

Clark: President supported students right to protest war

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the rest of the Whitter College team. In 1943, armed with doctorates in speech and history, Clark came to Oregon to serve as a speech professor at the University.

In the 21 years that followed, he served as the speech department head, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the dean of faculties. As dean of the College of Liberal Arts, he founded the first honors college in the state of Oregon.

To this day, the Robert D. Clark Honors College (which was named for Clark after he left the University in 1975) continues to strongly emphasize speech and debate in its curriculum.

In 1964, Clark returned to California to serve as president of San Jose State College.

With near-constant threats of racially motivated violence and riots, Clark's tenure at San Jose State was characterized by efforts to ease racial tensions.

"He always approached a person without judgment," said Catherine Clark. "He had an openness to get at the heart of a problem in a caring way."

Catherine Clark said her grandfather's soft-spoken, calm demeanor made him an effective diplomat in the face of potential crisis. His strong marriage also proved to be an asset, she said.

"My grandfather and my grandmother were a team, and they were always prepared to entertain, whether they had an appointment or whether it was unannounced," Catherine Clark said. "Their door

was always open."

Catherine Clark tells of a time when Clark and his wife came home to find a Black Panthers protest in progress on their front lawn. While their neighbors bolted their doors, the Clarks opened theirs.

"My grandmother, with her blue hair and big smile, said, 'Come in for tea and cookies,'" said Catherine Clark. "It's kind of hard to show aggression in the face of compassion and tea and cookies."

Under Clark's tenure, San Jose State was one of the first colleges in the nation to offer a Black studies program. Clark also laid the foundation for San Jose State to become the first college in the nation to offer a four-year degree in Black studies.

President Clark

In 1969, the University summoned Clark back to Oregon to serve as president.

As president, he took several steps to make the University administration more accessible to students. He tried to make himself available to students on Friday afternoons. Also, in 1971 he set up the system of delegating responsibilities to a series of vice presidents. This included hiring the University's first vice president of student affairs, a position that exists to this day.

"He believed in the students, and the students knew that," Catherine Clark said.

At San Jose State, Clark had been one of the few college presidents in the country to make public statements in support of student protests against the Vietnam war.

At the University, this issue would become even more pressing.

"He refused to be against students and suppress their desire to speak out. In fact, he encouraged them," Catherine Clark said.

This sometimes meant standing up to powerful people and putting his job on the line.

"But he didn't lose his job. Instead, he developed this reputation as a fair and just person," Catherine Clark said.

When then-Governor Tom McCall planned to send the national guard onto campus to quell protests nearing riot levels, Clark threatened to resign as University president.

"My grandfather refused to allow the national guard on campus," Catherine Clark said.

When McCall decided not to send the national guard, Clark climbed up a lamppost and addressed protesting students from a bullhorn.

He told them they were right to be upset and they had a right to protest.

"Just don't hurt one another in the process and don't destroy our university," he said, according to Catherine Clark.

"It became humorous years later. But at the time — the situation — it was a potential Kent State," Catherine Clark said. "He considered it vital to keep the national guard off this campus — absolutely vital."

At the time, Clark told the Emerald that his primary motivation was not to protest the war himself but to allow students the freedom to protest.

"I felt that it was not my role to take the stump as one of the major critics

of the war, but to do it in an indirect way," Clark said (ODE, June 9, 1975).

Clark also supported the Oregon Summer Festival of Music in its early years. The festival would later be renamed the Oregon Bach Festival.

"He loved music. He loved to support the arts," Catherine Clark said.

To honor Clark's support, the Oregon Bach Festival will dedicate its July 10 concert to Clark's memory.

Fah-fah

Aside from his professional distinctions, Clark was a devoted family man.

"We all called him 'Fah-fah' in the family," Catherine Clark said. "He had this persona as Fah-fah, which was just as amazing."

Catherine Clark got to know her grandfather well when, as a teenager, she lived with him for several years.

"He was very close with his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren."

He was also a nature lover.

"He knew the name for just about every tree and shrub and flower," Catherine Clark said. "He taught all of us. He used to take us out for walks in the woods."

"I think my love of the campus is intensified because many of the trees seem to be my personal friends," Clark told the Emerald in a 1975 interview.

A memorial service will be held in late July. Memorial contributions can be made to the University of Oregon Foundation's Robert D. Clark Endowment.

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IN BRIEF

Police investigate case of two campers found dead

OAKRIDGE — A man and a woman who were found slain in the woods have been identified as a pair of Oakridge educators.

The bodies of Stevan Haugen, 54, and Jeanette Bauman, 56, were found by campers near a U.S. Forest service road, about 25 miles south of Oakridge. Both had been shot to death, as was a dog belonging to Haugen, authorities said.

Officials with the Lane County Sheriff's Office did not reveal how many times the couple was shot or what type of weapon was used.

Their deaths are being investigated as a double homicide, the sheriff's office said.

Police said they have no suspects. But the Crater Lake license plates on Haugen's vehicle — number CL47763 — have been listed as stolen, officials said.

Haugen taught reading and coached track at Westridge Middle School in Oakridge, said Principal Gary Stevenson.

Bauman had recently moved to Oakridge to work as a teacher, having previously worked in Longview, Wash.

The two met several years ago, said Haugen's brother-in-law Michael Loney, a deputy with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office in Texas. Haugen "truly found his soul mate in Jeanette," he said.

Caesar, a golden retriever mix, was Haugen's best friend and constant companion on camping and fishing expeditions, Loney said.

—The Associated Press

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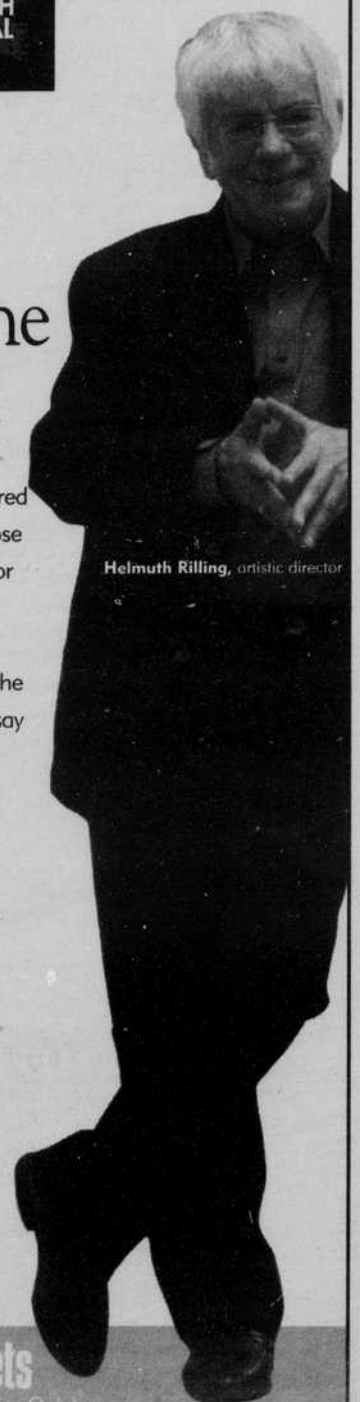
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