

A visible glimpse of spring is beginning to shine as activities come to life across our campus. See page 7 for Photo Essay.

The Clackamas women's basketball team is riding a 21 game winning streak and will compete in the NWAACC Tournament. See page 10 for story.

THE PRINT

Vol. XXI, No. 16

March 2, 1988

Clackamas Community College

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Oregon City, Oregon 97045

ELC's Haggart Observatory to open in May

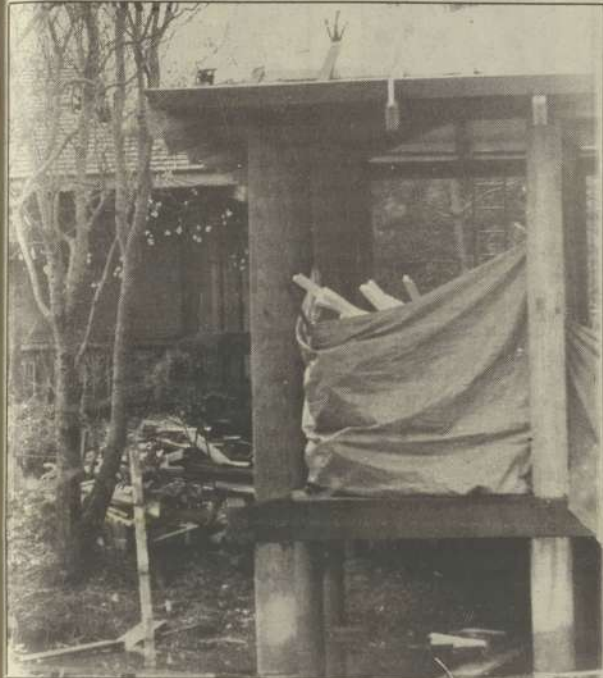


photo by Beth Coffey

Under construction now, the ELC's Haggart Memorial Celestial Observatory and lakeside Education Hall will open in May.

by Lisa Snider
Staff Writer

On May 23 the Environmental Learning Center will be opening its new Haggart Memorial Celestial Observatory and the adjoining Lakeside Education Hall. The completed observatory will be the third largest in the Northwest.

The observatory is in part the donated Haggart observatory. The Haggart observatory, previously located in Redland, was built by Haggart in 1952. The Center was contacted about the possibility of moving the observatory when a plan for the destruction of the observatory was announced in a local paper. With the donation of equipment and time from Portland Crane and Larry Skou of Beavercreek, the removal of the 10 foot observatory dome and transportation to Clackamas was possible.

The observatory and the Hall will be used in conjunction with each other. An exhibit of Haggart's personal documents, designs and mirror grinding

equipment will be shown in the Lakeside Hall.

The Hall and the observatory will also be joined by a video image system link that will allow the Hall to show high intensity stellar, planetary, and lunar objects via a large screen TV. According to an ELC press release on the observatory, this will greatly increase the observatory's accessibility to both large groups (the observatory holds only 15) and to handicapped persons.

The completed observatory and Hall will have an estimated value of \$350,000, said ELC director Jerry Herrmann. However the cost of the project, said Herrmann, has so far stayed within the ELC's budget of \$40,000. The project has been almost exclusively supported by volunteers and donations both public and private. "People started coming out of the woodwork," said Herrmann about the response to observatory. "I didn't know that there were so many people interested in astronomy in the Portland area."

In addition to the video-

telescope link, the Hall will also feature an audiovisual production lab for use in multiprojector slide show production classes for both natural science teachers and others. On display will also be a water quality and fishery exhibit that will recycle pond water from beneath the hall to aquariums housing salmon, trout, freshwater clams and other aquatic creatures. The Hall will also be a demonstration of the latest technology in efficiency lighting and heating.

The first big event for the observatory will be this September when ELC will hold a "star party" for the opposition of Mars. "Mars will be at its closest this September since 1959," said ELC director Jerry Herrmann. "It won't be this close for another 17 years. Mars will be more intense than Venus; Venus is usually the brightest thing in the sky," continued Herrmann. "The opposition of Mars will be a big celestial event. It will be a great way to kick off the observatory."

Frothingham lobbies in D.C.

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

Neale Frothingham, student government president, went to Washington D.C., from Feb. 20 to Feb. 24, to lobby on financial aid, child care and a nursing issue.

Frothingham met with Oregon's Sen. Mark Hatfield and Representatives Bob Smith, Denny Smith, and Ron Wyden. Frothingham participated in a group that consisted of Oregon Community College Board members from Mt. Hood, Portland, and Treasure Valley. They asked the representatives and the senator for their support on the financial aid and child care bill.

"It was interesting meeting with that group, because I was the only student." Wyden was supportive of an increase in financial aid, and seemed concerned about the Nursing Shortage Act. "I guess the most amazing to me is that he was interested in the students," Frothingham expressed.

Bob Smith was hesitant to an increase of financial aid and the child care bill, but "Smith also

seemed very concerned to hear from students."

Hatfield was very supportive of Education and a financial aid increase. "From all the people I met he impressed me the most." Frothingham explained that probably the reason of Hatfield's strong support is that he was the Governor when Community Colleges started.

Denny Smith was, according to Frothingham, not supportive of the child care bill and an increase in financial aid. After explaining the situation and asking for support Smith replied to Frothingham, "You've begged well for your supper."

Frothingham also talked to Carla Lunetta, legislative secretary of Florida Sen. Lawton Chiles; Penny Schiller, legislative secretary of Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood; Susan Moos, legislative assistant to House Majority Leader Tom Foley; and Tom Wolanin, legislative assistant of education to Rep. William Ford.

Lunetta said that Chiles, who is also the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee has always been supportive of financial aid and has endorsed the ABC child care bill.

Schiller told Frothingham that Packwood is supportive of financial aid, but declined to take a position on child care. Schiller was very concerned about the nursing issue. The American Nursing Association wants to give the two year graduates a different degree and license than the four year graduates.

Foley, according to Moos would support a financial aid increase, but did not take a stand on the child care issue.

Ford is responsible for writing the rules under which financial aid is administered and is a supporter of financial aid, Wolanin said.

Frothingham also met with Patricia Sullivan, the legislative assistant to house post secondary subcommittee on appropriations.

"There seemed to be a real desire from their part to hear from students. I think that what I accomplished is bringing the needs of students before them, that is more in a personal way, more meaningful, than a bunch of facts and statistics. I think my presence there indicated that students are very concerned about financial aid," Frothingham concluded.



Clackamas ASG President Neale Frothingham (right) met with Ronald C. Kimberly, Assistant Secretary for post secondary education of the United States Department of Education during his trip to Washington D.C.

