

Gardner, President involved

CCOSAC serves as uniform voice

Oregon has 13 community colleges spread out across the map from Treasure Valley, less than 100 miles from Boise, Idaho, to Clatsop County Community in Astoria.

CCOSAC, the Community Colleges of Oregon Student Associations and Commissions, was formed to create a uniform voice for the 13 schools, whose concerns and citizenry are as varied as the state.

Brian Gardner is a student at Clackamas Community College. This year, he is also the chairperson for CCOSAC, which "was formed to create a network of communications between the colleges," Gardner said.

This is Gardner's second year with the organization. Last year, as a student at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, he was first introduced to CCOSAC by that college's student body president. "Last year, I was a representative for Central Oregon. I enjoyed it and when Spring term came around, I ran for chairperson," he said.

What Gardner had enjoyed so much was the pressure thrust upon the organization, and its apparently successful battles with the state government. Due to the depressed economy in Oregon, Governor Victor Atiyeh called for a special session of the state legislature in

January, 1982. At that time, it was thought that the legislature would vote in drastic cuts to the community college system.

CCOSAC became involved in the lobbying side of politics during the special session. Each of the 13 colleges contributed money and manpower to an effort that included a rally of more than 300 students from around the state and lobbying efforts with Roger Bassett, the organization's official lobbyist.

Clackamas Community College was no exception. Two students, Karen Prouty and Dick Edwards, volunteered for the lobbying effort, a job that forced them to spend more than four weeks in Salem and away from their classes and the Associated Student Government, to which they both belonged. The cost to their grades and ASG responsibilities was sufficient to make both Prouty and Edwards drop out of student government after the special session was over.

That session did not create the massive budget cuts that the two-year schools feared, thanks in part to the efforts of CCOSAC. "The special session was our proving ground," Gardner said. "It was there that people really began to take us seriously."

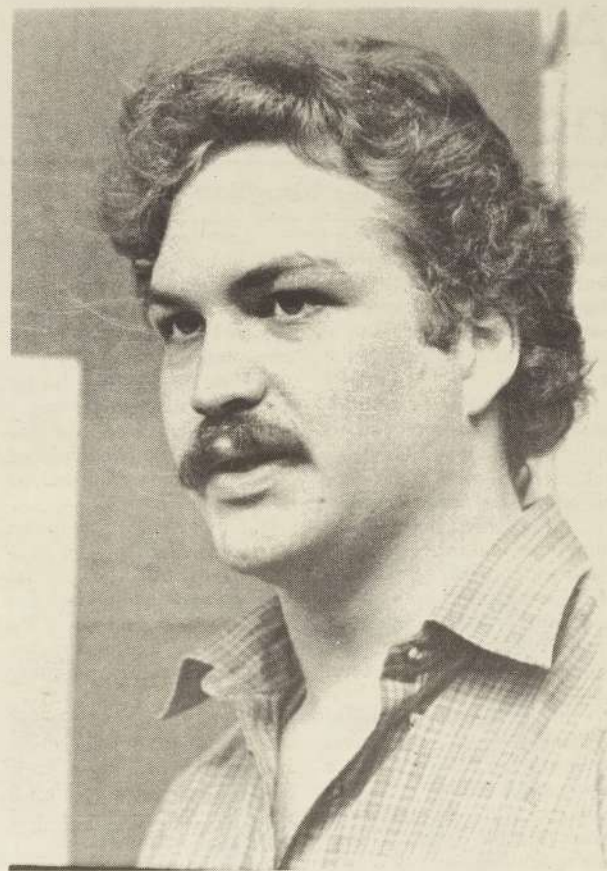
The 1981-82 CCOSAC was a well organized and proficient group, according to many

of its members, including Paul Nastari, who was a member of the ASG here last year. Nastari is the current student government president. He also feels that the special session of congress was the crucible that helped forge CCOSAC into a top notch organization. "A lot of people around the state are beginning to respect CCOSAC and the things we do," Nastari said. "Last year, some people felt that we were stronger than the Oregon Student Lobby, which is for the four-year schools."

