

Seven vie for position on MHCC board

There will be a choice for voters in the race for the Zone 7 at-large position on the Mt. Hood Community College board, where seven hopefuls have crowded the field.

Rick Gustafson, who currently holds the post, is not seeking re-election.

000



Tom Dennehy

Tom Dennehy

Tom Dennehy, candidate for Position 7 on the Mt. Hood Community College District board, said he is worried about a taxpayer revolt.

"I have grave doubts about

the current wisdom at the college and I fear a revolt in the next couple of years," Dennehy said.

"For too long the voters have been victims of a shell game involving millage rates, assessed valuations and so on. What the taxpayer really cares about is the number of bucks he has to pay each year to support the college."

"But with the increases year after year, there will come a time when the people say, 'Wait a minute.' That could be damaging."

Dennehy, a math teacher at Reed College since 1962, is currently on leave from that position. He was a leader in the successful referendum drive that blocked the county attempt to double the commissioners' pensions; he helped pass the 1965 Rockwood Water District bond issue that "brought water pressure back up to par;" and he has been active in the county charter amendment controversy as co-chairman of the County Reform Committee, a group supporting the original amendments.

Dennehy said his campaign is centering on two key points—more board involvement in the budget process and truth in taxation. "I did have three planks but then the board agreed a new tax base is necessary (MHCC will seek approval of

a new base May 23)," he added.

"I think the board should take a more active, public role in the budget process. The board received the budget Feb. 8 and then met on it twice in board sessions for short periods of time. I just don't know how much they knew about it before they approved the \$2.5 million March 14 levy election."

"The board should be looking at and questioning every penny. It sounds trite but I'm not convinced the board is doing this. Over the entire budget, you can save the taxpayer a lot of money this way."

He said his experience in private education, where "budget constraints are real," would help him as a board member. "I'd like to see the college live within the 6 percent limitation. Take last year's operating levy, add 6 percent and say, 'Dr. Nicholson (college president), here's your money, how are you going to spend it?'"

Dennehy also said taxpayers just don't understand the tax rates and assessed valuations and aren't willing to take the time to learn. So, he said, it is up to the district to inform the residents. He said it is up to the board to explain the consequences of a yes and a no vote.

"What the board has to do is strike a balance between its constituencies. A community college exists for the benefit of the student, let there be no mistake about that. And I do not think the student should bear the increased economic burden in terms of large tuition increases."

"However, the college is a voluntary contribution of the taxpayers. The residents' situation must be fully understood and reflected in board action."

Clayton Hannon

Clayton Hannon, who has served on the Lynch, Gresham High School and Centennial School District boards, said his 11 years experience will be beneficial on the Mt. Hood board.

Hannon said he is particularly interested in

broadening communications between the college and district patrons. "If I were to select my strongest point, it would be communicating with the patrons."



Clayton Hannon

"Nowdays, it isn't good enough to be good. In recent years, Mt. Hood has not communicated with the public as it did in the earlier years. Mt. Hood needs to develop a better line of communication with its patrons. And this has to be done all the time, not just at election time."

Hannon said taxpayers are feeling impotent in view of bigger and less personal government and that one of the last bastions of local control is in school district levy elections.

"People today have only one source where they can vent their wrath at government and the local school district catches the brunt of the attack."

"One of my primary concerns is to start at the community level."

The candidate said college President Stephen Nicholson is heading in the right direction by meeting with administrators of the various high school districts and informing them of the programs and facilities available at MHCC.

"The local school district is closer to the people than the Mt. Hood board. That's where I think the lines could be developed," he said.

Hannon said Mt. Hood's

levy failures at the polls in recent years also can be traced to communication problems between the college and district patrons.

"Like anything else, when things are going good you can get complacent. I don't know how good a job the college has done on informing the public. As much as they've worked at it, I don't know how well they've gotten their message across."

Hannon said he also supports shared use of facilities at the college with other local school districts. "I would like to see a review of combined use of facilities at Mt. Hood."

"Are there programs and facilities at Mt. Hood that various high school districts can use? This could preclude the need for additional construction at the local district level."

Hannon acknowledged that shared use of facilities could be a controversial issue because local school district patrons might feel there is a loss of identity.

But he said the issue needs to be studied. "This could be a political football because of the identity of the local district. But it would seem to me that it would be smart for the local district as well as Mt. Hood to consider joint use of facilities."

