



Staff Photos by Duane Hiersche

Prouty, Edwards risk all to lobby for state colleges

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

As the special session of the state congress lingers into its fourth week, the 13 community colleges of Oregon are anxiously watching to see what budget cuts, if any, the future has in store.

Two Clackamas Community College students are doing more than watching, however. Karen Prouty and Dick Edwards have been lobbying in Salem on behalf of the colleges throughout most of January. Edwards is the liaison between the Community Colleges of Oregon Student Association and Commissions (CCOSAC) and the Oregon Educational Coordinating Committee (OECC). Prouty is CCOSAC's Oregon student lobbyist.

Prouty spent nearly all of the first two weeks of the session in Salem and Edwards has spent as much as four days a week there. And the personal cost?

"Well, let's say I'm worried," Edwards said, referring to his class attendance. "I have to talk to my professors and see if we can arrange something."

Edwards is in his last year at the College. From here, he will go on to either a career in law or law enforcement.

Prouty is also having trouble keeping a pace with her classes. "I haven't attended

many of my science or accounting classes this term," she said.

Unlike Edwards, Prouty has no definite plans for the future. "This is probably my last year here, then I'll transfer to the University of Oregon, if I can keep my financial aid, that is."

Prouty is currently taking 12 credit hours, the minimum needed for financial aid. If her current lobbying efforts result in failed classes, her aid may be revoked, and her stay at the College prolonged a year.

When asked why she is jeopardizing her classes, just to lobby, Prouty said, "I feel for this school. It's done a lot for me. I don't think I'm any more concerned than the next student; I just have the opportunity to help."

There are educational benefits to the hours of work, Edwards feels. "If anyone really wanted to learn something, on-the-job training is the way. I'm learning so much," he said.

Another benefit is the opportunity to meet and work with some of Oregon's most influential people. Thanks to the lobbying effort, Edwards now has a part-time, volunteer job working for Senator Ted Kulongowski.

"Dick and Karen have done tremendous work," Associated Student Government President Sam Crosby said, "We couldn't ask for better representation. I commend the job they're doing. Unfortunately, the legislature isn't doing their job as well."

Delaney foresees more tough times

By Tina Riggs
Of The Print

Last November, Peter Delaney, economics instructor at the College, made a few predictions about the future of the economy in the United States and Oregon. Most of his 'crystal ball' predictions have run true; the unemployment rate has hit an estimated 11.2 percent compared to the 12 percent Delaney expected, and there still aren't any 'bright signs' to show an improving economy.

Since the economy can change, sometimes drastically, within any three month period, Delaney had a few more comments to make.

"The unemployment rate seemed to drop from 8.9 percent to 8.5 percent nationally, which should be good news, but you can't make a judgement based on that," he said. "Those figures don't show a rise in employment. They are a sign of discouraged workers; people who aren't trying to find jobs anymore because there are no jobs to be found."

Inflation dropped considerably last year—from 12 percent in 1980 to 9 percent in 1981. Delaney attributed this to good crops, the recession, and a fall in the prices of oil and petroleum.

He added, "Some people predict an upturn in spring or fall, but I think it may be temporary. If the interest rates remain high, it won't last."

"I don't think the big cuts of the 1983 budget will actually go through," Delaney commented. "The plan is to cut social programs greatly and expand the defense budget. I just don't think they can pass cuts that severe."

The recent withdrawal of lumber harvesting in the 'red zone' surrounding Mt. St. Helens has caused speculation on negative effect to the Northwest economy. However, Delaney feels there will be little change with or without the additional supply of lumber.

"Oregon is dependent on
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the lumber industry, but the lumber supply isn't the problem. Without demand, an increased supply means nothing. There have been a few mills reopened, but just as many have closed," Delaney explained. The future seems uncertain now, but not much will change until interest rates go down and stay down. For the present, there is very little to do, he said. "I am very pessimistic. I'd say the earliest we might see a lasting change would be fall," Delaney said, "There just aren't any bright signs."

Speech team places fourth at Willamette

The College's speech team travelled to Willamette University last weekend to take first among community colleges and fourth overall in the Willamette University Invitational.

Speech Coach Frank Harlow is proud of how well his grammarians did. "When they're only three community colleges competing, things are going to be darn tough," said Harlow.

Pulling through for the silver tongued Cougars against the 13 other colleges were; Teresa Svatos who hailed first in novice expository, and

novice oratory; while Mike Doane took first in novice poetry; as Ed Coyne and Scott Van Cleave teamed up for the second place title in novice debate; and Linda Perkins was a finalist in open oratory.

Tomorrow College representatives Kari Nelson, Carolyn Ellenbrock, Karen Prouty and Lori Bevington will travel to Western Washington University in Bellingham for a three-day competition.

Harlow said "California teams will be there, and that means a lot of out-of-work actors will be competing." Harlow added.



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