

## Support for PCC levy

Three Portland-area businessmen announced their support today for the upcoming \$3.5 million PCC levy, set for a vote Tuesday, August 13.

Earl Wantland, President of Tektronix; Neil Kelly, Chairman of the Board of Neil Kelly Designers and Remodelers; and Vern Ryles, President of Poppers Supply Company, outlined reasons for favoring the levy at a news conference held at the Portland Private Industry Council.

"To keep pace with new growth in our industry, a trained workforce is essential," said Earl Wantland. "People cannot get jobs without property training. That's why PCC's ongoing job training programs are so valuable

— to the community, to the general public, to economic development," Wantland said.

Neil Kelly explained that PCC will be forced to make immediate cuts in educational and community service programs if the levy fails. These include:

- part-time evening courses;
- basic educational services to outlying communities;
- essential equipment for several courses, such as microcomputers, tools for mechanics, x-ray film for dental hygienists;
- student counseling and job placement.

—PCC may be forced to defer

several minor maintenance projects to cut operating costs. Repairs not made may cost more in the future if left unattended.

Vern Ryles outlined details of the levy itself. "PCC operates at the lowest cost per student of any college in Oregon. Even with passage of this levy, PCC will have the lowest tax rate in the state," Ryles said.

"Passage of the serial levy will add 14 cents per thousand dollars in assessed property value for a total of 71 cents (that's \$8.40 per month on a \$60,000 home). This assessment would be levied for three years only and could not be increased without a vote of the people," Ryles said.

Ida Tyler of Alamogordo, New Mexico, winner of a \$25,000 scholarship in the Coca-Cola USA Black History Month Scholarship Sweepstakes, displays the \$100,000 Sweepstakes check presented by Chuck Morrison, Director, Black Consumer Markets, Coca-Cola USA, to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Ms. Tyler is joined by (l-r) Eugene McCullers, Manager, Community Affairs, Coca-Cola USA; Morrison, Dr. Oswald Bonrson, and Carlos James, Manager, Black Consumer Markets, Coca-Cola USA.

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## Roseburg D.A. speaks out on Guatemala

by Robert Lothian

Being a district attorney from Southern Oregon and a vocal critic of right wing dictatorships would seem an unlikely combination.

But not for William Lasswell, Douglas County District Attorney from Roseburg. Lasswell has visited Guatemala seven times, he has many friends there, and he has spoken out repeatedly for the rights of Guatemalan refugees.

They are fugitives, he says, from one of the most bloodthirsty governments in the world.

Lasswell spoke at a noon forum on Guatemala and refugees at the Central Library sponsored by the Lawyer's Committee on Central America.

Serious things are going on in Guatemala, none of which look good for the country's large and oppressed population of Mayan Indians, said Lasswell.

Over a million Guatemalans, mostly Indians, have been displaced by scorched-earth campaigns conducted by the army. Over 250,000 now live in Mexico, about 150,000 along the border with Guatemala. Over 60,000 were killed.

The elections coming up in October don't mean a thing to the lives of poor peasants, he was told on his last trip, said Lasswell. We are likely to hear a lot about the elections, especially if a civilian president is elected, he said. But one of the most repressive Guatemalan leaders, Montenegro, was a civilian when he was elected in 1968, according to Lasswell. Whether the president is a general or a civilian, the army still runs the country, he said. "Life is going to go on there the way it has for many years and nothing will change."

The Guatemalan government does want to clean up its image so it can receive U.S. military aid, he said. But the refugees along the border are tarnishing that image. That's why the government has been bombing camps in Mexico and trying to lure the refugees back into the country to live in concentration camp-like model villages. "They want the refugees along the border to disappear because they are a tangible reminder of what was going on in Guatemala."

The refugees along the Mexican border have no friends other than Catholic social workers, according to Lasswell.

"It seems to me that Guatemala is ripe to explode. The guerilla movement is on the rise again. . . a significant part of El Quiche province is under their control, and the army can't go in there."

David Brady, chairman of the Portland Sanctuary Coalition, reported that even though several sanctuary workers were arrested recently, that won't stop the movement to protect Central American refugees. "If the Supreme Court decides that what we're doing is totally illegal, then we're still going to be doing something," said Brady, Clackamas County Public Defender.

He reported conditions so bad in illegal alien processing centers near the U.S. border that refugees went on a hunger strike. They were beaten down by immigration police and some were deported back to torture and possible death.

The U.S. favors refugees from communist countries, but discriminates against those from Central America, according to Brady. Over 62 percent of Afghan refugees were allowed to stay last year, but only 2.4 percent of Salvadorans and 1.5 percent of the Guatemalans, he said. According to one estimate, 30 percent of refugees deported to El Salvador face torture and possible death, said Brady.

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