

'Odd Couple'
opens anew

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ELC pavilion
dedication soon

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Magazine!

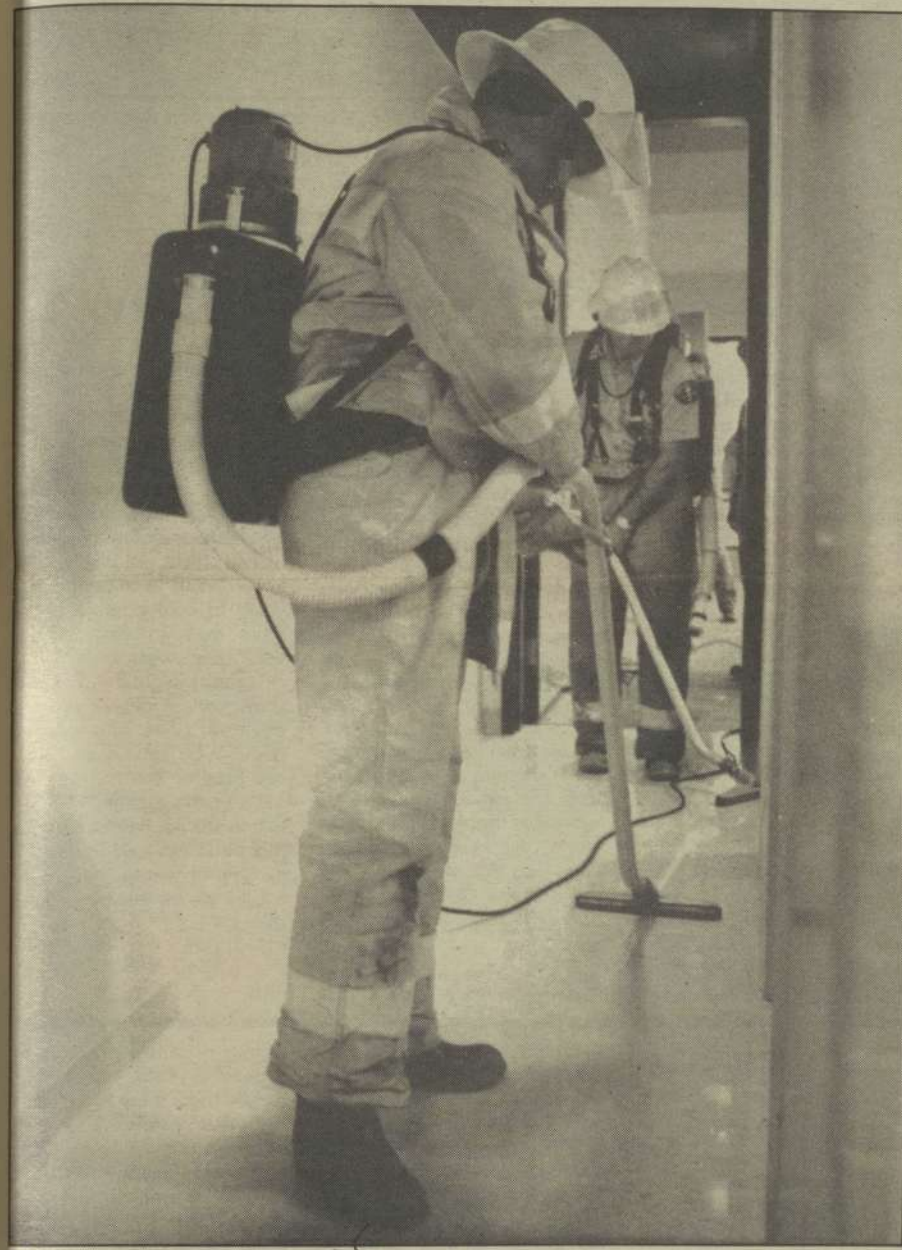
the print

Clackamas Community College

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Mark-up



FLAMING DISASTER TURNS OUT TO BE A DRIP—The Oregon City fire department rushed to the rescue of the Science Building Monday. Steam escaping from a water heater pressure relief valve set off the fire alarm and the sprinkler system in the men's restroom. The fire department promptly responded. Instead of an inferno, firemen discovered half an inch of water on the floor of the restroom. Armed with vacuums, firement sucked up the "castastrophe." Staff photo by Duffy Coffman

