

# OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

## PCC Growth Pains

### Proposed levy fails at clarity

The following is an editorial of the Portland Observer.

Portland Community College is a vital resource for our future, but it is not clear if a proposed bond levy on the Nov. 4 ballot would make PCC Cascade in north Portland grow in a way that is prudent and makes the best use of limited resources.

PCC is a long-valued partner in providing education opportunities to our diverse populations, especially the African-American community.

We supported a bond levy in 2000 that made the PCC Cascade a comprehensive campus. This was a promise kept for bringing all PCC resources together for an affordable college education -- all at one location and in our own community.

While the expansion had painful consequences, with the loss of neighborhood homes, a grocery store, other businesses and churches, PCC tried to alleviate future plans for growth by promising to protect the remaining residential neighbor-

hood.

A major concern now is that a \$374 million bond levy on the November ballot would include monies for more property acquisitions for PCC Cascade.

Options for the location of future campus buildings are apparently wide open with community involvement coming after the bond levy election. That doesn't satisfy a promise the college district made in 2001 to direct future development away from residential zones. Nor does it follow a college impact mitigation plan that calls for surface parking lots to be used for future campus buildings.

It's been shocking to learn that since the last expansion of PCC Cascade, an additional \$3.89 million has been spent by the PCC Board of Directors on property acquisitions in the Humboldt neighborhood that has left businesses and homes vacant or demolished. The purchases were mostly along North Killingsworth Street where future expansion is directed by the college's long-term plan. However, one property is outside that boundary on a residential block shared with

15 other homes.

If PCC would consider higher density on the Cascade campus,

building four or five story educational facilities, for example, instead of the two-story buildings that were constructed in the last build-out, the campus could grow while homes and business could be saved.

A greater emphasis on transportation alternatives also is needed to alleviate parking concerns.

We can appreciate how the college district wants a decision on the bond levy before it

spends time and money on public discussions and planning. But PCC neighbors should also have some idea about the impact of a 'yes' vote on their ability to stay in their homes and businesses.



**GET INVOLVED IN YOUR AIRPORT'S FUTURE**

**JOIN US AT A PDX AIRPORT FUTURES COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE:**

- Learn about Portland International Airport projects and programs
- Share your ideas
- Free refreshments
- Children's activities

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
 Meek Professional Technical High School • 4039 NE Alberta Ct. • Portland, OR 97211

www.pdxairportfutures.com

## Racism Challenges Presidential Vote

### Poll shows fear factor

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

As a people, we've had to overcome slavery, Jim Crow and both systemic and individual racism. It has taken generations, but we've met the challenges put before us and made progress:

We are leaders in corporate America. More and more of us are graduating from college. Some of us own homes and businesses. And a black man could very well be the next President of the United States, something many of us never thought we'd see in our lifetime.

While there is still much work to be done, we must acknowledge that we have made significant steps toward equality. Many whites have certainly

noticed it. And they don't like it. So much so that they may let their fears guide them on Election Day.

In a poll conducted by the Associated Press and Yahoo News, white Americans revealed that, not only do they still view race and racism in a very different way than blacks, they also think that blacks are responsible for the racial tension in this country.

Nearly 12 percent of whites



privilege, some white would vote against their common sense. This, despite the fact that Sen. Barack Obama has run his campaign not as a black man but as an American committed to change for all.

It wouldn't be the first time white voters let fear guide them: In 1982, Tom Bradley, a black man, lost the California Governor's race despite a large lead in the polls. Many whites lied and tolled posters they would vote for the black

*Perhaps it is fairer to say the some whites use fear as a reason to keep racism alive.*

polled believe that blacks have too much influence in the country's political process. More than one-third of whites polled said "most" or "all of the racial tension in the U.S. is created by African Americans."

It is ironic that, it has taken 100 years of grassroots, community and political organizing for African Americans to gather the few crumbs we've assembled to date. And, considering the size and scope of the American pie, all we have are mere crumbs. Perhaps there are some whites who would prefer we take our crumbs and go away quietly. It is this belief, which many whites publicly hide, that could cause some whites to vote Republican in the Nov. 4 election.

Scared of what a black President could mean for white

candidate but, on Election Day, voted for his white opponent.

Many whites believe that African Americans use racism as an excuse to get ahead. Perhaps it is fairer to say the some whites use fear as a reason to keep racism alive. Fear of what will happen to white privilege once full equality is a reality.

Too much of America's history is rooted in fear and the country is in the mess it is now because we bought into fear. It's time we rise above our individual and collective fears, see beyond race and class and decide what is best for this country.

Judge Greg Mathis is vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

**NEW SEASONS MARKET**

*Join us to Celebrate!*

your newly remodeled  
**Concordia New Seasons Market!**

**Saturday, October 18**  
 11 am - 4 pm

Delicious foods to sample, give-away's, great deals, cake and much more!

**EASY & FUN TO SHOP • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**

**CONCORDIA:** NE 33rd & Killingsworth Portland OR 97211 • 503.288.3838  
 Visit us online at [www.NewSeasonsMarket.com](http://www.NewSeasonsMarket.com)

**Your Care Our First Priority**

**Dr. Marcelitte Failla**  
 Chiropractic Physician

We are located at  
**1716 N.E. 42nd Ave.**  
**Portland, OR 97213**  
 (Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)

- Automobile accident injuries
- Chronic headache and joint pain
- Workers Compensation injuries

Call for an appointment! **(503) 228-6140**