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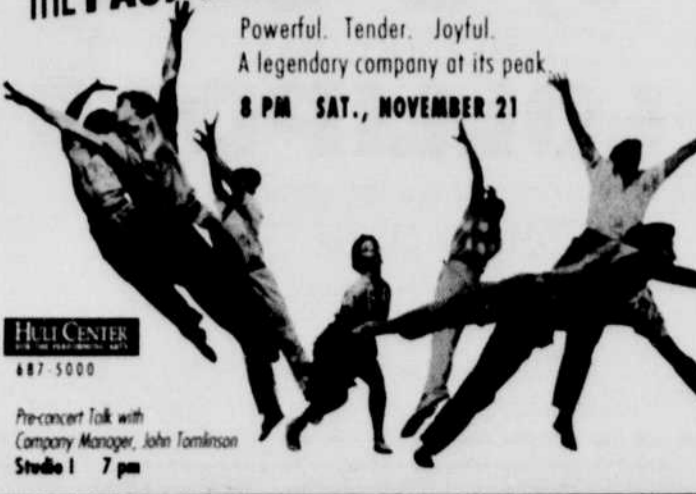
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NCC, University closely tied

By Demian McLean
 Emerald Reporter

At the edge of campus, squeezed between the University Law School and Sacred Heart Hospital, lies a college within a college.

University students may not give much thought to what goes on at Northwest Christian College, which enrolls only 300 people. But this small, private college is more closely tied to the University than many people realize.

Each year, NCC graduates leave Eugene with degrees in fields as diverse as biology, economics and Asian studies. But while their degrees say NCC, their education is from the University.

Location was a key factor when Pastor Eugene Sanders founded NCC in 1895. By situating the college next to the University, Sanders hoped to offer higher education that incorporated biblical studies.

And many NCC students have caught on to the idea.

Student Jamal Ward said he was drawn to NCC because of its Christian focus and proximity to the University.

"I get the best of both worlds," said Ward, who would like to work in Christian television, particularly as a minister. "I can combine ministerial opportunities here with more practical things at the U of O."

NCC students can take up to seven credits a term at the University; the rest of their education is spent within the one-square-block campus at the corner of 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street.

There, students pay \$6,480 a year to study Christian issues in small classes usually numbering less than 15 people. Classes offered this fall include Church and Culture, Principles of Youth Ministry, and Evangelism II.

While students can work on a combination University-NCC degree, about one-third of yearly graduates earn degrees in some form of ministry.

Freshman Rick Vaughan said he is working toward a degree in pastoral ministry. During his four years he will take a variety of classes dealing with biblical interpretation and study, such

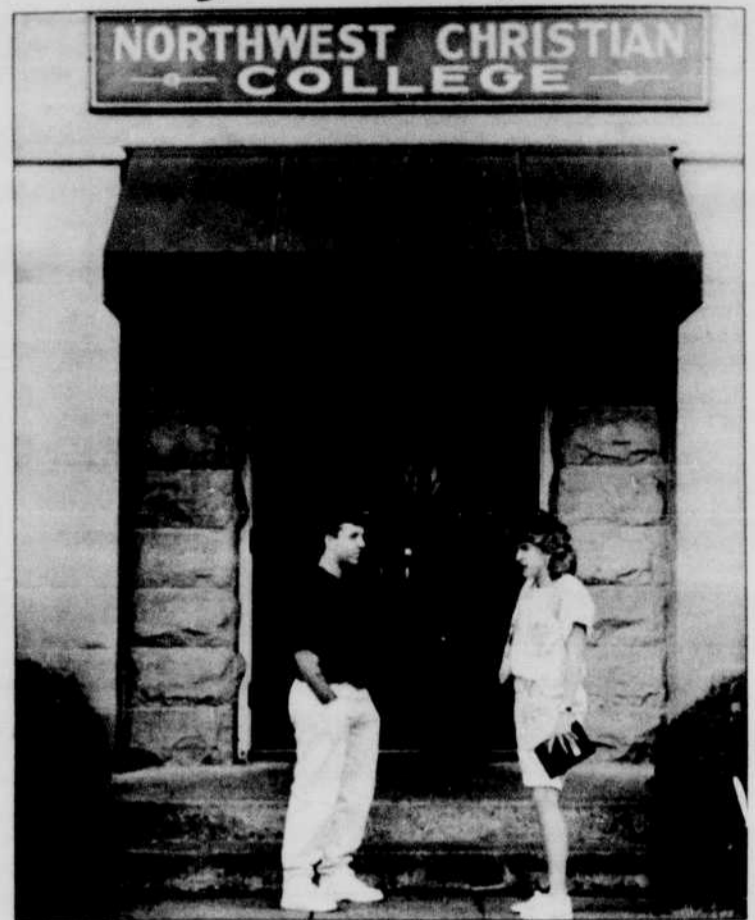


Photo by Kim Nguyen
 NCC sophomore Shayne Stockton (left) and freshman Sibby Stock both say the school provides more of a supportive, community atmosphere than the University can offer.

as Evangelism I, II and III.

Professor Charles Sturms, who teaches the Evangelism I class, said the course involves more than just converting new Christians.

"This is not a preacher class," he said. "There's an ugly stereotypical image of Christians, from the Crusaders to modern televangelists."

With that in mind, Sturms teaches his students the importance of tolerance for non-Christian views. He routinely assigns his students to sit down for a one-on-one talk with a Buddhist, Muslim or other person whose beliefs differ from Christianity.

"I tell them, 'Sit down, shut up and just listen.' The student is not allowed to talk," Sturms said. "The next day, I ask them to articulate the other person's world views."

The focus is not preaching, he said, but cross-cultural communication.

"What we're doing here is wiring people up to talk to people who aren't like them," Sturms said.

Sturms is leading his class down to Armitage Park Thursday, where they will listen to people in the homeless encampment explain their predicament.

The homeless issue involves NCC students, he said, because many students have strong views about social agencies like the Eugene Mission, and what those agencies' responsibilities are.

"Again, I told them they won't be able to talk. I want to help them think through the other people's side," Sturms said.

Though not all NCC students plan on becoming evangelists, many say they will spread the word in whatever profession they choose.

"Lots of what we do here is learn to be ministers out in the world, whether formal or informal," said freshman Wendy Beardsley.

University students also have the opportunity to sample the curriculum at NCC. Tuition is \$72 per credit hour, or \$34 per class for non-credit.

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