

Students ask Lewis & Clark College to remove coal from investments

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

Lewis & Clark College is known for its robust environmental studies program for undergraduates and respected environmental law program for graduate students.

Students involved in the Divest Coal Campaign at Lewis & Clark say there's at least one more thing their school could do to improve its status as an eco-friendly school: Remove coal from its endowment investment holdings.

Last month, the group delivered to College president Barry Glassner about 800 signatures from undergraduate students who support their cause.

That's a good chunk of the 2,141 undergraduate students that U.S. News & World Report's 2013 edition of Best Colleges said are enrolled at the 137-acre campus at 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road.

"We need to invest more in clean energy or the planet is going to spiral down," said Lewis & Clark senior Fiona Murray, who signed a petition during the campaign's field day exhibit on Oct. 4 in front of Templeton Student Center.

Last month, Michelle Kim and other Divest Coal Campaign leaders at the College invited Glassner to sit down with them to discuss the matter, and

he said he could meet with them in late November. The students asked to meet with him sooner.

"We don't want to be put on the back-burner," Kim said.

Glassner forwarded campaign leaders to Anna Gonzalez, the dean of students, who was scheduled to meet with the Divest Coal Campaign students late last month.

"We're proud of the rigorous environmental programs we offer here at Lewis & Clark," said Tom Krattenmaker, associate vice president of Public Affairs and Communications at the College. "Beyond that, we have no comment."

Kim said the College needs to stand up against the dirty coal industry, citing a Physicians for Social Responsibility report in 2009. The report links coal to four out of five of the leading causes of death in the nation: heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

The industry impacts health because coal combustion releases hazardous substances including mercury, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide, says the report.

More than 386,000 tons of 84 hazardous air pollutants are emitted from the nation's more than 400 coal plants, according to an American Lung Association report in March 2011.

Kim said it is contradictory for a college that aims to educate its students on environmental issues to invest in coal.

She said no other Oregon college has a coal divestiture campaign, although Reed College students recently evinced interest in launching a campaign after hearing about Lewis & Clark's efforts.

Lewis & Clark's campaign is part of a national effort involving about 40 campuses. The Divest Coal Campaign has its roots in the Energy Action Coalition, founded in 2005. It is a coalition of 50 youth-led environmental and social justice groups working for clean energy and against climate change through collaborative campaigns, according to the group's website.

Its coalition partners include As You Sow, a group in which Kim is involved. Her involvement in As You Sow, a group that promotes corporate respon-



Michelle Kim, one of the organizers of the Divest Coal Campaign participates in a field day exhibit in front of Templeton Student Center at Lewis & Clark College, Oct. 4. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

sibility, is what helped ignite the Divest Coal Campaign at Lewis & Clark.

Kim said she wishes to further not only the College's campaign but also the nationwide movement. One campaign, at Hampshire College, as of late October had gotten its administration to nix coal from its endowment. Kim said if Lewis & Clark succeeds it would boost the private liberal arts college's reputation.

"It would be a big win for us and a big loss for coal," she said. For more information, go to www.wearepowershift.org/campaigns/divestcoal.



During a public safety presentation Oct. 10, Portland Police Officer Scott Foster told Maplewood neighbors that he had received complaints about coyotes in Southwest. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

Maplewood Notebook

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The church will be collecting items not eligible for curbside recycling: rigid plastic, batteries, block Styrofoam, corks, printer cartridges, light bulbs and small appliances. For more information, visit www.community-recycling.org.

Triangle Weeding and Planting: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 3 and 11, volunteers are invited to help pull weeds and plant native vegetation at the Triangle, about 100 square feet of land at Southwest 55th Avenue and Nevada Court. Tools will be provided. Gaddis recommended bringing gloves, sturdy shoes and rain gear.

The Maplewood Neighborhood Association meeting is now being held on the second Wednesday of the month at a new location, the Maplewood Elementary School library, 7452 SW 52nd Ave. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 14 at 6:45 p.m. For more information on MNA activities and events, email maplewood@gmail.com.

Multnomah Blvd Sidewalks

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25th Avenue there will be a pedestrian crossing with a flashing yellow beacon. There will be a final public meeting on the project in April, Ross said.

Project Manager Rich Newlands of the Bureau of Transportation confirmed this information. The project will cost approximately \$4 million, and is currently the subject of negotiations with the Bureau of Environmental Services as to "who will pay for what."

This may change some features of the project but not its certainty, Newlands assured The Post. PBOT expects to go out for bid on the project and will begin construction in "early spring," he said.

Editor's Note: This will be the third construction project in as many years along this beleaguered stretch of road. But neighbors are excited about the prospect of being able to use the new Multnomah Boulevard sidewalks to walk from Multnomah Village to the new Safeway store under construction at Barbur Boulevard and Capitol Hill Road.

— Don Snedecor




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Coming in the December Edition...



What do Hollywood femme fatale Mayo Methot and Nu Café waitress Vivian Robinson have in common? Find out next month as The Post follows paranormal investigator Clyde Lewis and his Ground Zero crew on a ghost hunt in Multnomah Village.

