

METRO

The Portland Observer

Careers & Education

SPECIAL EDITION

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner

Brothers on the Move will host its 8th annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Corner Stone Community Church of God in Christ at 2216 N.E. Killingsworth St. Free rides are available during the day. For more information, call 503-281-4587.

Multicultural Symposium

Lewis and Clark College presents the second annual Ray Warren Multicultural Symposium on Wednesday, Nov. 16 through Friday, Nov. 18. For more information, call 503-768-7051.

Essence Blood Drive

Essence Magazine, a lifestyle publication for African American women, will partner with the Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Portland Donor Center on 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 19. For more information or to make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Memory Screening

Volunteers of America will offer free memory screenings on Tuesday, Nov. 15 in an effort to help recognize the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease. For more information on a testing center site, call 503-335-9980 for north and northeast Portland; 503-232-4117 for southeast and southwest Portland; and 503-760-2075 for east county.

Caregiver Resource Fair

A free resource fair for local caregivers will be held Friday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Providence Medical Center's Social Room at 4805 N.E. Glisan St. The fair will feature information on in-home assistance, adult day programs, support organizations, stress reduction, legal issues and more.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement for women transitioning from prison back into the community. Volunteers must be females, age 24 and up. For more information, call 503-570-6614.

Swimming Lessons

Portland Parks and Recreation offers swimming lessons for all ages and skill levels year round at the Columbia, Dishman, MLC, Mt. Scott and Southwest Community Center pools. For rates and information, call 503-823-5130.

Sewing for YWCA

YWCA's Women Offenders Rehabilitation, Training and Help Program is accepting donations of fabric and sewing machines in good working condition for the Clark County Jail's work center. Donations can be dropped off at the YWCA Clark County on 3609 Main St. in Vancouver. For more information, call 360-906-9153.

Kenton Firehouse Art Sale

Fine gifts of ceramics, fiber art, jewelry and other handcrafted arts and crafts will be available during the second annual art sale Saturday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 8105 N. Brandon Ave.

Career Bound

Portland's public administrator helps shape city

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Paul Scarlet came to Portland 16 years ago, and liked what he saw. Now he is helping to run the city.

Scarlet was named interim director of the Portland Bureau of Development Services last July. He is in charge of the Permit Center, which issues permits for buildings, remodeling and improvement projects.

The bureau handles inspections and plan checks, responds to complaints about building and zoning code violations, and reviews zone change requests and other land use processes. The city agency employs about 300 people.

"We're responsible for ensuring that construction codes are met, ensuring safety, and maintaining the livability of the community," Scarlet says.

He succeeded Ty Kovatch, who took the job temporarily on leave from being head of staff for commissioner Randy Leonard. The last permanent director was Ray Kerridge, who left in February. Leonard's office is in the process of selecting a permanent director. Scarlet hopes to be a candidate for the job.

He has already instituted some changes in response to complaints that the bureau is too bureaucratic because



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Paul Scarlet manages city regulations as interim director of the Portland Bureau of Development Services.

of the many hoops permit seekers are required to jump through which discourage development and up the price of construction in Portland.

"Sometimes this is a perception rather than a reality," Scarlet says, and he has posted more information on the bureau website. However, he adds, "One thing we've learned is that one size doesn't fit

all." The pitfalls to working with the government can especially be hard for small jobs and small developers. For them, the bureau has provided for some small jobs to be done over a single counter, rather than have applicants make their way through half a dozen different processes.

If applicants have all their information

in order and need no help or review, there is a fast track process. There is also a new Small Business Assistance Program. Finally, for those who can't visit the center during normal working hours, officials have extended the hours of operation on Thursdays until 7:30

continued ▼ on page B4

PCC Fights to Make College Affordable

Financial aid cuts could increase student debt

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the upcoming months, Congress will make a decision toward the largest budget cut to student aid programs ever.

If passed, the proposal could see an average college student's debt increase by \$5,800, totaling \$34.7 billion in added college loans across the nation over the next five years.

Congress is also proposing separate legislation called "Budget Reconciliation" to cut more than \$9 billion from student aid. This will add more fees and take away the ability to consolidate college loans.

Students at Portland Community College campuses are petitioning to stop the process and keep education affordable.

"The federal government has to be a national leader in education, especially at the community college level," said Algie Gatewood, president of PCC Cascade. "You don't want to cut the future of America, you want to make it brighter, not dim it."

