



Women's basketball roars on

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Mshkolahnee Manito/G. Spirit Hawk leads Native American club

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Student's car catches fire

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Community College Day at the State Legislature

Students, staff lobby for federal funds

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News Editor

Last Wednesday's Community College Day at the Oregon capitol building in Salem provided community colleges with the opportunity to argue their case before Oregon senators and representatives regarding the need for an additional \$45 million that Governor Kitzhaber has written in his 2001 community college budget.

Representatives from several community colleges were on hand to talk to legislators. As Wednesday's meeting of the 71st session of the Oregon House of Representatives convened, students and staff from Klamath Falls, Umpqua, Lane, Rogue, Chemeketa, Columbia Gorge, and Clatsop community colleges were recognized along with Bryan Fuentez, Associated Student Government president of CCC.

Clackamas President John Keyser, board member Larry Wright, and Clackamas students met with District 14 senator and former newscaster for KOIN, Rick Metsger. They expressed a need for funds that are already allocated to community colleges to stay in the governor's budget after it clears the legislature.

"One problem I see for the college is making it accessible and we really struggle with tuition," said Wright. "Every year it's a real struggle; how do we keep tuition at a point where we can get students the most affordable quality services."

Metsger expressed that he understood that the legislature had a legacy of short-term fixes when it came to community colleges.

"We try to get things to a continuum of access and programs - that's how we really like to have it," said Metsger. He explained that the Legislature has "never really maintained and built upon a consistent approach. It is a very disheartening reality. I'd like to find some ways to change that long term."

An approach that would accomplish this is not possible, however, when people want to cut taxes also. When people petition for new programs, he wonders how many of them voted for measure 88, which took \$240 million out of the budget this year.

"When the governor has a budget of \$800 million below what is



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College President John Keyser (right) speaks with Rick Metsger, District 14 senator, last Wednesday at the state capital building in Salem. Keyser encouraged the senator to make sure Community Colleges have proper funding.

needed to maintain current service levels, no matter how you cut it, good programs will suffer," said Metsger.

"Do you know you're preaching to the choir?" said Representative Kathy Lowe after she met and spoke with a group from Clackamas.

When asked to support funding for community colleges, Lowe was fully in agreement; she

only asked that in return Clackamas develop ways to help incarcerated youths, especially those in the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility.

"A diversified curriculum is a strength to the community," said Lowe. "What do you need from me and how can I serve?"

Information tables from the Oregon Community College Association were set up by 9 a.m. in the lobby behind the Great Seal of Oregon. Representatives from the OCCA passed out plants, pamphlets, coffee and morning past-

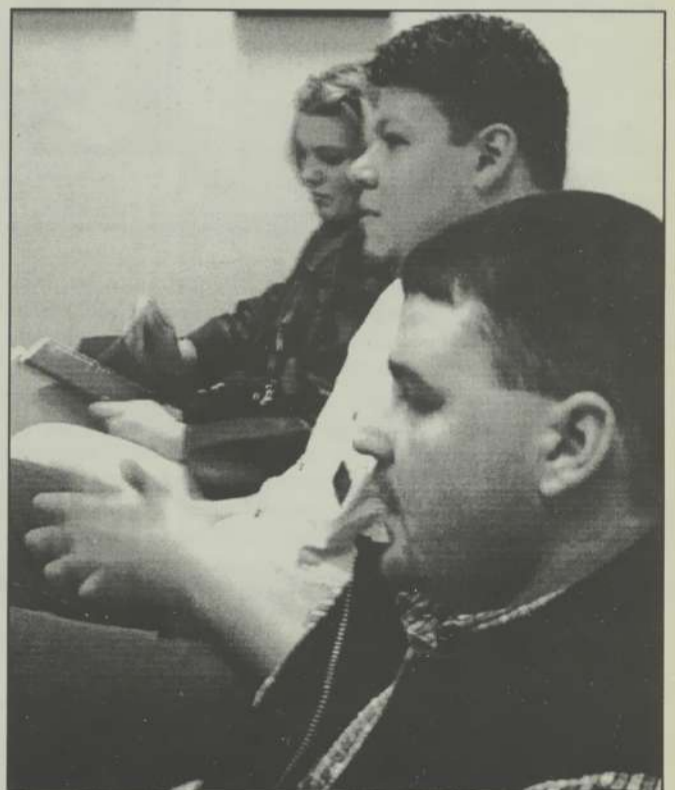
ries. Areas of information included community college facts, high school partnerships and adult basic skills.

Since the state Legislature passed laws allowing community colleges to form and finance themselves by levying taxes in the early 1960s, community colleges have grown drastically and need increasing amounts of government funding.

According to the college's research and planning department, when it began in 1966, CCC had a total enrollment of 693. Today the annual enrollment is around 27,500.

Board member Larry Wright remembered when there were 13 community colleges in 1975. Since then, four more community colleges have been created. Portland Community College has the largest enrollment with 97,000. All 17 community colleges have a total enrollment of 392,472 students. That is around 10 percent of the total population of Oregon.

The governor's budget allocated \$474.4 million for community colleges this year, which is \$45 million above current service levels. The Legislature's co-chair's budget, that came out last week, included an additional \$6.4 million. The budget proposal will now



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Students Daisy Bain, Bryan Fuentez and Steve Nielsen represent Clackamas at Legislative Day. They spoke to senators and representatives about how Clackamas is important to them.

move into the Legislature, where they will debate and revise it, before a final version is presented to

the governor for his approval.

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