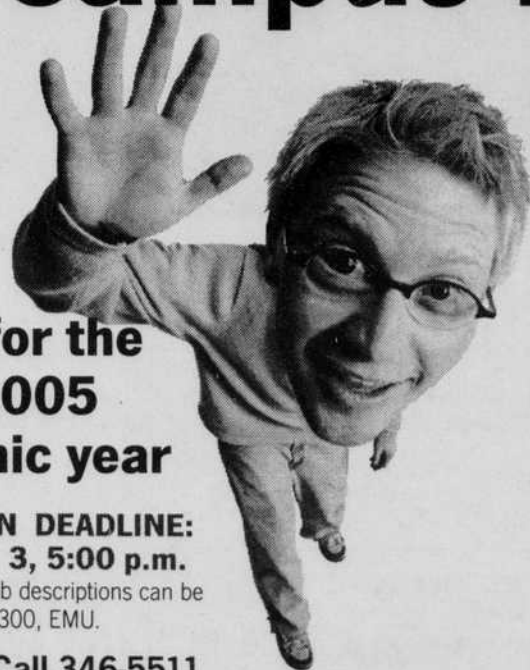
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