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Clackamas Community College

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## Staff splits over course validity

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administrators.  
Richards, College  
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s which would more  
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sequence," Richards  
"Many high school  
uates enrolling at the  
lege will avoid courses  
ch they have had trouble  
during high school and  
d the credit alternative in a  
ourse of less intensity. This is  
nsequently detrimental to  
student."  
Richards said many of his

composition and literature  
courses have had low student  
enrollment, thus he has had to  
cut many of his instructors'  
working hours. In the past,  
Richards said he believed the  
problem was due to the  
College's "head count" prin-  
ciple in which classes are kept  
or rejected on the basis of  
student enrollment. If a class  
enrollment was averaging  
below the Full Time Equivalen-  
cy (FTE) margin, the class  
would most likely be discon-  
tinued because the College  
receives a percentage of state  
funding for each individual full-  
time student, Richards said.

"Some of this pressure has  
been alleviated, however.  
John Hooley has met with  
various administrative mem-  
bers of the College and has  
stressed the necessity of these  
courses to them. We are now  
able to operate the courses  
even if the enrollment figures  
are below the FTE margin,"  
Richards said.

John Hooley, division chair-

person of humanities and social  
sciences, said he sympathizes  
with Richards to the extent that  
many productive courses are  
being evaluated for their  
possible discontinuation.

"Before, the College was  
determining whether or not to  
continue with the foreign  
language departments. The  
enrollment is below average in  
comparison with the other  
departments. But, to delete  
foreign languages from the  
College would give potential  
students, and for that matter,  
students enrolled here, the im-  
pression that the College was  
becoming an inferior academic  
institution and they might  
possibly seek these courses  
elsewhere," Hooley said. "The  
College must maintain a com-  
prehensive offering of cour-  
ses."

Richards said that part of the  
reasoning behind the decrease  
in enrollment of the more  
traditional courses is that more  
visibly appealing classes, such  
as the film studies series, may

be taking away students from  
the various departments.

"Many of these film courses  
can be taken in place of other  
courses and their credit will  
satisfy that student's particular  
sequence."

Richards said these film  
courses, or courses similar to  
them, are not necessarily  
detrimental to the students.  
But Richards believes some  
students are using them as an  
alternative to courses which  
have caused them problems in  
the past.

Fred DeWolfe, College  
history and film studies instruc-  
tor, said the reason his film  
courses have attracted many  
students is because "these  
students have different goals,  
objectives, and interests. I'm  
not in competition with the  
other departments at this  
College and I believe it's up to  
the student as to which courses  
he takes," DeWolfe said.

"I agree, reading and writing  
are essential to every student,  
but maybe the students who  
are attracted to the film courses  
are here for reasons other than  
academics." The problem of  
course discontinuation may  
rest with the College's inability  
to attract the College transfer  
student or FTE student,  
DeWolfe said. "Four year and

other community colleges may  
offer similar programs which  
are more appealing to the  
student," he said.

Hooley said that many  
departments are experiencing  
low enrollment in College  
courses, contrary to years  
before, and have had to cut in-  
structors' hours due to this  
problem. "In the past, most  
full-time instructors were un-  
dergoing a restrictive 15-hour  
class load and were unable to  
direct their attentions fully in all  
classes. As enrollment in-  
creased at the College, part-  
time instructors were hired to  
slacken the full-time instructors'  
loads. Now that enrollment is  
low, many of these part-time  
instructors are shocked to find  
that their usually full-time in-  
structing is now being cut to a  
minimum," Hooley said.

Hooley said he doesn't  
believe any one factor to be at  
fault for the decline in interest  
in the traditional courses.

"The College has become  
aware that these productive  
courses are mandatory to the  
functioning of the College,  
despite their low enrollment,  
and are a necessity in making  
the College a well-rounded  
academic institution," Hooley  
said.

## New classes set

Spring has often been  
equated with the birth of new  
things, and this year is no dif-  
ferent as the spring term  
schedule holds many choices  
of new classes offered.

One credit mini-courses are  
a unique idea, with next term's  
selection designed to offer  
homemakers tips in terms of  
nutrition and economy in  
feeding their families.

The first of one three-part  
series, is "Natural Food  
Techniques." Starting March  
27 and running Tuesdays and  
Thursdays until April 12, this  
course will involve learning  
how to incorporate natural  
foods into the everyday diet.

"Micro-wave Meals" is the  
next one, starting on April 17.  
This class will continue  
Tuesdays and Thursdays until  
May 3, and include the basics  
of learning to prepare complete  
meals is a micro-wave oven,  
the use of cooking utensils,  
along with a brush-up on  
scheduling and timing.

