

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

John Canda brings his vast experience at youth gang outreach to Mayor Potter's office.

Canda Moves to Mayor's Office

continued ▲ from Front

hood Response Team program and the Northeast Workforce Center. He became Northeast Coalition executive director in 1999.

His efforts at gang prevention have been challenging and often dangerous.

On one occasion, he recalled a tense situation when he deliberately stepped between two feuding gang members. One of them abruptly pulled out a pistol, aimed it at Canda's head at point blank range and pulled the trigger. The gun failed to fire.

The man then adjusted his aim slightly and pulled the trigger again. This time the weapon fired, wounding another man in the face.

Canda acknowledges some of the other issues that neighborhoods, particularly in north and northeast Portland are facing.

"People talk about gentrification - well, there's two sides to that. Rising prices seem to displace people who can't afford to stay, and often those are people of color. On the other hand, there's been economic enhancement. It has brought jobs

to this community. This area is looking as pleasing, if not more so, than it has at any time; of course it's always been beautiful to me."

He said the recent infusion of residents has come with a renewed activism.

"They're saying, 'I may be new, but I'm willing to work and bring something to the table.' The Boise neighborhood is particularly interesting. Their co-chair is just 22. This is what neighborhood associations are supposed to be about - bringing in young people to learn from those who have been here before and bringing in new constituencies," Canda said.

He also acknowledges his debt to veteran activists such as Willie Brown, Charles Ford, Pauline Bradford, Steve Rogers, Ron Laster and Betty Walker.

His voice catches as he speaks of two other mentors: Edna Robertson and the late Sharon McCormack.

"They are how I got my start here," he says. "That's why I have a big old picture of them on the wall - to remind me I'm just occupying space in their house."

Starting an Athletic Tradition

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"The problem was people didn't know we had a basketball team," he explained.

He came up with creative concepts like Spirit Week with activities at each campus to capture the rah-rah feeling found at larger schools. He also worked with the student government, advertised game promotions and partnered with radio stations. A partnership between PCC and the

Humboldt Neighborhood Association allowed neighbors to attend games for free.

"The goal was not only to market to students, but market to the community because we can benefit equally," Easttorp said.

Easttorp will leave PCC later this summer as the school searches for a new athletic director.

"I hope PCC will continue to support basketball, adding additional sports at other campuses," Easttorp said.

Community Colleges Recruit

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Canadian school.

As community college enrollment grows, the conference has experienced a similar increase in interest.

