

17 community colleges in state benefit from lobbying

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Staff Writer

How many Clackamas students have problems paying tuition on their own? My guess is, too many.

Last Wednesday, I spent the day at our state capital learning how our government works by participating in the process. Right now, the governor has a new proposed 2001 budget for Oregon community colleges. How much money will eventually go to the schools has yet to be decided.

The money from last year's budget was used to maintain low tuition rates and to upgrade our facilities here at the college. With the growing number of students, money is growing increasingly scarce.

When I approached the capital building, I had no idea what I was supposed to do. I thought I was there to report on the day's events. Later I found out that I was also there to lobby for money. I sat in the senator's and representative's offices, gave them my story about why I was

in college, how I am paying for school, and why, if tuition went up, I would no longer be able to attend school.

At first, I was very nervous, but as the day went on it got easier and easier. I realized later that what I was doing was somewhat cool. I just took part in something that is going to benefit every student in the state of Oregon. The \$45 million dollars that we were lobbying for has to be split up between 17 schools in the state of Oregon, and I helped all 17 schools. That is a good feeling to have.



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

The Speaker of the House and his aides conduct business as representatives gather in the house side of the Oregon Capital.



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

Legislators meet on the house floor to vote on bills such as operating a vehicle while using electronic devices and use of digital signatures by government agencies.

News Briefs

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Opening of buildings delayed

Due to recent thefts, the college has delayed the opening of all classrooms and buildings to 7 a.m., from 6 a.m.

This policy began on Monday Feb. 5, and will continue through the end of this term. At that time, a meeting will be held to discuss the effectiveness of the delayed openings and the plan for Spring term.

"After the incident where the printer walked away, we decided to open the building at a later time," said Peter Angstadt, dean of college services. "Having the building open at six is great, but we have some people taking advantage of it and that is not good."

If for some reason you need to get into a building before 7 a.m., custodians have keys and can assist you.

College considers energy conservation

With all the hype about the energy crisis in the Northwest, what are we at Clackamas doing to preserve energy?

According to Angstadt, over the last year the college has installed an energy-related system which regulates how much energy has been used and indicates specific areas of usage.

"We will also look around (in the next few weeks) and see if there are any more things we're missing and that the college can do," he said.

One thing the college plans to do is to raise awareness among students on how they can help aid the crisis.

"We will put together a program for students in the next few weeks with tips on how they can preserve energy," he said.

According to Angstadt, it will include small tips such as how much energy you can save by turning off the computer monitor when you are done using it.

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X2354

WRITERS' CLUB CONTEST

Deadline: Friday, March 2

You may submit up to 3 poems, 1 essay, 1 piece of fiction, and 1 one-act play. Submit 4 copies of each entry. Include 1 cover page for each set of entries.

On each entry, include the title and your social security number. The cover page for each entry should include the title and category, your name, social security number, address, and phone number. Include an IBM-compatible 3.5" disk with your work on it.

Return entries to Allen Widerburg, S124, ext. 2359.

All entries will be considered for the literary magazine *Symesthesia*.