Telecourse project planned to water TV wasteland

Television has long been known as the vast wasteland, and many people consider it mindless-escapism at best. But recent innovations and an increase in quality programming is changing all that. In the last year alone, the popularity of such shows as "Cosmos," "Civilization," "The Ascent of Man," "Connections," and "The Shock of the New" have proven that educational TV can compete with laugh tracks and sob stories.

Combine quality productions with the sophisticated technology of cable television, communications satellites and micro-computer communication (Betamax, Selectavision, etc.) and the possibilities for education are "unlimited," according to Ray Welch, director of self-improvement at Chemeketa Community College.

Welch and more than 100 educators from around the state who recognize the untapped potential for telecourses, learned much about the newest educational phenomenon at a workshop devoted to the subject April 15 at the College.

Oregon's 13 community colleges have taken the situation a step further with the formal organization of the Oregon Telecommunications Consortium (OTC). Chartered in March, the OTC is charged with the selection, purchasing, and editing of nationally produced telecourses for the state; a procedure which serves to minimize program costs for the individual community college.

The consortium also serves as a forum where educators can share ideas and address the challenges presented by this potentially explosive resource.

"Our primary goal is access," said OTC spokesperson, Bob Wynia. "We see tremendous potential for the delivery of educational opportunities to the remote learner."

Wynia, College administrator, said the telecourses will be especially good for people

who are "time bound" by jobs, children or whatever. It will also suit the handicapped or persons otherwise physically unable to get to a campus.

Hal Bender, a College science instructor who is currently "teaching" the telecourse "Earth, Sea, and Sky," noted that with the content of the course set, the weekly class session becomes a good starting point for an expanded discussion on the program's ideas or related topics.

Although the classroom sessions are optional, students are expected to watch at least 20 of the 30 half-hour programs broadcast on the Oregon educational channel, complete reading assignments in the accompanying textbook, and take mid-term and final exams.

Telecourses are expected to present serious challenges to the traditional system of education. Private production companies, lured by projected subscription revenues approaching \$150 million by 1985, have already invested huge sums in educational "software." Communications giant Control Data Corporation, for instance, already sports a catalogue of no less than 700 telecourse titles on subjects ranging from basic math to advanced medicine.

"It's now possible to buy K-12 math for \$850," commented Starla Jewell, a television specialist for the State Department of Education. "This means we no longer have a need for K-12 math teachers. We don't even have to send kids to school anymore."

However, Wynia suggested that telecourses represent only one-third of the class. "It's essential to have a teacher who coordinates and integrates the information from the telecourse, from the textbook, and from the accompanying study guide to make it a complete learning process," he said.

"Telecourses are terrific teaching aids," he added. "You just couldn't do 'Cosmos' in a regular classroom."

Scientific creationism debate tonight

By Tom Jeffries
Of The Print
The real issue of the debate is: Is Scientific Creationism science?" explained Wally Johnson, religious studies instructor, about the three-day seminar, presenting both sides of the scientific creationism story, that begins today.
"If it is, why does it disagree so much with evolution?" Johnson added.

The seminar, which will consist of evening lectures and a panel discussion, will be open to the public and will feature four prominent scientists speaking on both sides of the question.

Dr. Donald Chittick, an independent biologist, will open tonight's lecture on his belief from a creationist perspective and the theory of a relatively young earth age. Dr. Richard

Thomas, a paleontologist from Portland State University, will follow and speak on the evolutionary hypothesis from his perspective.

On Thursday, Dr. Chittick will again speak, followed by Dr. Marc R. Feldesman, a physical anthropologist from PSU, who will also deal with the theory of evolution.

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