

Former language instructor organizes Puerto Rican exchange

SALENA DE LA CRUZ
Opinion Editor

In an attempt to foster friendship between Oregonians and Costa Ricans, Clackamas will welcome Costa Rican professionals for the 14th year as part of the cultural exchange program known as Costa Rican Partners of America.

Carlota Holley, former foreign language instructor at Clackamas, formulated the idea for this program in 1964 through an idea of President John F. Kennedy. According to Holley, he called for a bond of friendship to strengthen the alliance between America and Costa Rica. This was known as the Alliance for Progress Agenda.

"I presented the idea to Oregon and they sent me to Washington, the capitol, and they funded me to go to Costa Rica for three months," said Holley.

"The first year... we had 32 participants, but had to put a cap on it after that because it got too hectic."

Carlota Holley
former Language Instructor

Even though Holley is no longer with Clackamas, she has involved the Spanish Club and the new advisor, Irma Bjerre, in this event. Holley and the Costa Ricans will be on campus at the Environmen-

tal Learning Center on Oct 15 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. They will then share a lunch, called "Entre Amigos," where all are welcome. Immediately following the lunch, they will be visiting Spanish classes from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

There will be 20 retired Costa Rican professionals visiting. They will be staying for a month. There are varied activities that will take them back and forth from Portland, to Salem, to Hood River and Mt. Hood.

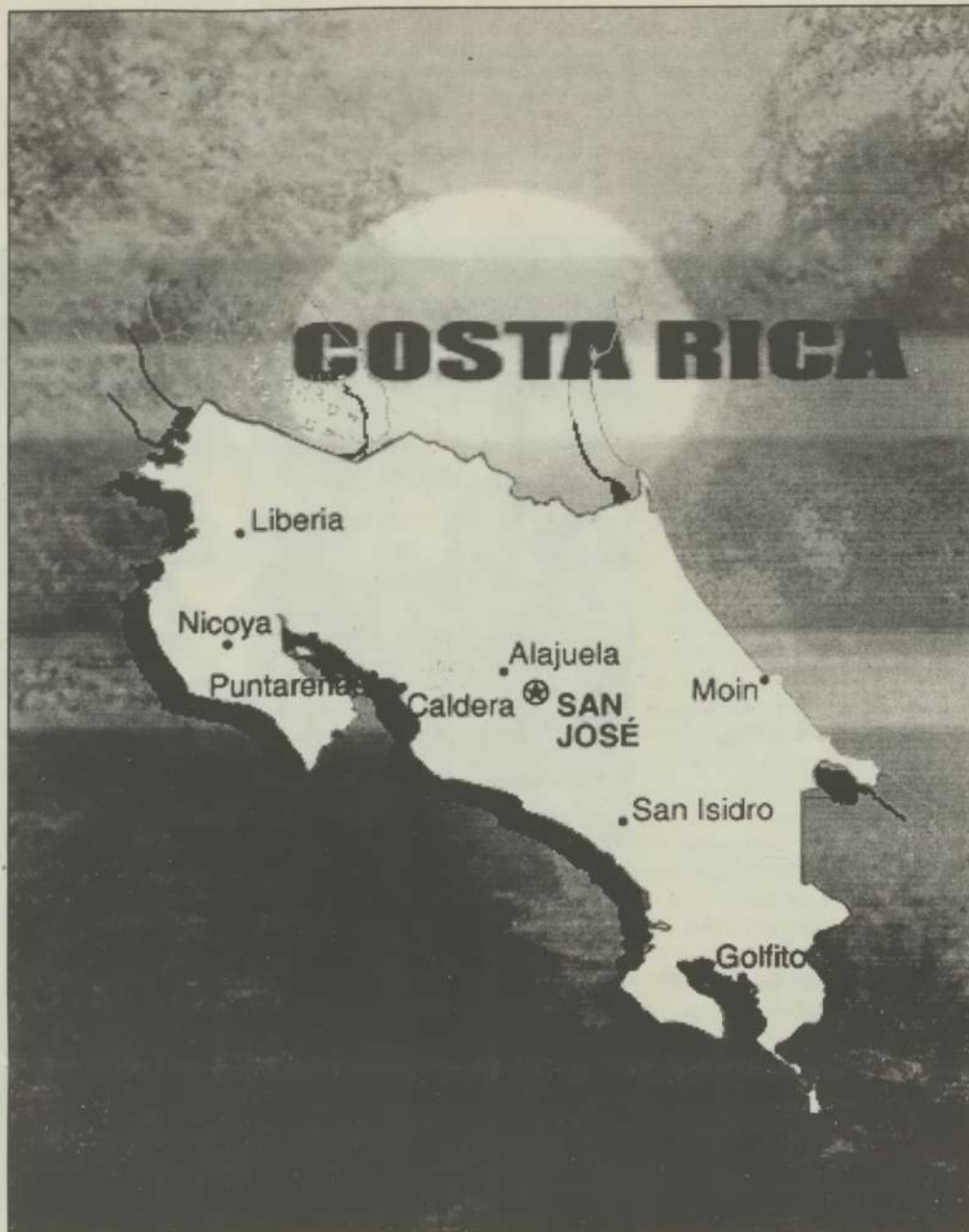
"The first year we did this program we had 32 participants, but had to put a cap on it after that because it got too hectic," said Holley.

