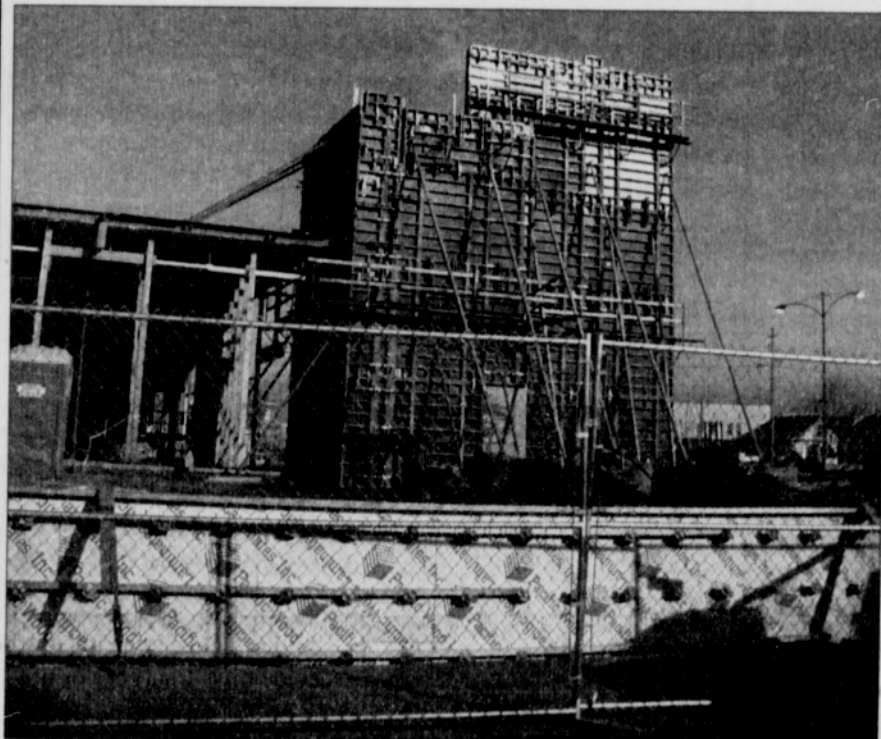
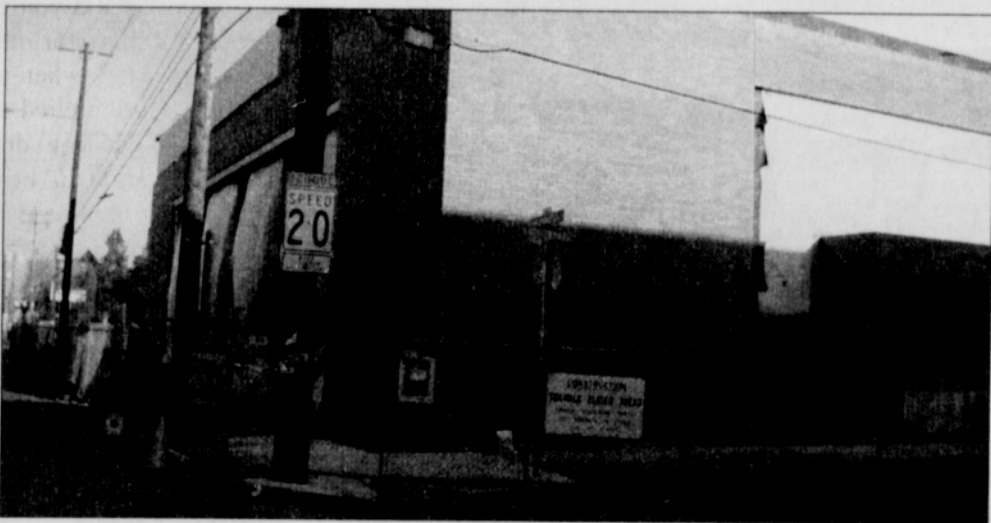




A student walks past the construction of a new Technical Education Building in the center of the PCC Cascade campus that borders North Killingsworth Street. The construction is part of \$57 million in campus project. Eventually five new buildings on the campus will expand student services, increase access to adult learning programs and add instruction in workforce development skills.



