

## Religion goes belly-up

# Order contemplates navels

Don't be surprised if at some time in the near future a monk should walk up to you in the street and say to you, "take my Pope--please!"

By Jim McCaffrey  
Of The Print

He will only be a practicing member of the Order of St. Omphaloskepsis. The Order of Omphaloskepsis has adopted the saint as the patron of laughter and are able to perceive God as the cosmic comic.

The Order of St. Omphaloskepsis is the idea of College student Joe Lee. Lee got his idea for the order one night while searching through a dictionary.

Lee was saddened by the fact that the Catholic Church destroyed hundreds of years of harmless and beautiful mythology by eliminating some saints, such as St. Christopher and St. Nicholas, from its role of saints.

Lee feels this was a terrible mistake because the mere fact that these people never existed should not take away from the value of the traditions they represent.

In the middle of the dictionary, Lee found the word omphaloskepsis. Further, he found that the word referred to the religious contemplation of one's navel.

Immediately becoming interested, Lee researched the word and found that it came from a group of nescyast monks who lived on Mount Athos in the 14th

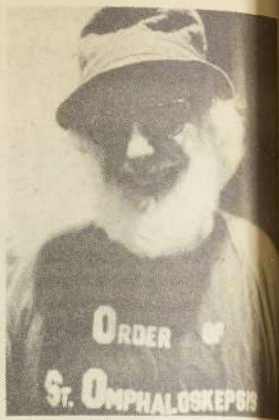
Century. These monks practiced the meditation upon one's belly button. Grasping the absurdity of the word, Lee has taken it upon himself to designate as the mentor of these monks, St. Omphaloskepsis.

According to Lee's legend, St. Omphaloskepsis preached the gospel of laughter. The saint taught that man speaks to God not only through supplication in prayer but also through laughter.

"Laughter is like prayer," Lee quotes the saint as saying, "Only man, of all God's creatures, possesses the ability to laugh. Therefore, laughter is man's special way of communicating with God. The cosmic is like any other comedian. He wants people to laugh. He knows man's lot is not an easy one since Adam was '86'd' from Eden.

Daily travels are lessened by the act of laughter."

The story is continued with the monks going out and preaching laughter throughout the world. The quality of life was enhanced and strengthened among all who embraced the philosophy. Minor miracles happened daily as people began to daily contemplate their belly buttons and laugh, Lee said.



Joe Lee

... forms religious order

## Students coordinate Mad Scientists Fair

By Scott Starnes  
Of The Print

Springtime...an inspirational time promoting inspirational ideas. What better time is there to demonstrate your ideas and creativity than in a mad scientists fair solely designed for this purpose.

The mad scientists exhibition, to be held this Friday on the College's campus, is to mainly "promote fun," said Jeff Bolander, co-president of the fair and College student. "I live in Portland and frequent the downtown area. I met a guy who showed me a project he was working on which was really creative and unique," Bolander said. "His idea inspired me to promote an idea similar to his in the way of a mad scientists fair."

Since it is springtime, finals are coming up and people are getting pressured and tired, Bolander felt that this would be a good time to set the fair up. "The fair is being established for the people who get burnt out and want to have fun. You don't necessarily have to be mad to enter your inventions in the fair, just be creative," Bolander said.

Bolander said that he is currently working on an invention which he intends to patent in the near future. "I don't want to go into explicit detail about my

project but it is based on miniaturized hydraulics. It is a toy for adults which exhibits top speed capabilities in running, meaning that it will be able to outrun any human being," he said. "I guess you could call it a quadropede."

Bolander said that he feels that the mad scientists fair will congregate all the mad or creative scientists into a "brainstorm or think tank." "Many people don't believe us and feel the fair is a big hoax. We're serious. Remember, man's first landing on the moon was the reality of an idea some guy dreamed up a couple of decades before it actually happened," Bolander said.

Entertainment during the fair will consist of guest performances by the College's Schizoids, members of Hare Krishna and a display of invisible fighting fish, Bolander said.

Student government has accepted the idea of a mad scientists fair and is allowing them to use the College's facilities, Bolander said. If the weather is nice this Friday, the fair will be set up outdoors and if not, it should be held in the College's Community Center, he said.

Flyers were printed Monday and should be circulated throughout the campus at this time. The fair begins around 10 a.m. Friday morning and will last throughout the afternoon, Bolander said.



Dr. Frankenstein, look out! These characters are dead on your heels. This Friday, outside the Community Center, Al Aiken (left) and Jeff Bolander (right) are hosting a Mad Sci-

entist Exhibition featuring invisible fighting fish fresh from the Philippines and other schizophrenic art works. Photo by Brian Snook

## CCC graduation faces record turnout

The College will experience its largest graduate turnout since its opening ten years ago as 655 College students have petitioned for the June 9 graduation ceremony.

The 655 student total represents all the students who have graduated either last summer, fall or winter terms including this year's spring term graduates, said Chuck Adams, registrar.

"Of the 655 students who have petitioned, 282 are graduates from this year's spring term," Adams said.

The commencement will consist of General Educational Development (GED), occupational, transfer and adult high school diploma students, Adams said.

Prior to the 7 p.m. commencement ceremony in Randall Hall, the attending graduates will meet in the mall of the Community Center and then proceed from the mall to Randall Hall gymnasium, Adams said.

"The faculty members will proceed to the gym and will fall

in behind the platform participants who will then be followed by the graduating students," Adams said.

During the commencement ceremonies, one, possibly two speakers will partake in the class address, said Debbie Baker, student activities counselor.

"We have four candidates—Richard Cranswick, Larry Hess, Barbara St. Mary and Mitch Newton who will present their speeches before a committee composed of faculty and staff

members," Baker said. "One, possibly two speakers at the most will be selected during Wednesday's presentation."

College Board of Education awards, given to Clackamas County citizens for their contributions to the College, will be presented by Anne Nickel, board chairperson, who will present the certificates, plaques, and one honorary degree, Adams said.

After the commencement ceremonies, a reception is planned in the cafeteria somewhere a-

round 8:15 p.m., Adams said. Light refreshments and cookies are planned.

"The faculty wives are sponsoring the reception," Adams said.

A graduation practice for the participants in the ceremonies

will be held Thursday, June 8, at 3 p.m., Adams said, and the student Activities office in the Community Center June 1 through 9, Adams said.

"The ceremonies will be held inside regardless of the weather conditions," he said.

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