

National College of Natural Medicine buys adjacent block with plans to expand

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

After several months of negotiations the National College of Natural Medicine has purchased the former Seeman's property on Southwest Corbett Avenue at Water Street.

According to spokesperson Marilyn Considine, the square block property will house two clinics, one dispensing naturopathic remedies and the other offering Chinese medicine, that are currently housed in Old Town and the Northwest District, respectively.

"It will be much more convenient for our students and faculty to have these facilities across the street from our main campus," (at 049 SW Porter St) Considine told *The Post*. The clinics should move to the new location by

early next summer, she said. The college eventually hopes to add a natural healing spa, cafeteria and meeting space to the building, she said.

It is the first step in college president David Schleich's ambitious plans to expand the school. In a discussion with the South Portland Neighborhood Association earlier this year he said he wanted to "more than double" the school's current enrollment of 500 students, and to work cooperatively with Oregon Health and Sciences University and Portland State University in both development and programs.

Associate vice-president Susan Yirku noted in a brief discussion with South Portland last month that the college already is “comparable in (enrollment) size” to OHSU. *[Editor’s Note: According to OHSU’s report to the Oregon Legislature, OHSU’s enrollment*

headcount as of fall 2008 totaled 2455, including the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, and science & engineering.]

Yirku said that the expanded campus will “change the dynamic of the neighborhood.” She said that the college wished to work with the neighborhood on common issues. Referring to the community’s 30-year effort to alter Southwest Naito Parkway and the approaches to the Ross Island Bridge through the South Portland Circulation Study she said, “Maybe your voice isn’t loud enough.”

South Portland land use chair Jim Davis supported a collaborative approach to new development. The three colleges' expansion plans amounted to "big-time growth," he said. "We can't have three ad hoc efforts working independently of each other."

TriMet changes plans for #35 bus line

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

In October, TriMet representative Tom Mills told the South Portland Neighborhood Association of tentative plans to change the #35 bus line from Southwest Macadam Avenue to Southwest Moody and Bond avenues for part of the route to give more direct service to new condominiums in the South Waterfront.

Last month he said that those plans had been modified; the line will proceed southbound on Moody, but not northbound on Bond, at this time, due to deficiencies in the current road system that would force the bus to make out of direction travel.

South Portland has raised concerns about the change, saying that it would

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