

Choir travels to Australia, makes dream come true

by M. Leigh Hagen guest writer

Did you ever dream of going halfway across the world and having the people there speak your language?

Did you ever picture yourself hugging a koala bear, hand feeding a kangaroo or standing within 10 feet of a crocodile?

Thirty-four Clackamas Community College students did all this and much more last month when they travelled to Australia to perform at World Expo '88.

On Sept. 1, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers left the Portland airport with visions of a dream that had started over a year before.

For seven people in the group, including myself, it was our first time in an airplane. Needless to say, we were just a little frightened, tackling a 15 hour flight over the ocean our first time out.

During the flight was the first chance many of us got to talk to one another, and it was here that friendships began to grow. There was never hesitation in holding someone's hand or offering encouraging words when one of us was scared.

On Sept. 3, we took our first steps on Australian ground in Cairns. Little did we know at that time what the next 13 days would bring.

We visited places such as Wild World and the Koala Bear Sanctuary where all of us fed kangaroos and had pictures taken holding a koala bear.

We took a two hour catamaran ride out to the Great Barrier Reef, where we went snorkeling in one of the most beautiful wonders of the world. We also went shopping, surfing, played volleyball with some of the Australians, visited night clubs, played in the ocean and discovered Australian cuisine.

We visited a Maori tribe camp where we saw a geyser erupt. We also saw the glowworms in the Waitomo caves, got a tour of the Sydney opera house and took a harbour cruise around Sydney.

We also visited the Oz Rock Cafe and stayed in five star hotels and resorts throughout the trip, but most important, we got to sing at World Expo.

Although singing on stage at Expo was special, something even more special took place before we went on stage.

As we all stood by the gate leading to the backstage area, energy and closeness was definitely not lacking.

The Harley twins posed as statues around a real statue and drew a large crowd. We all dared the onlookers to make them laugh, and offered a dollar to anyone who could.

As our time came closer to go on stage, nervous energy pushed us to start singing right where we stood. Gary Markham led us in our own version of "We all need somebody to lean on".



Photo by Jilliana Parker

This year's choir is a mixture of new students as well as those who journeyed to Australia for World Expo '88. Instructor for the group is Lonnie Cline, seated in front.

As we sang we held hands and said a silent prayer. This was it. This performance was what had brought us so far from home- and it was fantastic!

As our plane arrived back home Sept. 15, we were all ready to get back to work and friends once again. Leaving the airport, all with our own families, we talked

on and on about everything we had seen, learned, and experienced. Although the trip had come to a close and we were all going our own ways, never will we be able to forget the friendships that made a family so far from home.

Read next week to find out how this dream was accomplished.

Skills class offered

by Christopher L. Curran Editor

Clackamas Community College now has relief for students who are having difficulty with their classes.

That relief comes in the form of a five week Study Skills Class, which began Monday. The class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. The class is a one credit course which meets in B 114.

"I saw a need for a structured study skills class for after the student has had some class experience," said Cynthia Andrews, the instructor and implementor of the class.

Andrews taught a version of the class at Precision Cast Parts Titanium Plant and saw that it is helpful "to different needs."

Once inside the classroom the student will learn how to listen and take notes. The student will learn how to work and use textbooks more effectively and anticipate test questions. There will also be instruction on how to take exams better.

"I've used the material in my Effective Learning Class," said Andrews. "It's nothing new, it's just packaged a little differently. It will be a lecture format with hands on practice."

"I hope to offer it (the course) every quarter," said Andrews. "Even if it is not successful I will

try during winter term. People are very interested in study skills."

Andrews said that she would let students sign up during the second week of the classes (next week). All students must do is obtain Andrews' signature on a registration form, which they can do in class.

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With Nancy & Sluggo



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