

Koopman sees new position as opportunity to have positive effect on community, College



KEN KOOPMAN, NEW Community Relations Specialist gathers information from Shirley Leniger, nursing department secretary.
Photo by Joel Miller

**By Shelley Ball
Of The Print**

When it comes to alerting the community about events

happening at Clackamas Community College, new Community Relations Specialist Ken Koopman is using a variety of methods.

Koopman, 29, replaces former College Public Information Specialist Anne Tongue in what has become an expanded version of her original job. He explained that his position is designed to be more visible, and he plans on meeting people instead of just talking to them on the phone.

"I see my role as an opportunity to have a positive effect on the community through promoting the College," he said.

Another new element in Koopman's job will be his coverage of College sports as a sports information director, which he said will make him "sort of a middleman between

the Athletic Department and sports reporters," the goal being to "get more ink for the (college's) sports programs."

Koopman started working at the college in October after his application was selected out of the total 97 turned in. Of these applications, 15 candidates were chosen for interviews, which were then narrowed down to three before Koopman was chosen.

"I was happy to be one of the 15 interviewed," he said, adding, "I'm excited about

the job- I really felt that this job was for me."

A graduate of the University of Oregon, Koopman majored in journalism. His first professional newspaper job was with the Del Norte Triplicate in Crescent City, Calif., where he worked as a sports editor and covering school beats. Koopman then worked as a city government reporter for the Cottage Grove Sentinel for nearly two years before coming to Oregon City to live.

It was when Koopman was making a living as a freelance writer for The Oregonian by covering the Oregon City area that he first heard of the College's community relations opening. In fact, Koopman said he had covered some of the college's Board meetings for The Oregonian, which helped him to get an idea of how the college operated.

During the time when Koopman was one of the 15 candidates to be interviewed for the job, he was covering a college Board meeting at which Director of Community Relations Kevin McMurdo was present. Koopman said he introduced himself to McMurdo, and subsequently surpris-

ed him when Koopman told him he was one of the candidates he would be interviewing.

"It was very convenient to get to meet Kevin McMurdo," he said, although he added the meeting had no bearing on his getting the job.

After working as a professional reporter for two years, Koopman said he is looking to broaden his journalistic career through public relations. He explained he does not want to be limited to newspaper journalism only and this job will allow him to be more creative in his writing. "I don't have to follow that hard-hitting reporting style," he said.

Other activities for Koopman include taking time to make contacts on campus and encouraging people to call him with information. "I'm looking for story ideas," he said.

Regarding his first impression of the College, Koopman said, "I feel a good relationship with everybody developing." He added he is impressed with the various services the College provides. "The College provides a lot of opportunities for students here," he said.

Handicapped Center, counseling merge temporarily

**By Shelley Davis
Of The Print**

Because of a personnel change, on Nov. 1, the Handicapped Resource Center at Clackamas Community College temporarily became part of the counseling department.

When a part-time counseling position opened, Handicapped/Veterans Specialist Debra Derr applied and was eventually chosen. She then put in her resignation for the Handicapped position. "Basically, it was so that I can work in the field that I was trained in," Derr said. "I am interested in being in counseling because I have been trained and have my degree in that area. The specialist was not really part of counseling," she said.

The Handicapped Center, Veteran's Center, and counseling are all a part of Student Support Services. Derr's jump to counseling left a position open at the Handicapped Resource Center, which has not yet been filled. The position is still open so that it's necessity can be evaluated.

"It could be a half-time person, three quarter time person, who knows? That has not yet been determined," said

Dave Campbell, counselor/coordinator for Handicapped Resource Services.

"The whole thing is kind of confusing right now," Derr said. "I'm happy with my change because it's what I've wanted to do and been trained to do. But I'm also unhappy because I'm not working with the special kids that I've been working with for five years."

Although there is change taking place in the staff of the center, "work study help is available to assist the need to handicapped students," said Campbell. "People who are interested in notetakers or auxiliary aids should contact me here at the counseling department," he added. "Handicapped students who are not being assisted and want to investigate possible help should contact me also."



Photo by Jeff Meek

MARILYN EDWARD(R), and Marian Davis pose for photo with Dave Campbell, counselor/coordinator for Handicapped Resource Services. Campbell is

a temporary replacement for Debbie Derr who is currently working part-time as a counselor at the College.

