

EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 20	Thursday, April 21	Friday, April 22	Saturday, April 23	Monday - Saturday April 25-30
Public Hearing Airport Issue	Hunter's Safety Class	CCOSAC meeting	WYSA Soccer Game	Handicapped Awareness Week
7-10 p.m.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	
CC Mail	AC 101	CC 101	Soccer Field #1	

the print

Clackamas Community College

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Handicapped Awareness Week

Daily arts, sports and workshops slated

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

In an effort to see handicapped people as human beings with the same wants and interests as others, Debbie Derr, handicapped specialist, has organized the second annual Handicapped Awareness Week at Clackamas Community College, April 25-30.

"Hopefully it (the week) will bring an awareness to people on campus of what it would be like as a disabled person," Derr said. "They have special problems that have to be looked at from different aspects."

Derr is hoping that the week of events will dispel the idea that handicapped people do not have the same interests as the rest of us. In an attempt to send the word, she has scheduled events for each day.

On Monday, April 25 the Handicapped Resource Center will present an art exhibit featuring Roger Hodge, a Clackamas Community College art major who works through the Center. The display will remain in the Pauling Center until April 29.

"People make assumptions that handicapped people can't be artists or enjoy art, so we are presenting this to show they can," Derr said. "It is very special this year because it is a student from the College. Last year we had a deaf and retarded man who did carvings that were phenomenal."

The following day Derr has scheduled a wheelchair basketball game starring the Portland Wheelblazers. Also participating in the game will be College students and faculty.

"Here again people make the assumption that just because a person is in a wheelchair they can't be active," Derr said.

Wednesday is set aside for people to volunteer their time to the summer programs that the Handicapped Resource Center sponsor. Derr will have a table set up in the Community Center to answer any questions for interested people.

"I am hoping the response will be good. We are always having people request information, and



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Debbie Derr, Handicapped Specialist

Photo by Rick Obritschkewitsch

this might be an easy way to help them," Derr said.

Thursday, Derr will show a video tape dealing with career options for the handicapped. The view-

ing will be for all interested staff and students. Also, a personal skills assessment workshop and resume writing workshop will be available to disabled individuals.

A film festival is set for Friday with three films being shown throughout the day. "The Kid From Nowhere," "Bill," and "Inside Moves" will be shown in the Community Center Mall.

The final day of events will be a benefit run with all the proceeds going to Special Olympics. The entry fee is \$6 with an April 22 deadline for preregistration. Late registration fee is \$6.50. T-shirts will be given to every runner and ribbons will be awarded for top finishers in each category.

"If the week brings awareness to a couple of people, I will have met my goal," Derr said. "Sometimes one thing will spark a person. If a person sees the wheelchair basketball game and it prompts him to talk to a person in a wheelchair later it will be serving its purpose. I guess that is just my 'pie in the sky' idea."

Last year, the participation and response from the College was disappointing to Derr. She is hoping that this year will be a little more organized and the response will be greater.

"I do not know if I set my expectations too high, but I wish there was more involvement from the faculty," Derr said. "It was my first time organizing something like this, maybe I tried to do too much."

"There are more and more handicapped students on campus. They are just like any minority group that is not like the rest of us and they have special needs," Derr explained. "It is important to build an awareness that they live the same type of life as ours."

The main problem Derr sees in the lack of awareness is that it is hard to break the barrier between two different things.

"I am hoping this awareness week will break the barriers. The hardest thing to do is break them-- it is like any other minority group. I do not know any specific way, it is just something that I can't make happen," Derr concluded.

Hundreds of people attended last weekend's Take Charge Day at Clackamas Community College, including representatives from local businesses, artisans and county human service agencies.

Photo by Rick Obritschkewitsch

