

The Print

Vol. XIX, No. 16

Clackamas Community College Oregon City, Oregon

March 11, 1986

German academic visits College

By Amy Doane
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, March 4, the College was visited by Rudolf Herwig, head of the department of professional education for the Trades and Crafts chamber of Upper Bavaria, who is on a two week tour to study the apprenticeship programs and vocational education programs in the United States.

Herwig was accompanied by Bill Anton, director of the apprenticeship program and training, and Wendy Roberts, state commissioner of the Bureau of Labor & Industries.

Herwig's tour of the educational areas on campus began around noon on Tuesday, stopping only for a brief interview with reporters at 12:30 p.m.

Lunch followed at 1:00 in the Community Center.

Herwig felt that his visit was an important one stating "It's very good to compare different systems."

Herwig said Germany's apprenticeship program had to many regulations to deal with as compared to the United State's more flexible system, but summed up his comparison by saying, "Every system has its advantages and disadvantages."

Herwig, who is from Munich, West Germany, heads over 45,000 apprentices in Trades and Crafts in Upper

Bavaria, which is only part of one West German state. West Germany, as a whole, has 1.5 million apprentices in all areas of apprenticeship.

Kathy Whitehouse, from the Bureau of Labor & Industries, points out in a background report on the apprenticeship program in West Germany "that the high number of apprentices in Germany is startling when you realize that America has some 300,000 apprentices at best."

Oregon has about 3,300. Herwig states in Whitehouse's report that, in general, apprentices in West Germany outnumber University students two to one.

In Tuesday's interview with reporters, Herwig explained how the apprenticeship program worked in West Germany.

The West German government does not play a part in the apprenticeship program in any way, which is not the case in the U.S.

All businesses belong to a "chamber," something similar to our Chamber of Commerce.

"It is not a voluntary thing, it's the law. Every business must pay a fee," said Herwig.

There are 52 chambers all together, the largest two being Trades and Crafts and Industry and Commerce. Each chamber is responsible for a different region.

Skilled training begins at an early age in West Germany. In elementary school, a child will make decisions to what kind of educational route they will follow.

Every student must attend school for nine years (up until 15 years of age) and from there attend middle school and enter the apprenticeship program or continue their education further by taking an exam that will lead to college.

A student may enter the apprenticeship program at age 15, but about 50 percent of new apprentices are over 18. The apprenticeship program takes students ranging in age from 15 to 20 years.

Apprenticeships in West Germany last from three years to three and a half years. In this time, apprentices make very little money, but learn a great deal about their chosen profession.

Another law within the system rules that at least one apprentice must be placed amongst three skilled workers.

About 70 percent of all apprentices will be hired by their employers who helped them in their training.

The College offers a variety of apprenticeship courses such as electrical apprenticeships, plumbing apprenticeships, painting apprenticeships, and sheet metal and tool & die apprenticeships.

Credits for these classes

range from 2 to 6 credits maximum.

Herwig's visit to the U.S. was made possible by the Ger-

man Marshall under which is an educational/cultural exchange program.



Rudolf Herwig (left) gets ideas about industrial mechanics from Jim Burrows (center) metal shop instructor and Kevin O'Donoghue (right), student.

Photo by Dan Wheeler

Eriksen resigns; discord with Jacobs cited



Tracey Eriksen

Photo by Joel Miller

By Dave Holmes
Editor-In-Chief

Associated Student Government Senator Tracey Eriksen resigned her post as Activities Senator yesterday morning, citing backstabbing and distrust among ASG members, and her own disintegrating health as reasons for leaving office.

Eriksen, who handed in her resignation to Student Program Specialist Paul Kylo, said ASG Activities Director Breck Jacobs was both directly and indirectly responsible for her self-decided resignation.

"I don't know when he's

telling the truth," Eriksen said.

Eriksen felt that she was overburdened with tasks from Jacobs and didn't have any time for her own life. "He saw me as his top senator and everything had to be 100 percent ASG."

Eriksen said that Jacobs had been working on a "power play" within ASG since November, and that he has tried to keep a hand in all ASG matters. Eriksen related incidents of Jacobs behavior involving several matters.

"Working on 'Festival '86' (a planned fundraiser for

Muscular Dystrophy), he told (Student Services Director) Debbie Baker that he'd done things that he hadn't, such things as set up and the clearing of contracts. He said he was even thinking of skimming off five percent of the profits for ASG and keeping two sets of books."

Eriksen resigned her post because she felt she couldn't maintain respect for Jacobs and felt his dealings with people unethical. She also said her erratic blood pressure had forced her out of office, but that the atmosphere in ASG was the decisive factor.

