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Student success strategies: a group effort

by Alberta J. Roper
Staff Writer

The SSS is here! Students Success Strategies is a monumental group effort currently underway on campus working to insure the success of our students.

Jim Roberts, Assistant Dean of students stated, "Student success has been identified as an institutional priority." People rallied when Roberts challenged, "Participation and involvement from all areas of the college is critical to the success of this task."

The combined talents of the Student Personnel Services (who spearheaded the project), faculty advisors, and Student Success conference participants, joined forces to gather data, evaluate it, and implement an "action plan" for revision and improvement of the current approach for insuring student success.

About 30 community colleges from throughout Oregon and Washington sent 160 staff members to attend Student Success

Strategies, the first Northwest Regional Conference of the National Council of Student Development.

An "idea paper" drafted by John Keyser, Clackamas College president, which had been distributed to conference attendees prior to the meeting, addressed the key issues of access, assessment, and intervention.

"Student success has been identified as an institutional priority"

The conference was planned and hosted by the Council of Student Services Administrators, and was co-sponsored by the American College Testing Program, the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Oregon Department of Education.

As a follow-up to the spring conference, Clackamas Community College staff were invited

on October 21 to "brainstorm" specific activities relating to access, assessment, and intervention. Nearly 80 people from Student Personnel Services and instructional staff participated.

The first task was to determine the meaning of success in regard to students. Bernie Nolan of Counseling gave this definition: "An opportunity for students to have the information and support to meet their particular goals."

In order to galvanize their efforts, "Access," "Assessment," and "Intervention" were defined, and a working survey was created which grouped key concerns for rating purposes. Those who rated it had two basic questions to consider, "How are we doing?" and "Does it contribute to student success?"

The group's working definition of "Access" throughout the project has been the following: "Specific actions taken which are designed to inform people about the college's programs and services and increase the likelihood

that eligible people will use the college's programs and services."

Translated by Bernie Nolan, it merely addresses "how people get into the door."

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Bad weather openings reinstated

The College, this year, has decided to reinstate their past policy of late openings due to bad weather. In the event of bad weather, students can tune into various radio stations to determine whether the campus will be closed for the entire day, or merely opened late.

College closure/late opening announcements can be heard on AM KGW (620), KEX (1190), KUPL (1330), KXL (750), KWJJ (1080), and KMJK (1290). On FM the announcements will be made on KWJJ (101.9), KKRZ (100.3), KUPL (98.5), KCNR (97.1), KXL (95.5), KMJK (106.7) and KKLW (103.3).

Separate announcements will still be made for day and night classes.

The College, in addition to the radio announcements will post "College Closed" signs at each of the entrances and at the bus stop. Also, for the most up to date information, students can dial Code-A-Phone at 657-8400.

The decision to reinstate late openings was made, according to College President John Keyser, to insure that the students and taxpayers and students get what they pay for and to, "Make sure our schedule is as aligned as possible with other colleges that have late openings."

Disability: it does not stop life, it only increases the challenge

by Alberta Roper
Staff Writer

Handicapped-the very word strikes the thoughts of a restricted life. It smacks of being less than perfect in this age of "body beautiful." But once past these first impressions, we find in those with supposed disabilities, qualities to be envied. Two such individuals here on campus are Bill Knight and Clinton Lindgren.

Bill Knight works hard, probably harder than most, considering that he has only one and half of one lung to work with. Knight is active in student government, as the Entertainment Coordinator and hopes to remain at the college long enough to help get everything working smoothly before he transfers to University of Oregon.

Knight is a people person. As he puts it, "Trying to help everyone...it's a great challenge." His warmth and empathy suit him well as a psychology major. His main area of interest is alcohol and chemical dependency in adolescents. He also hopes to work with people who have Alzheimer's disease.

Knight is no stranger to disease in his own body. In 1978 cancer cost him his leg. Then in 1980 he lost his left lung and half of the right lung. After his last lung surgery the doctors wanted Knight to take two years of chemotherapy. He'd already had one and a half years before that. Knight opted not to undergo the treatment which makes a patient very sick. He was confident that he was healed. In fact, the cancer has been clear since May 18, 1980- the day Mt. St. Helens

erupted.

