

Metro / Sports

Dunleavy Fired as Blazer Coach

The Portland Trail Blazers have fired head coach Mike Dunleavy. The team made the decision official at a 7 p.m. news conference Tuesday.

Just hours earlier, Dunleavy and Trail Blazers president and general team manager Bob Whitsitt wrapped up a three-hour meeting discussing Dunleavy's future with the team.

The two had very little to say after they emerged from their meeting at the Blazers' practice facility in Tualatin.

Dunleavy, 47, denied reports that he was out as the Blazers'

coach, but he didn't get the contract extension he was hoping for. The coach has one year left on a contract that will pay him close to \$3 million next year.

Several players have told team management that they were unhappy with Dunleavy

and had been complaining as early as the All-Star Break.

Many people believe Dunleavy is taking the fall for a Blazer team that failed to win a playoff game despite an NBA-record \$89 million payroll. Following the team's poor playoff

performance, Whitsitt publicly took responsibility for the Blazers' mediocre season but refused to give Dunleavy a vote of confidence.

One rumor has former Blazer star Clyde Drexler as the leading candidate for the position.

Fan Apology Comes Up Postage Due

(AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers made amends with two fans who were ejected from a first-round playoff game. Only a care package sent to the family came with a

price — \$5.38 in overdue postage.

The team sent a box of souvenirs and a letter of apology to the post office box of Katherine Topaz, who along with her boyfriend's 8-year-old son was kicked out of last Sunday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers after refusing to discard her "Trade Whitsitt" sign.

The sign was a protest of team general manager Bob Whitsitt's questionable roster moves this past season. Topaz was asked by a security guard to hand over the sign, and when she refused, she and the boy were escorted out.

The ejection sparked an outcry from fans and a private apology from general manager Bob Whitsitt.

Jim Abeles, owner of the

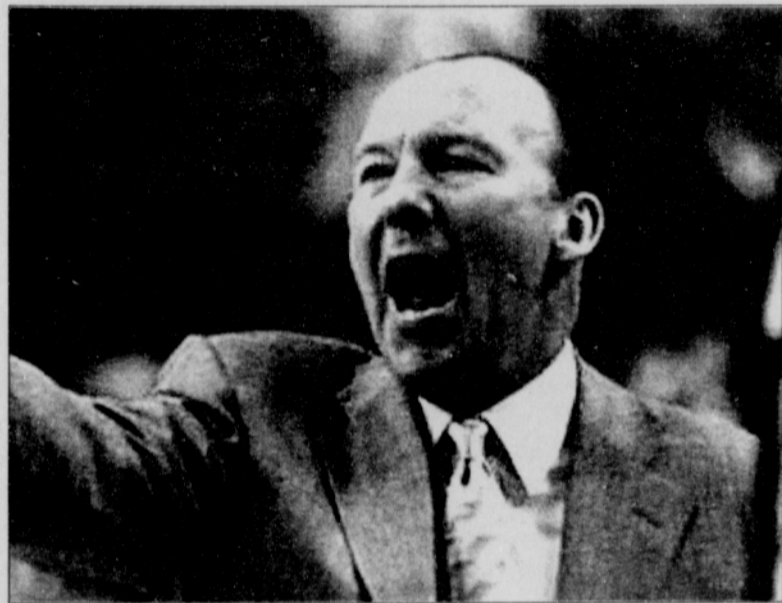
season tickets Topaz and his son, Will used to attend the game, said the package included a sweatshirt, T-shirt, hat, baseball cards and two Blazer pencils.

Everything was perfect, except one thing. The box arrived with postage due: \$5.38.

"The irony is that we live a mile from the Rose Garden," Abeles said. "It's just one more in a long series of crazy and unbelievable events."

Harry Hutt, the Blazers' executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the Blazers wanted to hand-deliver the package, but only had a post office box for Topaz's address.

"It certainly wasn't intentional," Hutt said. "We will certainly get them the five dollars."



Mike Dunleavy

PCC Expansion Will Mean Some Displacement

STORY CONTINUED FROM METRO PAGE 1 question includes one square block south of North Killingsworth Street due west of Jefferson High School, plus most of the land north of Killingsworth between the existing campus and the I-5 Freeway.

In a recent meeting with the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods board, Executive dean Mildred Ollie said that the plan recognizes that "we're bumping up against the fact that we have no more space" within the existing campus. She emphasized that the \$57 million redevelopment and expansion would take place in stages.

"It's a 30-year dream," she said, and the end result will be "a real comprehensive campus that the community deserves to have."

Part of this will include the demolition, and replacement, of some existing older structures. These include the upper part of Terrell Hall, Peninsula Hall, the Fragmire Building housing the college's Skills Center on Northeast Killingsworth Street, and an older structure housing a Head Start facility.

"We need to use our existing land as wisely as we're allowed," Ollie told the Portland Observer.

The plans call for a new high tech center, physical education building, music and arts building, and 350 seat auditorium. They also call for several

blocks of surface parking lots, this to the chagrin of several Northeast Coalition board members who urged consideration of structured parking to make more efficient use of the land. Ollie says this may happen in the future, but there aren't funds to pay the \$15,000 per space cost of such parking at this time. "The city says your plans are all wonderful, but where are you going to park, and the neighbors have been very clear about that," she told the Northeast Coalition.

Out of consideration for neighbors as well, the college will not pursue acquisition of Piedmont Plaza and other housing to the east, nor a strip of commercial land on North Killingsworth Street west of Albina Avenue. "We put restrictions on ourselves," Ollie says. They are pursuing discussions with Bishop Wells for joint use of the Renaissance Market site at 909 N. Killingsworth St. The end result would be a new grocery store, yet to be determined PCC facilities, and shared parking. "These things take time," Ollie says. "The positive thing is that we're discussing and exploring."

PCC is planning to acquire Albina Christian Church on its campus; 14 single family houses on the block bounded by North Killingsworth, Jessup, Albina and Mississippi avenues, the block north of Killingsworth and east of the I-5 Freeway;

and the block south of Killingsworth and west of Jefferson High School between Borthwick and Kerby avenues. This last contains property the college currently owns; the Capua and No Fish Go Fish restaurants, and a police contact station. Ollie would not rule out the use of condemnation to acquire the property against the owner's will, but said it would be a last resort.

"We're pursuing voluntary acquisition, working with owners who have indicated a willingness to sell," she says.

College officials have held meetings with the Humboldt Neighborhood Association to meet community concerns. President Susan Erickson says the neighborhood is seeking a good neighbor agreement to address ongoing concerns, and a role in the design of new buildings.

"I think we're getting there," she told the Portland Observer.

Although Humboldt is concerned

about displacement, and fair treatment of those displaced, it is resigned to the college's current plans, Erickson says. "We know they need more land, and they have to displace someone," she says. One of those potentially displaced is Sean Brown, co-owner of No Fish Go Fish. In existence four years, the restaurant opened its outlet on North Killingsworth Street in January. Brown is aware of PCC's plans, although he says he has had "no substantive discussions" with them.

"If they evicted us on 30 days notice it would damage us considerably," Brown says. "If it took a year or two, with reasonable relocation assistance, it could be worked out." If forced to move, he says, he would seek to relocate elsewhere in the neighborhood.

"I like the area, it's where we live, and I like the response we've had from our neighbors," he says.

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