"If through combined use you can save some money and equipment, I think it would be a good move. School business now is big business. As long as we are tapping the same sources for funding, some of our local identity pride has to be suspended."



Larry Frost

Larry Frost

Larry Frost, a Boring resident, also is a candidate for the post. He has served for six years as a commissioner for the Unified Sewerage District and four years as chairman of Fire District 1, both in Washington County.

Frost said the college is suffering from an image problem, and that this has hurt in levy elections.

"I don't think the community really understands what the college is. I would reaffirm that it is a community facility—an educational, recreational enrichment center. The way it is now, people feel it's only for the students."

Frost said there is an additional problem because patrons identify athletic activities with the college, and this may be hurting the school's image.

"Right now what most people see at the college is the athletic facilities," he said. "It's a pretty imposing physical plant. I would be supportive of re-evaluating the entire athletic program."

Frost emphasized that he is not talking about phasing out athletic programs, but working to involve the community in activities the college offers.

Frost also said he would work to involve Clackamas and Hood River residents in the college's programs. "It's pretty much identified as an East Multnomah County college. Hood River and Clackamas Counties don't really identify with it. I would actively seek their input."

Frost said the college once had the support of the district and now must reorganize to regain that support. "They had it. I'm not sure of what tore it down, but we need to work to get it back."

Bob Davis

Bob Davis also is in the race for the at-large seat. He



Bob Davis

currently holds Position 5 on the board, having been elected in 1971 and re-elected in 1975.

Davis is past president of the Oregon Community College Association and currently is Oregon Legislative Representative for the Association of Community College Trustees.

After retiring from the Air Force, he was a political science instructor at Portland Community College and a graduate student at Portland State University.

Davis said he believes his seven years on the MHCC board will "provide continuity in the board's deliberations."

Dave Bunnell

Mt. Hood Community College's greatest need is communication, not innovation, according to Dave Bunnell, candidate for Position 7 on the college board.

Bunnell, a realtor, served two years on the Lynch School District board, is a member of the Rockwood Water District board and is active in the Foundation for Oregon Research in Education. He has participated in several studies of community colleges on the national and local levels.

He said the college has a qualified staff that is capable of innovation; it should be the board's role to communicate with the people it serves. As a board member, he would listen to what people are saying and really hear what they say, he explained.

Bunnell said his number one goal, if elected, is to develop a better, stronger communication and relationship between the college and the people it serves.

He said that communication is not nearly as good now as it was five or ten years ago when the college was being built.

"People felt they had a growing role in a growing institution," he said, adding that feelings of involvement have diminished.

Another of Bunnell's goals is to work with other board members in guiding the college in planning for future years "to meet the real educational need of our community."



David Bunnell

Education has become a life-long process and community colleges have an extremely important role, Bunnell says, to make available to the community the type of educational needs the community wants.

He said if enough people want a course and are willing to pay the tuition, then it should be made available. Learning isn't limited to arithmetic or geography; learning to pot flowers may be just as important to someone, he said.

Issues Bunnell sees coming before the board soon are the

question of no-growth in facilities, and, if the 1979 Legislature restricts enrollment support, the difficult task of devising a method of limiting enrollment and still maintaining the state requirements of open-door enrollment.

Bunnell said he feels he has a strong background and knowledge of community colleges and has taken time to prepare himself by serving on local school boards and community college study committees.

"I bring an area of expertise to the board that is currently not available (on the board)," he said.

He said that Mt. Hood has suffered six defeats out of seven levy attempts. While part of that is due to a general revolt against property taxes, it is also because the college has lost some of its credibility and ability to communicate with patrons, he said.



Sam Booth

Sam Booth

Sam Booth says he doesn't have any axes to grind in his campaign for Position 7 on the Mt. Hood Community College District board.

"But I have no political ambition, I'm retired and have the time, and I am willing to serve the district as it should be served. That's why I'm running."

The former David Douglas School District board member has a long history of educational contact, a connection that has spread through his family. His wife is a Portland schoolteacher and one daughter teaches in the Reynolds School District.

"I'm education oriented," he said. Included in his David Douglas activities over the years has been stints on the budget and the building committees.

"I helped organize Mt. Hood and I've always supported it," he continued. "I believe in career education—something for everyone."

"There should be more than just Stanford University. I sent two of my kids there and it was nice for them. But not everyone can. That's where Mt. Hood comes into it."

