



Evacuee Re-grows Roots

Four years after the disaster, Celeste Calvin earns her degree and starts a new job

See story, page A2

Jefferson High Turns 100

Students, staff, alumni and friends of Jefferson High School are celebrating 100 years of history

See story, page A2



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Obama Picks First Hispanic

Supreme Court nominee rises from the projects

(AP) -- President Barack Obama chose federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to become the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice on Tuesday, praising her as "an inspiring woman" with both the intellect and compassion to interpret the Constitution wisely.

Obama said Sotomayor has more experience as a judge than any current member of the high court had when nominated, adding she has earned the "respect of colleagues on the bench, the admiration of many lawyers who argue cases in her court and the adoration of her clerks, who look



U.S. Appeals Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor speaks after President Barack Obama Tuesday announced her as his choice of nomination for the Supreme Court justice, to replace retiring Justice David Souter.

to her as a mentor."

Standing next to Obama at the White House, Sotomayor recalled a childhood spent in a housing project in the Bronx as well as her upper-echelon legal career: "I strive never to forget the real world consequences of my decisions on individuals, businesses and government."

Barring the unexpected, Senate confirmation seems likely, given the large Democratic majority. If approved, she would join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the current court, the third in history. She would succeed retiring Justice David Souter.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., issued

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Input on PCC Plans Missing

College's intentions uncertain

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The leadership of Portland Community College has sold Portland on the value of the institution. Last November it convinced voters to green light a \$374 million bond measure to expand facilities needed to accommodate its ballooning student population.

But not everyone is cheering. Some residents of the surrounding Humboldt neighborhood are anxious that as PCC's Cascade Campus expands it will hollow out the business cluster adjacent to the campus on Killingsworth Street, and will give the boot to homeowners and renters.

Neighbors are worried that the voter-approved bond money will give PCC a freehand to shape the neighborhood as it wishes, and hasn't done enough public outreach. There are also unanswered questions about the college's intentions.

For years residents have watched as PCC has quietly annexed nearby properties, some of them were cherished community institutions, including two African American churches, peoples' homes, and businesses.

Jordana Sardo, branch organizer for the Freedom Socialist Party, was involved with the opposition to PCC's expansion in 2002. She recalls people who had just finished paying off their mortgages only to have them seized by the college.

Two years ago, PCC acquired the Paragon Club next door to the Sardo's Bread and Roses community center on Killingsworth Street and left it empty. Sardo describes the vacant building as an "eye sore," where people dump trash. She says she complained to PCC who haven't responded.

In the meantime she worries that the party headquarters could

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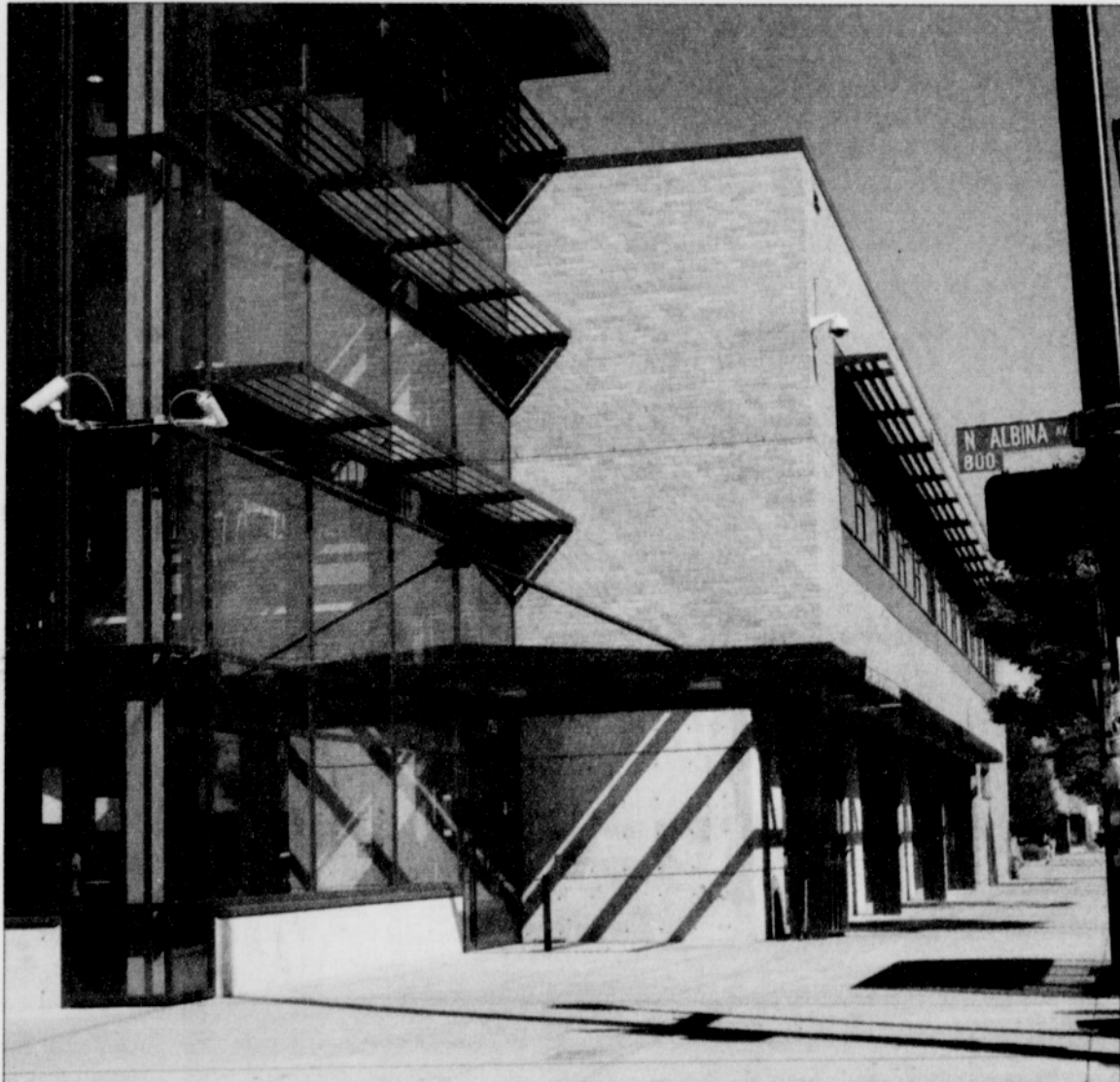


