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MEMBER:



SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOR 30 YEARS

Military Service Honored

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child of longtime volunteer T.J. Browning, whose son Avery has become active in homeless support activities.

How badly are the blankets needed? JOIN executive director Mark Jolin says that the recent Census found that 17,000 people sleep outdoors in Portland on any given night, and one in 10 of these were veterans.

While the city is expected to provide some "warming shelters" during winter that offer emergency shelter on the coldest nights, many will have to make do out of doors, and anything to help ward off the cold

will be essential.

How many blankets do they need? "We're never had more blankets than we could use," Jolin told the Portland Observer. "Our outreach workers would go out every night, with a carload of blankets, and each one was given away." If they ever came up with a surplus, he said, they would share it with other agencies.

Historically, JOIN has relied on military surplus for its blankets, but the military is using more of its own supplies with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For those who can't make the parade, blankets can be deposited at any A-Boy Plumbing and Electric outlet.

Jobs Programs for Veterans

The Obama administration is launching several programs to help military veterans find work as the president tries to show he is serious about creating jobs.

The White House said it wants community health centers to hire 8,000 military medics over the next three years and will ask the centers to start reporting on the number of veterans that they employ. It says federal agencies also will try to connect veterans to health clinics' job openings.

In another new program an-

nounced last month, the Obama administration says it will expand opportunities for military medics to become physician assistants by providing more grants to universities that help to train veterans for such careers.

More veterans are likely to look for work as tens of thousands of troops return from Iraq before an end-of-year deadline for their withdrawal. But, they will enter a weak labor market in which the unemployment rate has remained at or above nine percent for most of this year.

Rights Group Applauds End of Ban

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government stop enforcing the law.

Supporters of Don't Ask, Don't Tell claimed that the known presence of gay service members, both male and female, would undermine unit cohesion. Opponents of the law, however, said the ban actually dismantled unit morale, and the policy was both discriminatory and forced the discharge of quality officers.

"Now folks can be true to who

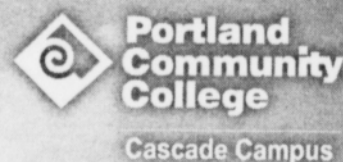
they are and serve their country," Frazzini said. She said, however, there are still changes, which need to be made in the future.

"One thing that is important to recognize is that the repeal of 'Don't ask, Don't tell' impacts gay and lesbian service members, but it does not yet ensure that transgender or trans-identified service members can serve safely and openly," she said.

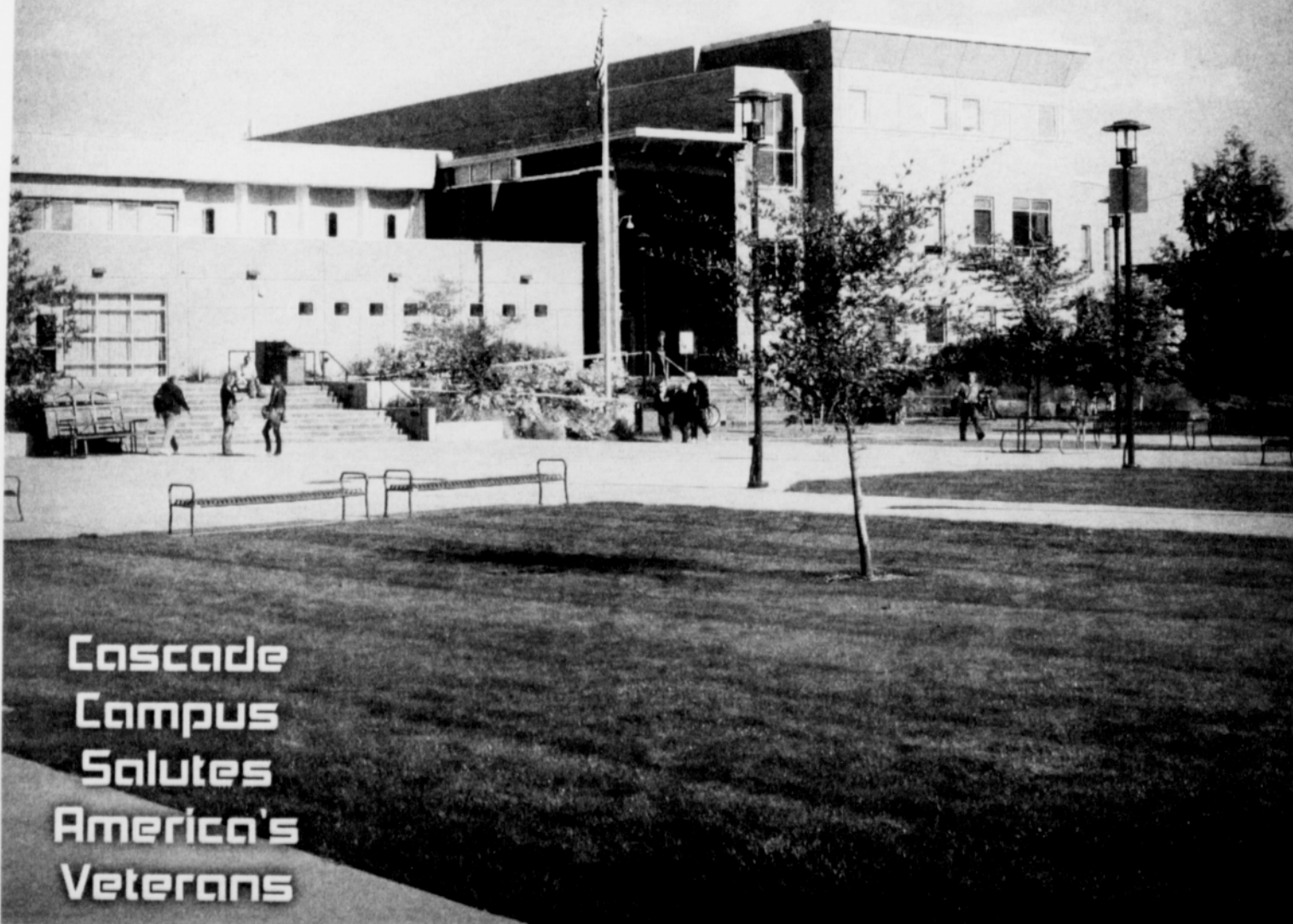
"I would like to see that change made as well."

Registration for Winter Term 2012 starts Nov. 15. Visit pcc.edu/admissions for more info

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