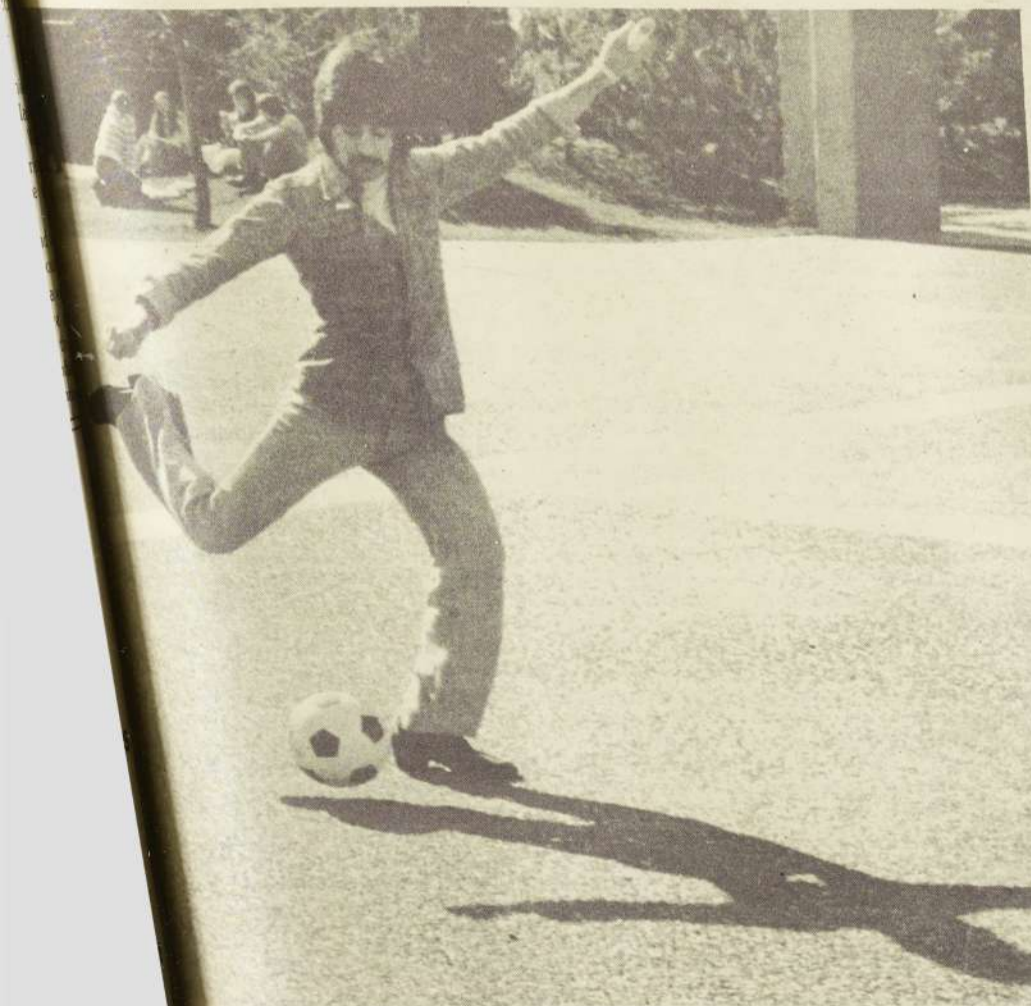
"Packing in Nutrition" is the  
third and last mini-course of  
that particular series. Running  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from

May 8-24, it is designed to bet-  
ter prepare campers and hikers  
on nutrition while "roughing  
it." This will include  
familiarization with cooking  
equipment, how to prepare  
food and keeping it safe to eat.  
Students of that series will have  
the option to take one course,  
for one credit, or all three.

Another spring mini-course,  
which is self-contained, is  
"From Planting to Preserving."  
This course will include gar-  
dening tips, when to cultivate,  
fertilizing and harvesting and  
preserving techniques. Offered  
Wednesday evenings, from 7-  
10p.m., the course is worth  
one credit.

"Guidance Techniques for  
Parents" is a two-credit course  
that will explore techniques in  
managing children from infan-  
cy to adolescence. This course  
will last seven weeks.

"Step Parenting," a seven-  
week class, will be taught by  
Gail Spitze of the Confidence  
Clinic. Utilizing a seminar for-  
mat, this class will involve  
group discussion and discovery in  
being a step-parent.



Spring fever was rampant during the warm hours of last Friday afternoon, as demon-  
strated by this enthusiastic sun worshipper.

Photo by Greg Klenze