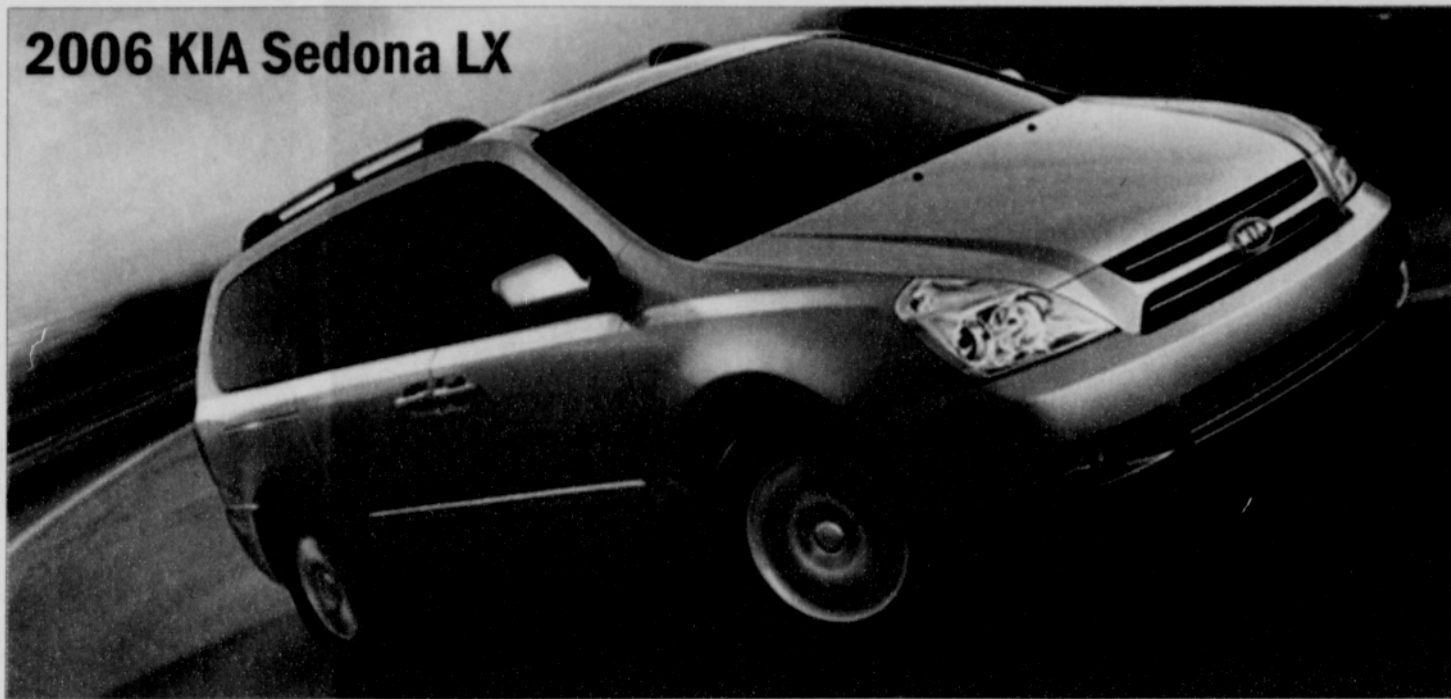
"There was a time when community college attendance was almost seen as second class, an alternative to the number one choice," said Dick McClain, Executive Director of NWAACC. "Now it's probably the best value you can get for the first two years."

This has caused a shift in schools like PCC, who are beginning to recognize that four-year universities aren't the only ones with athletic potential.

"Athletics motivate students in a way that allows them to be successful in school," McClain said.

But community colleges also face new challenges with athletic programs, namely a high turnover in coaching staff. Because of low pay and often part-time positions, many schools go through coaches as often as they do students.

McClain said the colleges with the most successful athletics programs are hiring, and retaining, good coaches with a keen eye for recruiting local talent from schools, community gyms and basketball leagues. A school's solid athletics department plays well into the whole community college package.



Portland Observer Auto Review

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Kia Sedona packs an amazing punch for its price. The Sedona is packed with value, power, safety, comfort and room for seven passengers.

The Sedona is a pleasing enough ride, with a powerful 3.8-liter V6 that nicely lugs around the van's 4,387 lb. curb weight thanks to a five-speed automatic transmission with "Sportmatic manual control". Using the shifters does enable the driver to wring more out of the

engine, and I found it to be a useful benefit. Braking was excellent, and steering felt precise.

The 2006 Sedona LX, base price is \$23,665, including a \$670 destination charge, is delivered with standard 16-inch steel wheels and 225/70 tires, dual sliding doors, rear climate controls, a CD player, a tilt steering wheel with cruise control, 13 cup holders, and six airbags - two front, two front-side, and two side-curtains. If that sounds kind of weak, don't worry because there's more,

like a driver's seat with lumbar support and manual height adjustment; removable second-row bucket seats that slide, recline, and fold; a split third-row bench that folds into the deep cargo hold with the pull of a strap; keyless entry; and stability and traction control systems. For a little extra cash, buyers can load their 2006 Kia Sedona LX with a roof rack, a tow hitch, and a rear DVD entertainment system. The one item that will separate this vehicle from other mini vans are the rear windows on the

doors that go all the way down to about 3-4 inches from the top of the door making it the first mini van to have widows like a passenger vehicle.

Packed with safety and comfort features and priced less than some competing minivans, the 2006 Kia Sedona is an excellent choice for families on a budget.

Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$23,665; Engine: 3.8L 24 Valve DOHC V6; Transmission: 5-speed automatic.

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