

# LIFE AND ART

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Afrocentric medallions are becoming a familiar sight on college campuses.  
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Living with engaged roommates can cause problems.  
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### COLUMN

## 'Rain Man' is real life for student

By Rainey Holloway  
• The Voice  
Glenville Community College

Clasp your hands over your ears. Start humming and really rocking back and forth, blocking out the rest of the world.

My twin brother frequently does this.

He is autistic.

Michael has the body of a 19-year-old and the mind of a fourth-grader. He plays with toys, watches Hulk Hogan and loves his' games above. He speaks in fragments in most, but my family and I have become used to his way of communicating.

When Michael was 4 years old, my mother says, he used his hands to spell the alphabet backward and to write the names of game pieces and soap operas.

At the same age he read the yellow pages and ran his fingers through stock market reports, carefully looking at each line.

He now attends Campers Rehabilitation Center and is improving every year. He has a job at a hotel, along with other high-achieving students in his class.

Autism is a disorder of communication and behavior that often is the result, without an awareness of those who are affected, an inconsideration of voluntary involvement is inappropriate.

Researchers once believed autistic children were in their own worlds due to sensory, childhood experiences, but the disorder is now understood to result from a chemical imbalance in the brain.

Living with an autistic family member is not easy.

When I was growing up, it was often difficult for my parents to deal with their "handicapped" son. I was always reminded by them how lucky I was to be able to live a normal life, which I resented because it made me feel guilty about something over which I had no control.

We are still learning to deal with Michael's handicap.

In the movie "Rainman" the character of Charlie Babbitt, portrayed by Tom Cruise, experiences what all families go through with autistic children. At one point in the film,

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# Special-interest housing unites comrades-in-dorms

By Jeremy Kemp  
• Oregon Daily Emerald  
U. of Oregon

Shaun Notdurft plays his music too loud, but his dormitory neighbors like it that way.

Notdurft lives in Cloran, one of several special-interest dormitories on the U. of Oregon campus. A third of the campus dormitories house students with special interests in areas such as international studies, cross-cultural experiences, music and creative arts.

Cloran, the music dorm, comes complete with a furnished practice room in the basement.

"Living in the music hall lets me enjoy music with people who perform it," Notdurft said. "We had some people in the hall last year who didn't like loud music. They moved out pretty quick."

For Cloran residents with lighter tastes, the dorm hosts fireside performances. "About 10 musicians perform in our lounge. We play flute, piano and acoustic guitar as well as electric guitars," Notdurft said.

Elsewhere on campus, when Ohtsuka Nobuyuki finishes his management class on Friday afternoons, he walks toward a weekend of cultural encounters.

"People here in the international dorm are interested in foreign students," said Nobuyuki, a resident of Robbins International Hall. "There's no discrimination and living here helps my English because people are friendly."

After a late-night game of *ca te*, Lynelle



Todd Johnson and Shaun Notdurft get in a little practice in front of Cloran, a U. of Oregon special-interest dormitory for musicians.

Torikai, Adams cross-cultural hall's resident assistant, is ready for bed. One of her residents introduced the Vietnamese game at the beginning of the year, and it has since taken over the dorm.

"The cross-cultural dorm is different

from the international hall because we are interested in people and ethnic perspectives, while the international hall is more interested in nations and politics," Torikai said.

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# Students serve as miniseries extras

By Barbara Kollmeyer  
• The University Daily Kansan  
U. of Kansas

More than 2,500 people, including several U. of Kansas students, gathered early this summer on the lush, rolling hills surrounding Vinland, Kan., to film part of an NBC miniseries.

The KU students joined hundreds of other extras to participate in "Cross of Fire," which depicts the rise and fall of a Ku Klux Klan leader during the 1920s.

Most of the extras donned period clothing. Others wore the white robes and hoods of the Klan, and above one of the tents hung a banner that read "The KKK Welcomes You."

The cast of the film includes Lloyd Bridges, David Morse and John Heard.

J.L. Watson, a recent KU film and theater graduate, said she participated in the event to see what filming is like and to act. "In class, we were taught technique. With this, you see the nitty gritty," Watson said.

A lengthy rain delay prompted Watson

to dub the day "hurry up and wait. We were really cold, but they told us to be patient," she said, shivering in her sleeveless 1920s dress.

By noon the pouring rain had driven cold, hungry extras into a tent where food was served and jazz music performed.

Some students, like senior Larry Switzer, enjoyed the experience, although playing Klan members disturbed them. "I don't agree with the symbolism of the uniforms," Switzer said, who was working on his fourth day as a paid extra.

Later that morning, the 25-year-old Switzer was taken out of a scene because he looked too young to hold the high rank indicated by his Klan uniform.

Switzer said he would probably wait until they placed him in another scene. "It's fun no matter what happens," he said.

Ron Lautore, director of photography, said the countryside and people of Kansas were just what he had been looking for.

## A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

ANTHONY BURGESS



ALBERT SOONG, THE DAILY BRUIN, UCLA

## Classic gets a 'new' ending

By Barry Harrington  
• The Daily Californian  
U. of California, Berkeley

"A Clockwork Orange," Anthony Burgess' literary classic about social control and moral choice, has finally been released in the United States with its previously unpublished 21st chapter.

"A Clockwork Orange," first published in 1962, was banned in the U.S. for its graphic depictions of violence. See ORANGE Page 11