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'Prepare for tomorrow,' staff told

By Fritz Wenzel

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The College's teachers and administrators were told Friday that teaching students to process information would be the key to their future.

The advice came from Margaret E. Gayle, an education futurist who is associate director of forecasting curriculum and training for the North Carolina Department of Education.

"Developing the ability to find useful information when a person needs it should be what student is learning," Gayle said. Concepts and processes to access information will be the key to succeed in the future, as opposed to merely storing information.

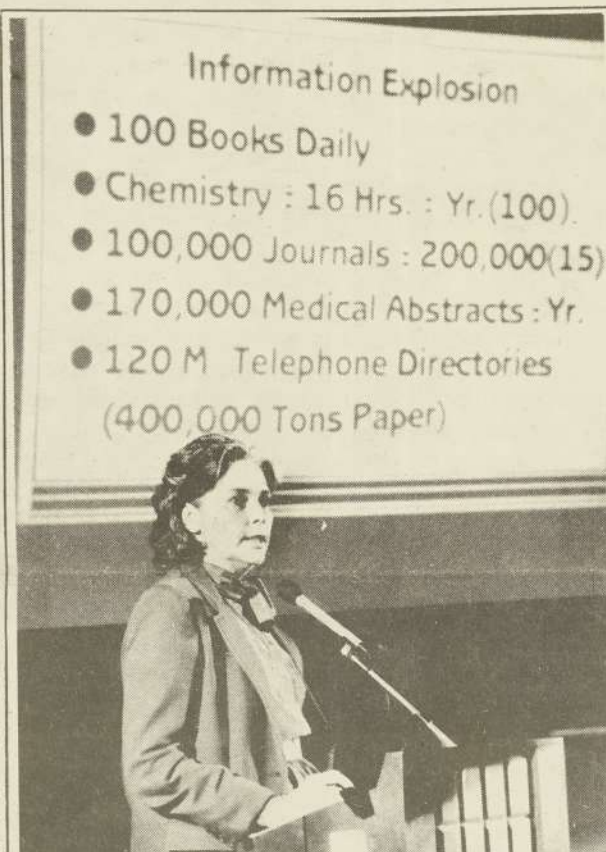
"Between 1980 and 1998 the world's knowledge will double four times," she said. "There is no way that you can keep up with all that in your head."

Gayle, who spoke at the invitation of John Keyser, the College's president, said that people need to come to terms with the information age.

"A 5-year-old today will learn in one year the equivalent of his entire grandfather's lifetime knowledge," she said. "While there is a difference in experience, you get the idea of how much the child will know. This same 5-year-old will have a vocabulary of 5,000 words by the time he enters kindergarten and our present school system will ask him to graduate with only a 3,000 word vocabulary."

Television has a lot to do with the preschool education of the child, Gayle said. She said that by the time a child finishes high school, he will have been only 13,000 hours, she said.

Gayle also said that the average television program flashes 1,200 images at the viewer each hour,



MARGARET GAYLE, ASSOCIATE director for the North Carolina department of education, used slides to demonstrate the effect of technology on our lives last Friday.

and as a result, the average attention span of Americans is growing shorter.

"A child in kindergarten has an average attention span of only three seconds. A junior high school student can go 4.5 minutes, and the adult can concentrate for between 12 to 20 minutes. The average attention span of everyone is seven minutes, and you know what happens every seven minutes on television," she said, alluding to commercials.

Gayle said that in light of shortening attention spans, teachers should try to involve more of the students' senses in the learning process.

"When someone reads, they usually retain about 10 percent. But when students are learning by doing, they retain about 90 percent," she said. "Right now, 65 percent of all college instruction is lecture," she said.

Thinking in the long term is vital to doing well in the future, as a college and as an individual, she said. People need to figure out where they are going to fit in and be effective, she said. Today, that means thinking into the 21st century.

Gayle works in the division of vocational education, and she speaks a lot about how businesses and education need to form a partnership for the future.

"We can no longer do business as usual," she said. "We can no longer make decisions from the top down." Gayle said reform needs to come in both business and education for this is society to succeed.

"While we teach our children to think independently, we send them out into a system that calls for them to conform. We must have a system in which business works together with education to build quality and keep productivity," she said.

Ecology a 10 year concern for ELC

By Joy Granquist

Of The Print

The College's Environmental Learning Center offers many services to the public and has developed into a very efficient educational offering over the last ten years.

The ELC offers the many ecologically-oriented services. Solid Waste Awareness and other waste programs are aimed at assisting local schools, businesses and area residents and recycling industries. The ELC has saved the College \$20,000 annually because of its successful recycling program.

A comprehensive education program conducts over 75 college credit classes and community education. Additional center education outreach programs provide many opportunities to 38

school districts in Clackamas County.

The Design and Planning services assist in outdoor wildlife enhancement, home and commercial landscaping and park planning. The program has assisted numerous cities and agencies in Clackamas County in solving some unique problems at a low cost. Some examples of the work accomplished by the service includes the design, development, and implementation of McLean park in West Linn, the Oregon City Senior Center, and the Milwaukie Senior Center.

Manpower Training at the center focuses on improving individual skills no matter what the level through direct involvement in center projects. Training includes carpentry, construction, electrical work, welding, landscape maintenance or installation. Nearly 8,000 persons have received work ex-

perience training in these various areas in the last ten years.

General public and school visitations are welcomed by the center. The program now attracts over 20,000 residents and visitors of Clackamas County each year. Visitors may tour the grounds, observing wildlife and site educational features. The center also provides educational on sight activities to over 10,000 children from area schools annually.

The Center now provides Oregon residents with nine different opportunities to take a more in depth look at what Oregon is all about through a Tourism and Outreach program. Specialized adventures on the Columbia, Willamette, and other Oregon rivers coupled with a list of Oregon regional interpretive adventures now await visitors.

INDEX

Shades of
Autumn

Page 3

Spriggs takes
first again

Page 8

