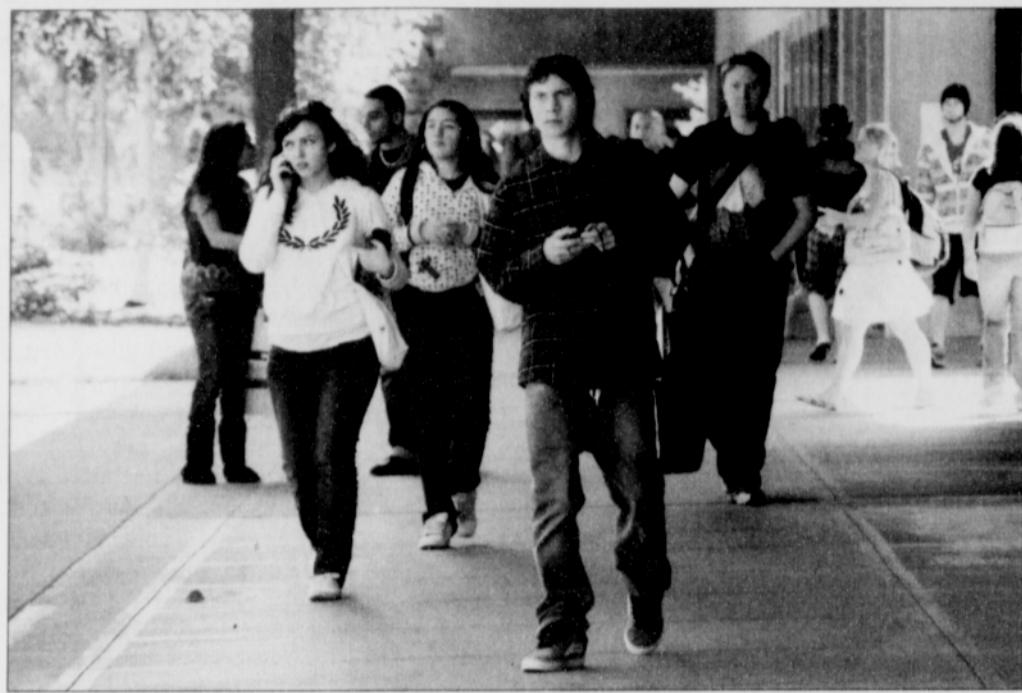


Students Crowd Community Colleges

At PCC and Mt. Hood

Enrollment this fall has surged at both Portland Community College and Mt. Hood Community College.



Students bustle from classes at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus in southwest Portland.

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At PCC, the college's total headcount increased by 7.8 percent and 15.4 percent in full-time equivalent students. The FTE numbers determines how much money PCC gets from the state's community college funding formula. It's

the ninth consecutive term of growth at PCC.

At Mt. Hood, the FTE has increased 13.7 percent compared to last fall.

The high growth at both schools has followed statewide and national trends that started

during the economic recession as unemployed Oregonians turned to local community colleges for job training and higher education degrees.

"However, the increased enrollment has created additional demands on college resources

and services that are further complicated by the reduction of state funding," said MHCC President John J. "Ski" Sygielski.

At PCC, The growth of credit students is reflected in a college program which offers high school students a chance to earn college credit.

Approximately 573 FTE were generated through Dual Credit. Forty-three high schools in the Portland area participate.

"It provides high school students with an early opportunity to earn college credit for advanced coursework they've completed while in high school," said PCC President Preston Pulliams. "They provide an opportunity for the students to transition smoothly from high school to college, in a non-duplicative program of study. The dramatic growth in our Dual Credit Program is another example of how the community is taking advantage of PCC to lower the cost of their education in this tough economic time."

Parade to Honor Veterans

Portlanders are invited to honor military veterans, the active military and their families at the 35th annual Veterans Day parade on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the Hollywood District of

northeast Portland.

The parade which starts at 9:45 a.m. begins at Northeast 40th Avenue and Hancock Street and travels east on Sandy Boulevard to Northeast 48th

Avenue, where a memorial ceremony will be held.