According to Holley, the program has had well over 600 participants, including former college President John Keyser and his daughter.

Oregon is the first state to effectively offer a retired persons cultural exchange program. "We have been the only state that has been able to do this because it takes a lot of work and responsibility," added Holley.

Oregonians have the opportunity to be a part of this program. There are two choices: host or be hosted. This means one can either go to Costa Rica and live with someone there for a month or have a Costa Rican stay at one's house for a month.

To gain knowledge and friendship through this cultural exchange, contact Carlota Holley at (503) 639-3346 or e-mail her at jholley@pacinter.net.



GRAPHIC BY LIESL MUGGLI AND LUKE MAHAN / Clackamas Print

Haggart Observatory opens to a new light



ELISABETH MEYER / Clackamas Print

Young visitors peer into the newly reopened Haggart Observatory during the Fall Celebration to welcome the public.

ELISABETH MEYER
Staff Writer

A Fall Celebration at the Environmental Learning Center marked the ceremonial reopening of the Haggart Observatory to the public Saturday evening.

After a two year closure for repairs, the ELC managed through donations to make the telescope accessible again, and hoped that the Fall Celebration, with its host of activities for the community, would raise the center's profile.

Although the observatory has been in operation since May, the center decided to wait until fall to officially welcome the public. The telescope, which was built by the late Harold Haggart in 1941, was donated by his widow Darcy Haggart in 1987. Two years ago, officials discovered dry rot in the timber structure supporting the telescope. The original mechanical parts were still in good shape.

Because the ELC receives only a third of its funding from the college, it had to find resources elsewhere.

"We rely on grants, private donations and program fees, to operate at all," said John LeCavalier, di-

rector of the ELC. Like the original structure, the new 45 foot structure, required to lift the telescope above the trees, had to be built of donated materials. The breakthrough came when College Foundation Board member Gordon Day, president of Day Wireless, secured the donation of the steel and labor from Andersen Construction.

"The highlight of the celebration is certainly the telescope."

Alison Heimowitz
Education Coordinator

Coast Crane, the company that moved the telescope to the center originally, pitched in a second time.

LeCavalier and his staff estimate the total donation of materials and labor have amounted to \$158,000. Beyond this, he adds that the handful of volunteers who guide visitors to the observatory—six active ones, and three or four folks who help out when they can—have con-

tributed thousands of dollars' worth of time explaining to new skywatchers just what they're seeing through the lens.

Activities on Saturday started off with a barbecue of free-range turkey and gardenburgers. Hawk Haven, a rehabilitation center for predatory birds, displayed several birds. ELC staffer Savina Darzes gave a lecture on bats of the Northwest, while Education Coordinator Alison Heimowitz taught how to identify animals in the dark by the color of their eye shine. Walks along the bank of Newell Creek let visitors see and hear the natural inhabitants of the center.

"The highlight of the celebration is certainly the telescope," said Heimowitz. But the ELC is hoping to make this a "first annual" event.

"The work's really just begun. Now we have a telescope but we have to maintain it, making it useful to the public," commented LeCavalier.

"We need to develop and improve programs like the one with the (Oregon City) school district... we want to reach out to the community."