A firefighter training tower is built at the front of a new Public Services Education building on the western edge of an expanded PCC Cascade campus in north Portland. The construction is a remodel of the former Renaissance Market on North Killingsworth Street.



Brickwork is added to the new Physical Education Building at PCC Cascade on the south side of North Killingsworth across from the main campus. The building is scheduled to open this summer.

College Expansion Takes Shape

PCC Cascade campus grows south, west and center

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Gay Marriages Upheld

County won't back down on equality issue

(AP) — Until a judge rules otherwise, gay couples can continue applying for marriage licenses in Portland.

Despite a plea to halt the practice from Gov. Ted Kulongoski and a nonbinding opinion by Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers that gay marriage is illegal under current state law but likely violates the state constitution, Multnomah County Commissioners announced Monday they will keep issuing licenses to same-sex couples.

Meanwhile, Benton became the second Oregon county to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples, after the three commissioners surveyed approximately 50 people, most of whom said they believe

ner Gary Hughes.

"Thank you Portland," yelled Gary Jeroy of Bloomfield, Mich., who was with his partner of 31 years, Tony Clemente.

"We're legal. We're getting married. My knees are shaking," Jeroy said.

Portland is now the only major city in the U.S. that is issuing marriage licenses to gay couples.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that gay marriages are constitutional, but they will not be allowed before May 17 in that state. The California Supreme Court also has taken up the issue, but same-sex weddings in San Francisco have been halted for at least a few months while a ruling is pending.



PHOTO COURTESY BONNIE TINKER/LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

Abbie Haywood (left) and Jamie Bolyard, the first same-sex couple to exchange vows in a legal marriage ceremony in Oregon, appear on the steps of the Multnomah County Building on March 3. Rev. Glenna Shepherd, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, performed the ceremony.

the licenses were a constitutional right.

Benton County Commissioners approved issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, 2-1.

"Multnomah County will continue to issue marriage licenses to all couples, consistent with the Oregon Constitution, until such time as the Supreme Court of Oregon or the citizens of Oregon dictate another course of action," the county commissioners said in a written statement.

Couples waiting outside a county office building to apply for marriage licenses cheered, kissed and embraced after learning the commission's decision. Some came from as far away as Hawaii to get married.

"I'm so excited, I'm so happy," said John Bergmann, who traveled to Portland from Sacramento, Calif., to marry his part-

Multnomah County Chairwoman Diane Linn announced March 3 that a legal review by the county and an independent law firm had concluded that rejecting marriage license applications from gays and lesbians violated the Oregon Constitution.

An immediate challenge was organized by the hastily formed Defense of Marriage Coalition led by Multnomah County Republican Party Chairman Tim Nashif and represented by Kelly Clark, an attorney and former Republican state lawmaker.

Clark called the decision Monday "awfully foolish and awfully arrogant."

Myers, in the opinion he released last Friday, noted there was nothing in the Oregon Constitution to prevent gay marriage.

Online Destinations Grow

African Americans are now the second fastest-growing group online and the number of top online destinations for African-Americans has grown. Each of the following sites rank in top 2 percent of all web sites visited:

Black News & Issues: BlackAmericaWeb.com, Africana.com, BlackNews.com, BlackEnterprises.com, Essence.com, FinalCall.com

Leisure/Networking/Search Engines: BlackPlanet.com, OHHLA.com, HBCU-Central.com, EverythingBlack.com, BlackWebPortal.com, BlackWorld.com

Hip Hip/ Entertainment News: BET.com, BlackVoices.com, SOHH.com, AllHipHop.com, UrbanKind.com, EURweb.com, Vibe.com, TheSource.com

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