"This is an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to the men and women who have served our nation's military

and their families, said Michael Wolfe, general manager of Ross Hollywood Chapel, the business group sponsoring the parade which is also supported by the Hollywood Boosters business association.

Helping Neighbors Grow Roots

continued from Front

West said that neighbors get to know each other better from the activity, and take more pride in their community, which can help reduce crime rates. The trees also absorb storm water, and can mitigate pollution, he said.

As urban environments have grown dramatically and become

more densely populated over the last century, people living in them have struggled to preserve elements of the natural world.

In recent decades, the issue has taken on increased salience as the environmental, economic, and health benefits of trees in urban environments have become increasingly clear.

In 1978, Congress established the National Urban Forestry Grant Program for this end, according to Nancy Stremple, the executive staff to the National Urban Community and Forest Advisory Council. The program saw its funding increase in 1990 when Congress gave it a farm bill appropriation.

"Trees are not just aesthetic," said Stremple, who explained that there is almost no aspect of urban life that isn't affected by the presence of trees.

She cites research that suggests that vegetation contributes to a calmer environment that can reduce violence and even help kids with attention deficit disorder. If placed correctly, they can help keep

homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter, said Stremple. They can also reduce sewer bills by absorbing storm water, while increasing home value.

The act of planting trees can also strengthen social ties in a neighborhood, as Boise Neighborhood resident Dennis Harris found out spring last year.

He remembers about 25 people fanning out throughout the neighborhood to plant trees. As the crews worked, people passing by pitched in to help.

"It was a great atmosphere," said Harris, who added that people take more pride in their community.

People who utilize Friends of Trees still have to pay part of the cost, which varies is often somewhere between \$25 and \$75 for trees that would normally go for up to \$200, said West.

West noted that his organization doesn't do plantings in west Portland, since the area has no shortage of vegetation and there is more work to be

done on the other side of the Willamette River.

"On the east side there's a lot more need, and a lot more opportunity," he said.

West explained that Friends of Trees is trying to do more on along interstate corridors, since they tend to be large sources of pollution.

"Trees are pretty good at absorbing pollution and what not, and we know that the areas along I-5 have a lot of pollution and a lot of asthma rates," said West, who added that his organization is planning to do similar work near I-205 in outereast Portland.

Friends of Trees has also partnered with the city of Portland to help with its "Grey to Green" initiative, which aims to help better manage storm water runoff and enhance the city's livability by planting 80,000 trees by 2013.

But despite interest from the city, West said that the appearance of neighborhoods hinges on the people who live in them.

"We need communities to step forward and say, 'I'm going to do it,'" he said.

Cannabis Café Planned

continued from Front

Act, according to Madeline Martinez, executive director of Oregon NORML.

Martinez says the café is meant to be an innovative gathering place for medical cannabis patients, especially people in other parts of the state who must travel to Portland for appointments at major medical facilities such as OHSU, the Veterans Hospital and Casey Eye Institute.

The location would provide space for medical marijuana

card holders to medicate out of the view of the public, one of the requirements of using medical cannabis under state law, Martinez said.

She said the café would provide medical marijuana for sampling free of charge. But there would be no exchange of money for medical marijuana like some medical marijuana dispensaries operate in California.

Oregon NORML does plan to charge membership dues, beginning with a \$25 entry fee which covers the first month and an all-day pass. Two pieces

of identification and proof of participation in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program would be required for admittance, Martinez says.

She said the idea behind the café is to provide a much-needed community center for medical marijuana card holders, social creatures who need a place to relax with snacks, sodas, tea and coffee and exchange information freely.

No marijuana would be left on the premises overnight as a deterrent to thefts and burglaries, Martinez said.



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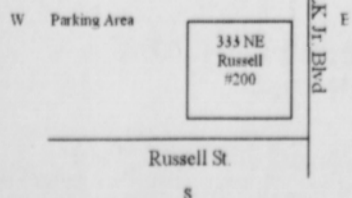
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