

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 8	Thursday, Dec. 9	Friday, Dec. 10	Saturday, Dec. 11	Sunday, Dec. 12
Crafts Fair 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CC Mall	Special Olympics Meeting 7-9:00 p.m. CC 116	CCOSAC 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. P101	"Appointment With Death" 8-11:00 p.m. McLoughlin Theater	Music Dept. Fall Concert 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. CC Mall

# the print

Clackamas Community College  
Wednesday, December 8, 1982

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## Mabel Wilson shuns retirement to tutor students



Staff Photo by Troy Maben

By Shelley Ball  
Of The Print

For those who think of elderly people as being feeble-minded persons residing in rest homes, or staring mindlessly out at life from their rocking chairs, a meeting with Clackamas Community College tutor Mabel Wilson is sure to change one's mind.

Wilson, who recently turned 81, has tutored students for public schools and privately since her graduation from the University of California, Berkley, in 1925. She currently tutors students privately at her home in Redland, where she has lived since 1948, in addition to spending four days a week tutoring at the College.

"That's my life right now. It's stimulating, interesting and I can pass along the knowledge I have," Wilson said in regard to tutoring.

Shortly after her graduation from college in 1925, Wilson married and settled down to raise a family. She intended to teach at the same time, but found that female teachers who were married were not allowed to teach in public schools. To get around this obstacle, Wilson started private tutoring to satisfy her love for teaching.

At a time in society where women were expected to stay home and raise children, Wilson displayed her uni-

queness through attending school and forming a career for herself in addition to raising her two children.

"My father didn't value education for a woman, and my friends thought I was quite an exception," she said. She credits her mother with giving her the incentive to go to school, mainly because she happened to be the fifth generation descendant of former president John Adams.

"My mother told me that the tradition of education in the Adams family must be maintained; but I got by on my own ability," Wilson said.

Over the years, Wilson has had a number of tutoring jobs. She officially started teaching in 1964, after the death of her husband in 1960. She has taught as a home teacher for ill students in Oregon City and Clackamas, as well as teaching for the Redland school system from 1964-72, after which she retired. But not for long.

In 1974, after traveling to Europe and back, Wilson was on campus at the College to watch a film presentation of "Don Quixote," when she noticed an ad in the *Today* bulletin concerning the need for tutors. It was not long after talking to Tutorial Coordinator Judy Peabody that Wilson was hired.

Now, seven years after that date, Wilson is tutoring stronger than ever. When ask-

ed how much longer she intended to teach, she replied with a smile, "probably about 50 years."

As she sits at her tutoring table, hands folded neatly in front of her, Wilson's character as a spry, determined woman comes alive through her direct gaze, the gaze of a woman who is not finished with living just yet. She makes it easy to believe that she could teach another 50 years.

With as many years as she has put in tutoring, one would think Wilson would have been content with retirement. So why isn't she at home watching soap operas, baking cookies for grandchildren and doing needlepoint?

"I can't think of anything more boring," Wilson replied without hesitation.

"To live an effective life, one must keep on learning, and to try to broaden one's horizons. I can't sit idly anyhow. If I have to go to the doctor's and wait, I always bring along a book to read," she said.

As for tutoring, Wilson listed patience and flexibility as two important qualities to becoming a good tutor. "I'm also tolerant," she added.

When asked what she like most about tutoring, Wilson said, "To see my students progress, and the self-satisfaction of knowing that I've been successful in broadening my horizons; I feel I'm using in this world."

## College staff, faculty work for United Way

By Kristi Blackman  
Of The Print

"Fewer people gave more this year," Gloria Tomlin, executive secretary to the college president, said of the donations for the United Way campaign, which she had been appointed this year.

Tomlin collected \$4,600 for the campaign, but said it did not match last year's total of \$5,170. "I believe it is a result of the economy, but the people

who gave, gave more than the average," Tomlin said.

"This was the first year people could donate the money and specify which one of the 96 agencies they wanted their money to be given to," Tomlin said.

Tomlin said of the total money collected in the campaign, seven percent is used to pay staff members for each of the individual agencies and 93 percent goes out to agencies.

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