

PCC Levy Hints at Expansion

continued ▲ from Front

residential and commercial uses. All options for future development are on the table with the community involvement coming after the bond levy is decided, Pulliams said. Echoing those remarks, but going further to say some college development will reach beyond the current Cascade campus boundaries, was PCC Vice President Randy McEwen. While anticipating the future growth and an expanded greenway on campus, McEwen said he didn't want to comment on "where things are sited and what they're going to look like. "Land use plans are enormously expensive and developing plans now is getting ahead of the voting," he said. Community activist Sylvia Evans, an African American resident who has lived in the Humboldt neighborhood since the 1980s and fought two other college expansions, calls the Nov. 4 levy "a

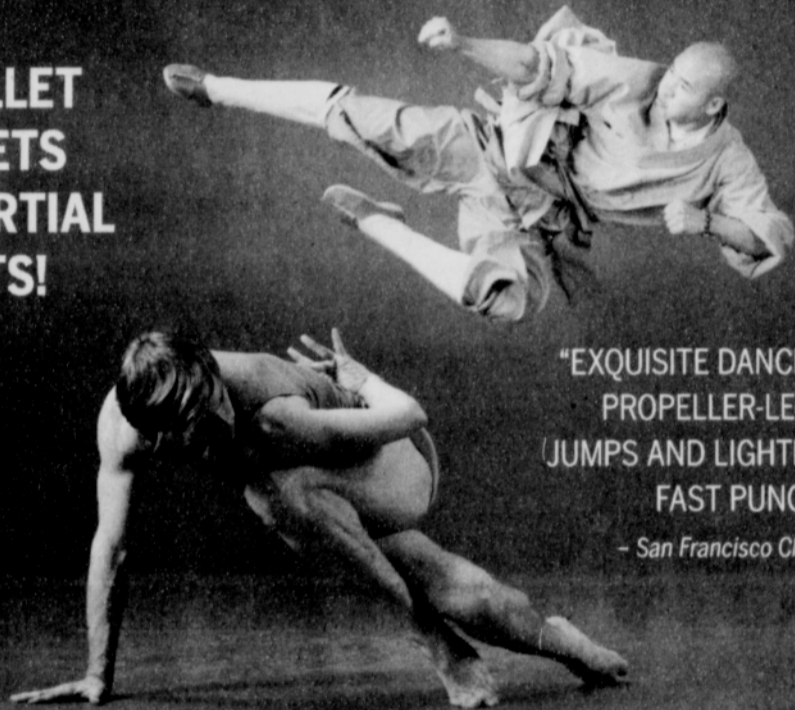


Parking lots at Portland Community College's Cascade campus in north Portland are mostly empty during summer, but can fill up quickly when school opens for fall term.

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blank check without a public process.

"This is a blind bond measure," Evans said. "After they get the money, they can do whatever they want. They have no real plan."

Evans recalls the three black church properties in Humboldt lost to the college over the past few years. She remembers how she cried when her long time African American neighbors lost their housing to the college.

"This is what happens when you support higher education. Houses are demolished for surface parking. This is not cool," she said. "People buy into the American Dream of homeownership and it's busted and PCC doesn't care."

Pulliams said he was very proud of the college district making Cascade a comprehensive college campus to better serve students and for creating an institution that is a service to the community.

Proposal to serve more students

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responder and allied health students.

Dental programs and energy technical training would be added to the PCC Sylvania campus in southwest Portland, along with more classrooms and space for student services, an expanded child-care facility for students and upgraded automotive, machine manufacturing and photography facilities.

At the PCC Rock Creek campus in northwest Portland, space would be added for nursing and health care programs, along with

an increase in classrooms, and renovations in the welding, auto collision and repair, diesel repair and building construction technology facilities. Child-care facility for students, arts facilities and students services would also expand.

The bond measure would also allow the college to make investments in the Southeast center, the Willow Creek workforce training facility to be built on the Max transit line in Washington County and add facilities and career training opportunities in Newberg and Sherwood.

A national educational leader

who broke through barriers as one of the first in his family to receive a college education, beginning with Muskegon Community College in Michigan, Pulliams is a strong believer in the power of lifting people up through education.

At PCC, he said, "We're focusing on those who don't have the opportunity. That's our mission."

Ballot Measure 26-95 would assess 32.9 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value. That comes to about \$92 a year for a residence that pays property taxes on an assessed value of \$280,000.

Cascade Hosts Campus Open House

Friday tours, barbecue planned

A free community event is set for Friday, Sept. 19 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. to tour Portland Community College's north Portland campus, have a bite to eat and get a firsthand look at all that PCC Cascade has to offer.

"We would be nothing without the support of the people in this community," said Algie Gatewood, campus president.

"We exist for them and because of them, and this open house is a chance for us to show just how much we appreciate their support."

Music, games, activities and a range of information on the campus' academic offerings, clubs and services will be available. Attendees also will even have a chance to apply on the spot for fall term admission, which begins on Monday, Sept. 22.

A student outreach squad will lead tours of the campus throughout the day, which will feature exhibits and demonstrations from many of the campus' academic programs. Visitors will have the chance to experience the campus' state-of-the-art multimedia lab, see its emergency services training facilities - where Portland's next generation of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, 9-1-1 operators, and emergency managers learn their trades

- and view the art gallery, to name a few.

"We have so much to offer here, and we're so proud to be making a positive difference in the lives of the people in our neighborhood," Gatewood said. "It's our goal to be the educational anchor and the economic engine of this community, and I truly believe we are doing that."

Gatewood added that he hopes the open house will help to expose more people to the opportunities available to them at Cascade Campus, particularly with regard to workforce development.

"Our students come from all walks of life, and all phases of life," he said. "We have young people just out of high school, and some who are still in high school. We have working people who are looking to change careers, and we have people who are simply interested in broadening their horizons. We really are a campus of the community, not just a campus in the community."



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