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community College must decide how it will expand offerings on its Cascade Campus in north Portland while a neighborhood is anxious about losing more homes and businesses to college development.

Mortgage Help gets Boggled Down in Bureaucracy

Slow going on new consumer protections

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dodie Howard's greatest fear is that she will lose her home after her husband's trucking business took a fatal hit from the recession. Since last fall Howard, who works as a buyer for Safeway, has been calling her lender, Citimortgage, in hopes that she can sit down with a representative and hopefully cut a deal.

However, Howard, 65, now worries that her simple appeal will drown in her lender's dizzying labyrinth of red tape. Whenever she calls she is transferred numerous times, put on hold, and is dismissed anytime she proposes a resolution. Meanwhile she has fallen \$17,000 behind on mortgage payments, and has no idea if her bank



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dodie Howard fights to keep her Portland home out of foreclosure.

intends to foreclose.

"We can make payments. We're not destitute. We've just lost an income," said Howard.

A bill aimed at addressing the sort of situation the Howard's are facing has been bogged down in Salem after mortgage and banking interests groaned that the bill would unfairly burden them and lacked specifics.

Senate Bill 628, sponsored by Suzanne Bonamici, D-Beaverton, would require lenders to sit down with the borrower and a third-party mediator before a house is foreclosed on.

But the bill faces powerful and well-financed mortgage and banking lobbies, like the Oregon Financial Services Association, which has doled out \$32,000 over the last three years to both Democratic and Republican members of the legislature and spends even more on lobbying activities each session.

Last month there were 342,038 foreclosures in Oregon, according to

RealtyTrac.com. And it's expected to get worse as Oregon's unemployment rate has soared to the second worst in the nation.

"This bill does need some work," said Bonamici at the beginning of the bill's first public hearing before the Senate's Consumer Protection and Public Affairs Committee, which she chairs.

During public hearings financial and mortgage interests complained that there were unanswered questions as to how the bill would be implemented. For instance, it was unclear how titles would be insured and how it would gibe with federal programs aimed at stopping foreclosures.

People representing banking and financial interests also claimed that the bill would weigh down lenders with unnecessary requirements and costs.

"Creating more burdens and more

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Week in The Review

Screams Lead to Children

A 7-year-old girl was rescued from the Willamette River after 1 a.m. Saturday after her screams were heard by a couple who took their boat out to investigate. Police believe the girl and her 4-year-old brother were victims of an attempted

murder. See story, page A2

Tyson Daughter Dies

The 4-year-old daughter of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson died Tuesday, a day after what police called a "tragic accident" at her Phoenix home. Exodus Tyson was playing on a treadmill when her head apparently slipped inside



See story, page A11.

a cord hanging under the console.

Charity Builds Family Center

Catholic Charities has started construction on a long-anticipated family center, a 60,000 square foot, 4 story complex in southeast Portland to house nearly all of its programs and services. See story,

Same-sex Ban Upheld

The California Supreme Court Tuesday upheld a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, but it also decided that the estimated 18,000 gay couples who tied the knot before the law took effect will stay wed.

OSU Back at NCAAs

The Oregon State baseball team has earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament and will play Texas A&M in the

first round Friday. The Beavers missed the postseason last year after winning back-to-back College World Series.

39
years of
community service