

PIO links  
community with  
the College  
Page 4, 5



Lady Luck  
helps U of O  
past Cougars  
2-0  
Page 7

# the PRINT

Clackamas Community College

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## Levy failure could hamper college morale

By Doug Vaughan  
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Clackamas Community College is currently functioning on the last year of a three-year, rate-based serial levy. The Board of Education has proposed a similar levy to go before the voters Nov. 8.

"The chances (of the levy passing) are good," President John Hakanson said. "The College enjoys a good reputation throughout the community. My main concern is that people who support the College may not go vote."

The reason for this concern is understandable; the levy will be the only item on the ballot. Hakanson is confident the levy will pass, but if it does not, the College will propose another one to the voters before the current one ends on June 30, 1984.

A tax-based serial levy taxes the individual on assessed property value. The proposed levy possesses an average annual increase of four percent, which would set a maximum tax of \$1.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The current tax is \$1.24 per \$1,000.

"It tells the voters they will know the tax won't be anymore than \$1.39," Hakanson said. "The theory with this type of levy is that you know what the maximum tax will be."

If passed, the levy will be used strictly for maintenance and equipment to keep the programs current, Hakanson said. In order for the College to protect its reputation as an institution, Hakanson feels upgrades in both maintenance and equipment are essential.

In past years, the College has postponed basic maintenance in order to keep within budget restrictions. Also, due to technological changes, many of the instructional programs are in need of equipment.

One thing the levy does not include is money for new building, an area that concerns Hakanson.

"I think people are confused that this increase will be used for building, but there is no money in there for building," the President said. "A lot of people out there are having a hard time making it. They are just getting by. It is not the time to ask for a construction levy."

At the beginning of the year, Hakanson said in the his address to assembled staff that, "we (the College) really do need to do some more building." He felt the College is pressed for space and that "the problems are going to get worse before they get better."

Due to the rough economic times Hakanson's ideas have changed, but he knows several additions need to be made. Above his concern for adding on to the College is to maintain the current status.

"The current levy that we are functioning under only called for a two percent increase, so we have not been able to offer any new programs. And my personal belief is that not enough maintenance is done," Hakanson said.

A problem with a tax-based levy is the expected increase is not always accurate to the actual increase. This past year, the College Board projection was \$400,000 more than the actual revenue from taxes. The result was a tight budget.

Hakanson thinks that if the Nov. 8 levy fails at the polls it will affect the morale at the College, even though the Board will have a chance in the spring to pass another levy.

"It (the failure to pass the levy) will make it more pressing to construct one that the voters will accept next time," Hakanson said. "The morale will be harder to keep up. Passing it would be a vote of confidence on the part of the people."

The failure of this levy would leave the Board up in the air until the spring. Hakanson does not know when they would propose another one—nor does he want to.

"I don't want to have to worry about proposing another one until I have to," Hakanson said. "I think this one will pass because people like what the College does. I wish it would cost less, but that's out of our hands."



TRICK OR TREAT?—Mr. Nice Guy, a local band, played to the delight of many Clackamas Community College students and others at the Halloween Dance Oct. 28 in the Community Center Mall.

Photos by Joel Miller

