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Williams joins PCC

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Dr. Williams has most recently been vice president of Morrow Development Corporation in Stockton, California. He has also held dean positions at Guyamaca College in El Cajon, at San Diego Community College and at Riverside City College in California.

Dr. Williams will have responsibility for the collegewide services in program and curriculum development, instructional materials and library support, developmental education and college computer services.

Dr. Williams holds a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of California, Berkeley; a master's degree in South Asian studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

He has taught anthropology at Mills college in Oakland and at Laney Community College in Oakland, as well as serving as a research assistant at Berkeley.

Dr. Williams was selected from 180 candidates for the position. "We are most fortunate to find someone with Dr. Williams' background and experience," said Dr. John H. Anthony, president of PCC. "His combination of business and educational expertise will help us continue the tradition of offering high quality, efficient educational services to the communities we serve."

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'We are the best!'

By Nyewusi Asakri

"Line up!" "Parade rest!" "Attention!" are the sounds that dominate a section of Peninsula Park each Thursday evening at 6 o'clock. It is the signal that Portland Stars & Stripes Drill Team is ready to begin practice.

In less than five months, the Drill Team has built a reputation of excellence, built upon dedication, enthusiasm, discipline, purpose and direction. According to Portlanders who have seen them in action, they are "the best drill team in the State." But according to Drill Team members, "The best is yet to come!"

During the recent Junior Rose Festival Parade, Portland Stars & Stripes was voted the best drill team participating. With this honor came a 1st place trophy. It's ironic that his honorable distinction was ignored by the local media. Winning first place honors was no small feat considering the level of competition. Even so, media negligence didn't dampen the spirit of team members according to Sherrena Torrence, 16, President and Line Captain of Stars & Stripes. "When we won the plaque in the Junior Rose Parade, we felt like it was all worth it; all the time we spent practicing. I was also very happy."

In celebration, the team rode through the community, honking car horns, shouting their excitement and happiness. Later that same night, a party, honoring their victory was held at the home of Mattie Spears.

Mattie Spears, a member of the Board of Directors, believes the Drill Team offers each girl involved, the opportunity to excel. "This is not merely a drill team, but a training unit and proving ground. The girls are learning discipline, public carriage, response, attitude, development - self awareness in many cases because of certain elements in their family background which has prevented self expression. The drill team is working not only with outward responses but inner responses as well."

"We, the members of the Board of Directors and Mr. Richardson (Founder and Director), will also monitor behavior and scholastic achievement in each school. We are planning a scholarship fund. This is just another way for us to say, "Hey, you are somebody," she explained.

Faye Bruch, another Board member, shares similar sentiments: "I see the drill team as something to keep the girls active and involved. They do things as sisters. We work together very well and it's bringing out the best qualities in these young ladies. We require good grooming, self discipline and we also check to see how our girls are doing in school to see if they can maintain their position on the team."

"I became involved because of my daughter Michelle's interest in the drill team."

Practice begins.

"Move sharp and snappy! No gum chewing! Do not look behind you; everything you need to see is right in front of you. Stand up like a beautiful young lady...let your beauty shine! Show the new people how it's done...get down! Back it up. Three across. Get those lines straight. Aw, you're looking goood!"

A team leader, 15 years of age takes command. "Stars and Stripes." A response from the team, "Say what?" "Stars and Stripes!" "Say what!" "Let me see you stomp." And stomp they do; stomping with rhythm, character, personality, confidence and the belief that they are the best. For almost an hour, the team is in constant motion, until finally it's time to listen to director/founder James Richardson.

"On August 7th, which is on a Friday, we will participate in a parade in Seattle. We will leave at 12 noon that same day. Now, to rent the bus, is going to cost us \$632. Then we have to worry about a place to stay, and as you all know, we need to eat. Starting next month, each member will be required to pay \$5 membership and believe me, \$5 is not much for something that is yours. In order for us to become self-sufficient and participate in the various parades, stage shows etc., we are going to have to get out in the community and raise the money ourselves."

Finally there is a for real break, and some of the girls are ready to express their feelings about the team.

Micole Johnson, age 15 (Vice president, Line captain, elimination winner) "When we won the Junior Rose Festival Award, I felt we were on top of the world. Also I was very happy about the whole thing."

Sherrena Torrence - "I feel that all the teenage girls should at least come and see what we are about. We need more girls to get involved in what we are doing. Not just to come and practice, but to see the young people together."

Pam McWilliams, age 16, Senior at Jefferson: "I got involved because I thought it would be fun. My friends told me about it. I think it will grow if we can get more community support."

Donna Caples, age 13, 9th grade, Marshall: "I became involved because I saw the team in the Rose Festival parade. I was impressed with the way they danced."

Felicia Shelton, age 13, 9th grade, Grant: "My friends encouraged me to join, and I love every moment of it."

Presently, the team is preparing to perform in Seattle, August 7, 1981, but is under tremendous financial strain. "We need the community support; like coming out to functions that we perform in and also we need financial support in the forms of contributions and benefits. The girls need to know that the community is behind them," explained Faye.

The Portland Stars & Stripes will succeed because as they all say, "We are the best."

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