

# College handicap study on back burner

An audit of the College's services and facilities for handicapped students is so overdue from the Department of Health and Welfare that it may tie the Iranian hostage crisis if it's not received in the next few weeks.

The team of federal investigators that visited the College the week of Jan. 30, 1980, had promised a report of its findings within 90 days. The count is currently up to 420 days, and climbing.

Jim Roberts, dean of student services, said he did not expect any major violations to be cited in the audit. "Our intent is to make the compliance," he said. However, until HEW completes the study, there is no way to tell if the College is meeting all federal regulations.

Because there is no way to tell where improvements still need to be made, budgeting money for improvements is impossible. Money could be taken from the College's emergency fund, if the study notes violations. Approval of the College Board of Trustees is needed before this fund can be used. "I think HEW has set the Clackamas study on the backburner," Roberts said.

Blueprints of the Linus Pauling Science Building were given to HEW back in 1980 when the team visited the College. According to Debbie Bennett of the College's Handicapped Resource Center, HEW's evaluation is not accurate because of changes in the blueprints since then. Don Fisher, facilities development and planning officer, believes that blueprint changes do not affect handicapped accessibility.

Jim Carrol of the Health and Welfare Department (formerly HEW) regional office in Seattle said the study was late because, "We have a lot of work to do and we are behind in it." Carrol blamed the delay on the small number of staff members in his department. Last year HEW split into two departments, and the transition period caused work to pile up, according to Carrol.

The study is now in the process of being reviewed by Health and Welfare's legal staff. Carrol said, "The study should be completed some time soon." He said that he did not want to speculate exactly when the College would receive the study.

"I'm to the point where I'm past frustration," Bennett said.

"I call and they say, 'Oh, it's coming. Oh, it's coming.' I get the same thing time after time." Numerous phone calls and letters have been sent to the

federal agency. One registered letter has been sent by administration. Contacting the legislature about the problem has been considered, but Roberts decided that such action was inappropriate.

The College did a "Handicapped Self-Evaluation Study" in June 1978. That study was done to bring the College up to federal regulation 504, designed to protect the rights of handicapped persons. The College by law must make accommodations for the handicapped, such as handicapped access and special education programs.

The College requested an in-depth investigation by the Department of Health Education and Welfare. The objective of the HEW study was to see how well the College is complying with 504. The HEW study was similar to the study done by the College.

A three-person team from HEW's office in Seattle spent the week of Jan. 30, 1980, on campus talking to faculty and students. The team sat in on classes and inspected college buildings. Don Fisher was presented with an 11-page checklist to fill out and return to investigators to determine the extent of the requirements the College met.

The HEW team study was supposed to make recommendations, note violations and offer technical assistance. The installation of audio/visual fire alarms for deaf persons was suggested by the team. This type of alarm is equipped with a flashing light in addition to a siren.

During the week of the investigation, the HEW team told the College administration that the study would be released to the College in 90 days.

## ASG election process underway

As of noon Monday there were only eight petitions turned in by candidates for ASG offices for the coming year. With elections a bare two weeks away, student government officers were hoping for more candidates. The deadline for turning in petitions was Friday.

"It would be nice if there were at least two or three candidates for every office," commented President Eric Etzel at a recent ASG meeting. There are three candidates each for the offices of president and vice-president.

Candidates for president are Sam Crosby, Walt McAllister and Joseph Schweizer; for vice president: Mike Clanton, Kevin Kelton and Susy Ryan; for business manager: Chris Clement; and for secretary: Ginger Olney.

Posters and other campaign material will have to remain down until three days before the elections set for April 22-23. Because of past problems, all such materials will be allowed to be posted only on brick or concrete surfaces.



I believe that man will not merely endure, he will prevail.  
He is immortal not because he alone among creatures  
has an inexhaustible voice,  
but because he has a soul, a spirit  
capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

Words: William Faulkner  
Photo: Ansel Adams

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