

## College Credit for Life Experiences

Prior learning counts toward college degree

Discover how to earn college credit for experiential learning—skill, ability and knowledge gained outside the classroom—at a free Prior Learning Assessment information session at Marylhurst University on Tuesday, Aug. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., BP John Administration Building, room 200.

"You can earn college credit for the knowledge you've acquired from accumulated experience," said Denis Lawrence, director of Marylhurst's Learning Assessment Center. "Learning can come from career, volunteer, military or parenting activities, or from hobbies and life-expanding experiences."

"Through PLA you'll demonstrate how your prior learning has potential for credit at the college level," Lawrence said. "You provide the evidence of what you have already learned, and PLA evaluates it. A successful request will be awarded credit." Up to 45 credits, the equivalent of one year, may be obtained through PLA.

To register for the PLA information session or more information, call 503-699-6260 or 800-634-9982, extension 6260, e-mail [pla@marylhurst.edu](mailto:pla@marylhurst.edu) or visit [www.marylhurst.edu](http://www.marylhurst.edu).

Marylhurst is located 10 minutes south of Portland on Highway 43. The university is rated first in Oregon for small class size according to U.S. News and World Report. It offers professional certificates and degrees for undergraduate and graduate studies.

## Science Careers Promoted

(AP)—Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has announced an initiative to promote "science literacy" and boost the number of American students interested in becoming scientists and engineers.

The program will award scholarships at national labs for math and science teachers. It also will require the 17 labs to host fifth- and eighth-graders for at least one day each year, sponsor annual science appreciation days and have scientists visit public schools.

The programs will focus on students and teachers in middle school—a time when American children's curiosity in math and science often

wanes.

According to an international study completed in 1999, U.S. fourth-graders ranked among the world's best in math and science. By eighth grade, they fell below the international average. By 12th grade, they trailed students in nearly every other industrialized country.

It's unclear whether the initiative will stem years of declining enrollment in science programs among American college students, and it's unlikely to change a broader concern: Engineering and science graduates from developing nations dramatically outnumber those from U.S. universities.

## New Jobs Coming to Oregon Steel

North Portland industry plans expansion

Thanks in a large part to the efforts of a business recruitment committee made up of some of Portland's key private sector business leaders as well as public officials, Oregon Steel Mills Thursday announced it would bring up to 200 new jobs to the Portland area.

The company plans to build a new pipe making facility at or near its north Portland, Oregon mill. The project would consist of two mills that produce large diameter line pipe.

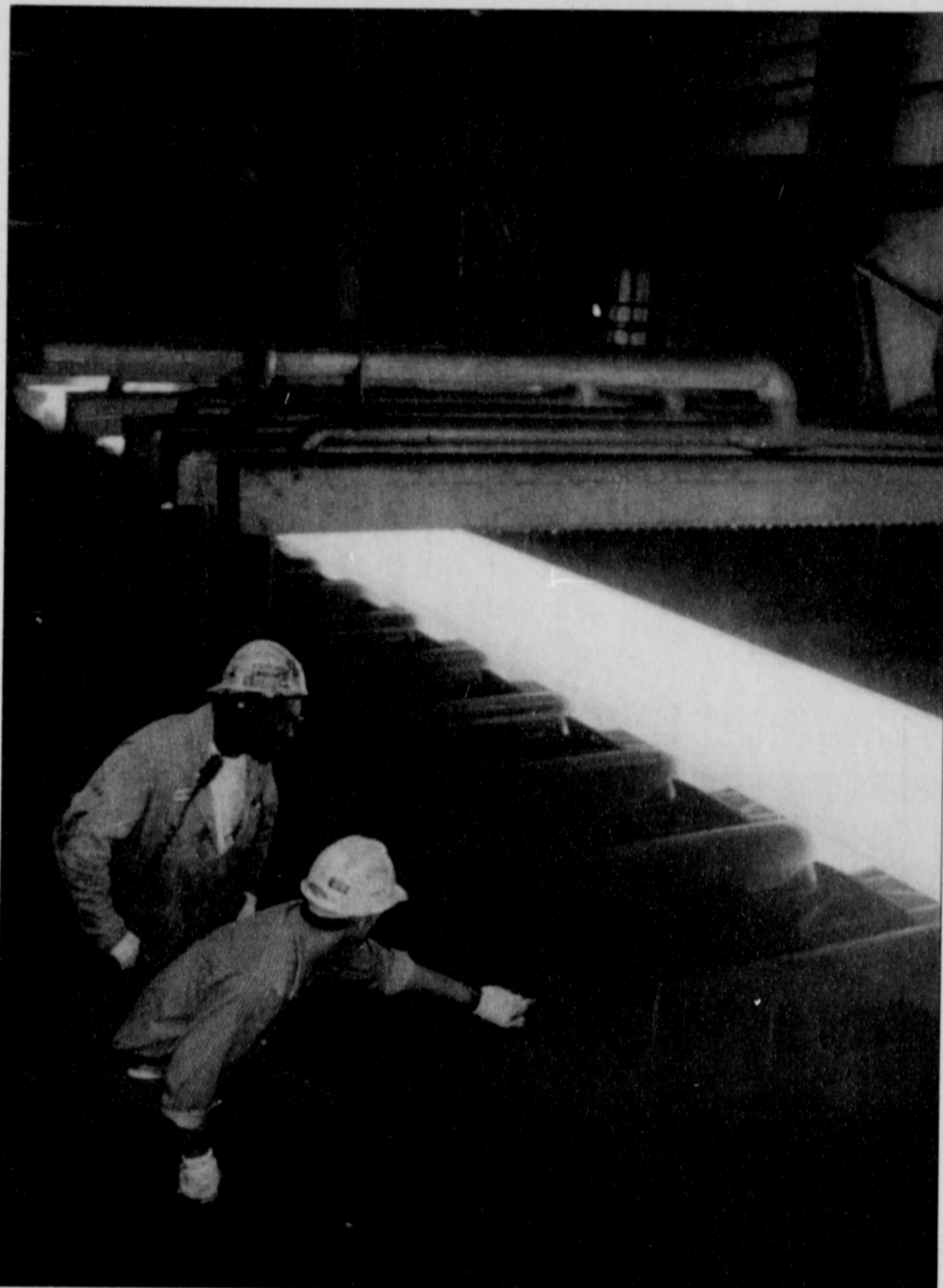
It is estimated the project will cost approximately \$35 million. The facility is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2005.

