

Campus Security Front Lines

continued **▲** from Front

Nikki Barone, a sergeant with PCC's Public Safety Department, said that PCC is preparing for just about any kind of emergency.

"A disaster could be anything," Barone said.

She noted that the Cascade campus in north Portland could be affected by a tanker truck that spills toxic chemicals because of its proximity to Interstate-5. She also noted that the industrial sites on Swan Island are not that far away, and an accident could blow dangerous gases toward the campus.

PCC Cascade Campus now has two alarms. Barone likens one to the sound a submarine makes before submerging. It means that there is a lockdown across campus, which could have been triggered from a shooter, a toxic spill, or something else. The other means to evacuate quickly.

But PCC still has more to do. Foxworth points out that one



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students at Portland Community College in north Portland are seeing new measures taken to improve campus security.

of the lessons learned from Virginia Tech was that it's critical that the campus have a way to communicate rapidly with students, faculty, staff, and other people involved with the cam-

pus. During the Virginia shooting people were commuting to the campus, unaware of the danger ahead of them.

PCC plans to have a "flash alert" system in place that will

send out text messages and e-mails to not only staff and faculty, but people in the neighborhood. Foxworth expects to have it up for the next school year.

Ask Deanna!

Dear Deanna!

My daughter has a two-year old son and they both live with me. I have rules as far as anyone eating in certain areas, cleaning up and purchasing their own toiletries. She allows my grandson to run wild all over the place; there are juice stains and fingerprints everywhere and my carpet is ruined. Then to make matters worse, she uses my detergent and cleaning supplies. I



work full-time and I am stressed because they're ruining my place. How do I handle this? --Stressed Grandma; Glen Burney, Md.

Dear Grandma:

Your grandson and your daughter both need discipline. You have to realize the toddler is going to be a handful and he'll be into everything on a regular basis. This is no excuse because your daughter should be teaching him a few things. He's at a curious stage but he can use a few taps on those little hands when they wander.

Dear Deanna!

I have a situation where I'll be wrong no matter what happens. My sister and I were talking and she made a comment that if I knew her husband was cheating I probably wouldn't tell her. Imagine my surprise that she said this because he's having an affair. I'm the other woman and we've been seeing each other for a while. I feel guilty because I think she's suspicious, just not of me. I need some help breaking this to news to her. --Confused Sister; Jacksonville, Miss.

Dear Confused:

Pull out a pen and add the words trifling, low-life, and scandalous next to your face. You need to let her husband know that you're going to tell and then see how much he loves his wife when he lies, places all the blame on you and throws you under the bus. If they stay together, your new title will be tramp while the family looks down upon you. Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Contact askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Oregon Doctors in Healthcare Debate

continued **▲** from Front

because of pre-existing conditions, create government-regulated health insurance exchanges where individuals and businesses could buy coverage, and would provide subsidies to help moderate-income get coverage.

But Hochfeld describes these efforts as a giveaway to the health insurance companies, which he says have had too much influence in the debate.

Hochfeld wants Congress to scrap its plans that still enshrine the country's for-profit healthcare system all together. He points out that the U.S. spends more than any other industrialized country on health care, but people still lose everything from medical bills, or can't get treatment.

Insurance companies don't contribute anything to peoples' health, but only line their pockets by driving up costs, said Hochfeld.

"People are angry. People understand," said Hochfeld of the reception he's gotten across the county.

One "horror story" he heard on the road involves a man who lost his job because his wife was diagnosed with multiple sclero-

sis. His employer, who provided him with healthcare, watched his premiums skyrocket as a result of his wife's MS, and just couldn't afford to keep him on the payroll.

Hochfeld said the only way to bring costs down and ensure access to healthcare is through a single-payer system, where the government administers and finances every American's healthcare.

"We need to start the discussion with access to healthcare as a basic human right," said Hochfeld.

The most contentious piece of the Democrats' healthcare reform proposal involves the creation of a government-run insurance option that would compete with private insurance.

Hochfeld worries that Congress will create a public option that becomes the dumping ground for sick people who are expensive to treat.

This would be worse than no public option because it would be costly for the government to run; said Hochfeld. Private insurance companies could point to it as proof that the government can't run healthcare, he said.

Any public option, said Hochfeld, needs to be available

to everyone. His road trip ended in the nation's capital, where he met with Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Oregon's Democratic senators.

Merkley is on record as supporting a single-payer system. However, Hochfeld wants Wyden, whom he says knows healthcare better than almost any other senator, to be bolder in the debate.

"He needs to show some courage," he said, suspecting Wyden of being influenced by the massive amount of campaigns contributions he receives from the health insurance industry.

While in Washington Hochfeld was unable to meet with President Barack Obama.

But another group of physicians did. Anita Henderson, a family doctor from Bend met with the president as part of Doctors for America, a large group of physicians who want change.

Henderson has a rosier view of the reform efforts, but still characterizes it as a patchwork attempt that lacks vision.

She said Wyden's Healthy Americans Act, which is effectively dead, was something she could have supported.

The bill, which Obama char-

acterized as "too radical," would have moved the country's healthcare system away from its employer base.

Most people get their insurance from their employer tax free. The bill would have ended this tax exemption, and would have offered people the choice of going on the individual plan market aided by government tax credits and subsidies.

"I think that people who get their insurance from their employer feel trapped," said Henderson, who sees people with employer-based insurance struggle to pay premiums and meet deductibles.

Henderson hopes that healthcare reform will focus more on prevention and lifestyle. She said she's seen too many people with chronic issues that go untreated, or use strong narcotics or anti-inflammatory medicines for maladies that could have been prevented by basic wellness measures.

Henderson said she worries that the subsidies to middle-income people provided in the bill won't be enough, and hopes for the inclusion of a strong public option.

"They'll have to buy health insurance that they'll still have a really hard time of affording," she said.

In Loving Memory



Eddie Gilbert Sr.

Eddie Gilbert Sr. (Pops), age 89, passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 11, 2009 of natural causes in his home in Portland.

Eddie is survived by his six children (Sunny, Bennie, Jackie, Kathy, Eddie Jr. and Dannie Sr.) and a host of other family members.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 at Philadelphia Community Baptist Church, located at 238 N.E. Mason St. Arrangements entrusted by Cox Memorial Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions can be made in lieu of flowers at any U.S. Bank. For details call Brother Lionel at 971-340-0438.

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