The retired Army engineer said the college has done well in many areas. He said some programs, tried on an experimental basis, have been unsuccessful but he did not name any specific areas.

"However, I don't like the attitude that is around about Mt. Hood being the country club of community colleges. To be the top is fine but not to be the 'country club.' I've heard this and it's something you have to watch out for."

He said the college could use tighter fiscal management to ease its economic situation.

Booth said a community college brings a great deal of money and input to an area and business and educational institutions should be cooperative and not antagonistic toward each other.

"But by the same token, it kind of disturbs me when I see business or political people use the board to advance their businesses or political careers. There should be no connection."

"These people should be serving the college and not advancing their business," he said.

Booth praised the nursing and adult education programs. "Mt. Hood is as much a night college as it is a daytime college. You can drive by almost any evening and tell that. And that's wonderful. I'd sure keep that."

Gladys Brooks

Gladys Brooks is basing her candidacy for Position 7

on the Mt. Hood Community College board on being "a new face with no private interests to promote."

Brooks, a 30-year resident of the district, also has been an occasional student at Mt.



Gladys Brooks

Hood during the past 10 years. She worked 17 years in group health insurance, 13 of those as a group claims manager.

"If you want someone who can combine a business view with a deep concern for community values, I'm the person for the job," she said.

"I am a new politician and I really have no idea about the college's financial situation. But no new member of a board has much to offer—you have to learn your job. And when I learn something, I learn it well."

Brooks said that if elected, she intends to become fully informed. "I will have all of May and June to study. I'm a very good student and I'll be a good board member."

Brooks said she has been out walking in the district and gathering input from district residents.

"I've heard a lot and I would take that to the board. I hope to bring part of the community to the board room. My opinion should reflect the opinion of the community. Most say they are in favor of the vocational end of the college. And they seem happy with the academic end and do not want any more expansion."

She said she is not out to create havoc but said the board needs new people and new input.

Brooks also has been an office manager for a gubernatorial campaign and a U.S. Senate race.

Garden questions answered by phone

The garden answer phone system available from the OSU Extension Service will be in operation April 10, according to Ray McNeilan, urban and home horticulture extension agent.

This gardening service has operated during the past several years and is a library of recorded answers to common gardening and food preservation questions.

This service helps the gardener find answers to his lawn, vegetable and fruit garden problems quickly and efficiently, said McNeilan. Each topic is covered with two to three minutes of information.

The recorded messages are prepared by extension specialists, Oregon State University research personnel and other subject matter experts.

"Valuable gardening and canning information is available through this system to anyone who can operate a telephone," he added. "A caller may request a recording as many times as necessary."

The topics are listed in a brochure by number. The caller selects a topic number from the brochure, calls the dial-an-answer number and asks for the topic by number. Brochures can be obtained from garden stores or by writing to "Dial-An-Answer," P.O. Box 1261, Portland, 97207.

The dial-an-answer system will be available to callers 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, until the end of September.

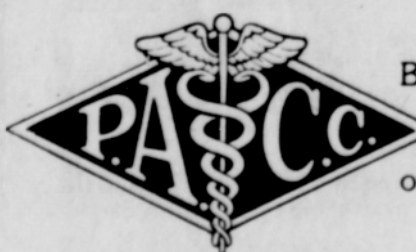
PRIZE DRAWINGS

FREE
Pool Cues, Dilly Bars
& More during our big...
1st YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, April 8
QUARTER MASTER

38805 Pructor, Sandy 658-4338

LIFE BEGINS AT 40

(years ago.)



Back in 1938, a group of Clackamas County community leaders and physicians became very concerned about the costly and severely limited health insurance available in our area.

So by working closely with the people who live and work here, they developed a program, and the Physicians Association of Clackamas County was born.

That was forty years ago. Today, PACC provides in excess of \$7 million in health care to more than 24,000 members. And what began as just one plan covering basic office and hospital care has expanded to include paid-in-full



benefits tailored to meet everyone's individual needs... needs defined through direct consumer input from you and your neighbors.

PACC has come a long way in forty years, but we've still got a long way to go. As your needs continue to change, we'll keep right on changing, too. For complete information about how your

Physicians Association of Clackamas

County can take care of all your health insurance needs, call us today.



Prepaid Health Care

PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

18600 S.E. McLoughlin, P.O. Box 286, Gladstone, OR 97027, Phone 659-4212