"This announcement points to the true value of public and private entities teaming up to encourage business investment in Portland," said Judy Pepler, Qwest President, Oregon and chair of the Portland Ambassadors committee leading the effort.

The team is designing a proposed package of incentives that includes Enterprise Zone and Construction-in-Progress tax abatements as well as Governor's Strategic Reserve Funds and other state tax credit programs. In addition, Worksystems, Inc. offered a wide array of customized services to meet the company's recruitment, screening, hiring, training and retention needs.

"Portland is an attractive place to do business and Oregon Steel Mill's choice to expand here is a great credit to the public-private partnership now in place that advertises and promotes that fact," said Mayor Vera Katz.

OSM already employs 400 workers at its facilities on North Rivergate Boulevard, adjacent to the site of the proposed plant.



Workers oversee production at the Oregon Steel Mills plant in north Portland. The company announced plans last week to build a new pipe making facility at or near the existing plant, bringing 200 new jobs to the Portland area.

## Popular Interview Questions

Anticipating questions takes the edge off

Some interview questions tend to pop up in almost every job interview. While the bad news is that common questions are usually difficult to answer, the good news is that you can prepare for them well in advance.

The four most common interview queries are, tell me a little bit about yourself, why did you leave your last job, what's your greatest weakness and do you have any questions for me?

Sometimes the most general questions can be the hardest. To tackle the common introductory questions, tell me a little about yourself, keep in mind that this is not an invitation to sum up your whole life in three minutes or less. Instead, it's an invitation to describe what

you can offer the company.

In the book 101 Great Answers to the Toughest Interview Questions author Ron Fry suggests focusing on your key accomplishment at previous jobs and how they relate to the job for which you're applying. Rather than reciting your resume, tell the interviewer how you came to be interested in this particular company and job.

Chances are, you'll have to explain why you left your last job at your interview. The biggest sign of a troublemaker is when someone trashes his or her former employer so stay positive.

An interview is not the time to vent frustration with former bosses or coworkers. If you were fired, be

honest and quick about explaining what you learned from that experience. If you were laid off, don't apologize or act defeated. It's not as taboo as it was five years ago to be caught in the slaughter of a bankrupt dotcom or massive lay-off. If you quit, be honest and positive by stating that the work didn't challenge you enough or that you are seeking higher levels of responsibility. Be sure to discuss your desire for growth.

The question about exposing your biggest weakness should not be a pitfall to convince an employer not to hire you. Instead, use it as an opportunity to discuss how you tackle challenges. Be sure to follow up a weakness with your action plan for over-

coming it. Be sure the weakness is job-related, but don't reveal a weakness that will torpedo your chances of getting hired.

An interview usually closes with an invitation to ask the interviewer some questions. Don't pass up this opportunity to show that you've been listening and have done research on the company. This is not the time to inquire about vacation days, salary or other compensation packages. Instead, ask about growth opportunities in the company or what your interviewer likes about working for the company. Finally, don't forget to ask for the job by saying that this is the exact type of position you are looking for and what is the next step in the interview process.

## BUSINESS OPTIONS



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- MA INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION)

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- \* Available in an online format.

### FALL TERM STARTS SEPTEMBER 23RD.

To work with an advisor, e-mail [studentinfo@marylhurst.edu](mailto:studentinfo@marylhurst.edu) or call 503.699.6268.

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