Gatewood urges students to recog-

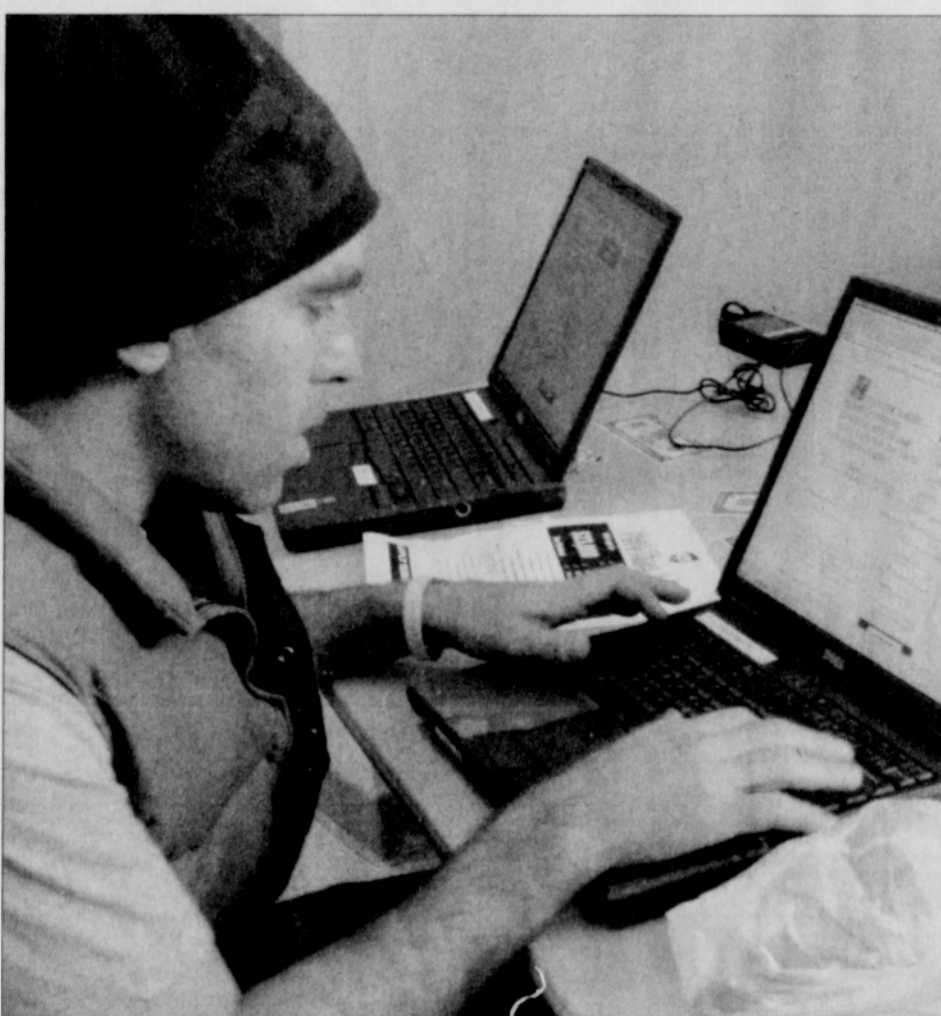


PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Stephen Ingram, nursing student at PCC Cascade, signs an online petition against federal cuts to college financial aid.

nize, even with budget cuts, the programs that still exist to help them financially through college.

"It's not OK to cut financial aid, but at the same time, there are a number of opportunities for students to finance their

education," Gatewood said. "The dollars are there, but students don't get connected to them."

Why? Partly because the paperwork involved in filing for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be as intimidating as doing taxes for the first time. Personal information like income levels and social security numbers can make the task seem invading and cumbersome.

"By looking at that stack of papers, I just thought it was a waste of time," said Ibeth Hernandez, program board chair for PCC Cascade Associated Students. "It's already hard enough for students to get financial aid. If this passes, it'll discourage a lot of people from applying. A lot of students are afraid to look for money — it's like hitting wall."

Gatewood, however, is optimistic and is not expecting a drop in attendance at PCC Cascade if federal financial aid is cut. One event he's hoping will encourage students is Financial Aid Day, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at PCC campuses around Portland.

Last year, at least 300 students came to the event at the Cascade campus to receive help filling out paperwork and finding money toward their education.

"We need to have educated people in

continued ▼ on page B5

Diverse Workforce at Fred Meyer

Strives to be community employer of choice

See inside, page B6



Networking

Local career professionals put their networking skills to the test during the recent grand opening of the expanded offices for PCRI.

See inside, page B7

35
years
of
community service