Oregon's economy is still shaky, so CCOSAC is again prepared to fight for the budgets of its member schools. This year, a Political Involvement Commission (PIC) has been formed, specifically to work with the legislature.

The PIC is chaired by Scott Seibert, a student from Umpqua Community College in Roseburg and six other students, including Walter McAllister from Clackamas. The PIC also includes two ex/officio, or non-voting, members, Gardner and Bill Hawthorn, a liaison officer between CCOSAC and the Oregon Community College Association.

The PIC was also created to prove that CCOSAC was not a flash in the political pan in January, 1982. "I feel we must prove ourselves this year," Gardner said.



Brian Gardner, CCOSAC chairperson

Staff photo by Jenni Weber

Citizens' phone calls fail to stop speaker

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Despite mixed community views, Swami Krishna Deva, mayor of Rajneeshpuram, was allowed to come on campus to answer questions about the somewhat unknown religion.

Bob Wynia, assistant to the dean of instructional services at the College, was the contact person between the College and the Rajneeshpuram. Wynia worked with Deva six years ago.

Another Rajneesh follower that Wynia had worked with before contacted the assistant dean to organize the campus event.

Wynia said that the other Rajneesh asked if they could possibly set up a room where the mayor of the city could answer questions. The mayor was going to be in the area because he was doing business in Salem.

"We make room available to any city representative from any city government in the state of Oregon," Wynia said. "It is campus policy and the law of the country to provide people with First Amendment rights."

The College received about 300 phone calls from community members concerned about Deva's appearance at the College. "Most of the callers didn't want him to speak," Wynia said.

One specific phone call came from a person who claim-

ed to be affiliated with the county's chapter of the American Neo-Nazi movement, Wynia said. The caller wanted to speak and hand out literature.

"I read him the campus policy (in which he did not qualify to speak)," Wynia said, "and he said 'that's fine.' It was not a threat to me (which rumors speculated) but a threat to come speak."

The campus policy provides that any legal entity has the right to come and speak their point of view at the College. Wynia does not have the power to deny a request. Wynia said the Board of Education would have the final decision.

Wynia expected some disagreement with the community because of the public's curiosity of the religion and their skepticism of why Deva was on campus.

He felt the crowd possessed that skeptical and curious atmosphere, but he was impressed by the students' behavior.

"The students conducted themselves very admirably," Wynia said. "They asked intellectual and probing questions. Exactly what I expected."

In the future Wynia felt that any group that met the qualifications of the campus policy would be allowed to speak their point of view.

(Please see related story on page one)

Baker, Nastari lead delegation of senators through state capitol

Debbie Baker, student activities director, and Paul Nastari, Associated Student Government President led a delegation of four student senators to Salem to tour the capitol and meet with state legislators last week.

ASG Senators Kristi Scott, Sharon Bliguez, Jeff Smith and John Sagoe were oriented in Salem by Roger Bassett, executive secretary of the Oregon Community Colleges Association (OCCA) in his office. Bassett explained that OCCA is a lobbyist organization that has an annual budget of \$140,000,

funded by the dues of the 13 community colleges and two community education programs in Oregon.

Colleges voluntarily join this organization which lobbies at the capitol for their common interest. Bassett's intern, John Skinner, led the group to tour the capitol building and meet with State legislators.

Senator Ruth McFarland introduced the group to a committee hearing on public works funding by the state. Representative Glen Whallon also talked to the delegation about his

strong support for voting by mail.

The student government later observed five bills passed in the 50 minute session before the meeting was adjourned for the afternoon.

Rep. Darlene Hooley was the last legislator the group met. Hooley's husband John Hooley, is the College's assistant dean of social sciences. When asked whether her husband's job had any influence on her being very pro-community college, Hooley said, "I hate to admit this but I think it does, either consciously or unconsciously."

Hooley also told the group that her activeness in community colleges started long before she was a legislator. She started when she was a high school teacher in a small town where good students would not go to college because they could not lease their homes.

Hooley also commented on the state subsidy for community colleges, which amounts to 48 percent of the schools budgets. Hooley was doubtful that it would pull through. "There's just no money," she said.

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