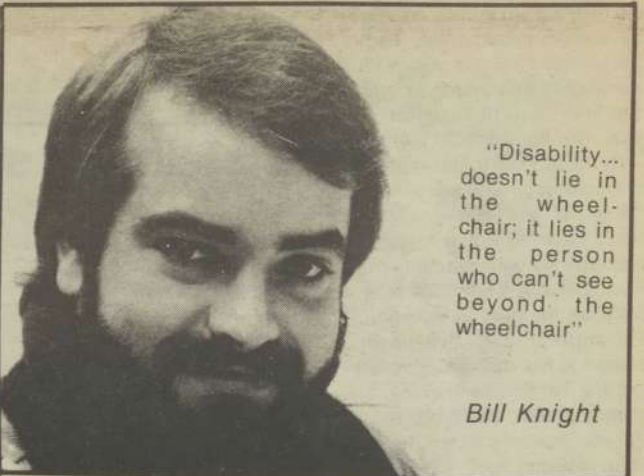
"If I was going to die, I wanted to have fun first," Knight said. However, the fun brought him close to another brush with death when he fell off his motorcycle on the freeway. He landed on his head. While an ambulance carried him off to emergency, police officers were frantically combing the brush for his leg. Finally, friends told them that Knight's leg had been gone for years. Knight and his friend had a good laugh over that.

Another life-threatening episode occurred when a 2000 lb. car, wheels removed, fell on him after the jack broke. Once again he was spared.

Throughout his cancer ordeal, Knight had the encouragement of family and friends. They didn't pity him, but acted as if nothing had happened. They let him do as much as he could, often telling him, "You can do it."

And do it he did-and does! In high school, he majored in aviation. Knight took flying lessons in Sandy, and now has his student's pilot license. He's been active with the Mountaineering Club on campus. He water-skis summer and winter, and has tried snow skiing, but stays away from it for fear of breaking his one good leg. Each of these endeavors he started after the loss of his leg and lung. As Knight puts it, "They seemed more of a challenge."

When asked about difficulties he encounters because of his handicap, Knight spoke seriously: "I have the most problem trying to make others aware that the body is only worth \$3 worth of chemicals, but the soul and personality are priceless. It's just a



"Disability... doesn't lie in the wheelchair; it lies in the person who can't see beyond the wheelchair"

Bill Knight

leg; I'm still me; it's what's on the inside and not the outside that counts."

Knight called it a "miracle" that he survived the motorcycle accident. Looking back at the three lung surgeries, he recalled that his chances for survival were only about 20%. Yet two weeks later he walked across the stage to receive his High School diploma. "I had to make it-to live and receive my diploma," Knight commented with emotion. "God has helped me out a lot," he says.

While Knight was a counselor with Camp Easter Seals, he adopted one of their slogans as part of his own philosophy-"Disability doesn't lie in the wheelchair; it lies in the person who can't see beyond the wheelchair."

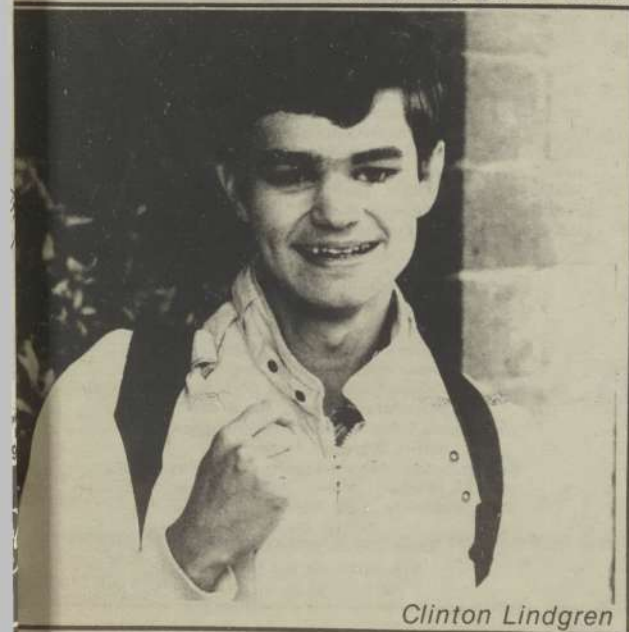
Clinton Lindgren, a blind student here on campus is described by Pete Senter, who has been Lindgren's tutor and test proctor, as a person "who has a good sense of humor, and doesn't seem to be hampered by his handicap."

Except for the first two months of his life, Lindgren has always been blind. Now a second year student at Clackamas, he faces challenges most students don't think about. One such challenge is the Community Center. It has become an obstacle course mainly because the furniture is constantly rearranged. Some students leave soft drinks on the floor, which is a "mild annoyance" to Lindgren, especially when it winds up all over his shoes.

One of his hobbies is music; he plays the guitar, piano, ukelele, and portable synthesizer. Rock and roll, classical, and jazz are among his favorites. As for country music, Lindgren remarks, "You can listen to a person crying in their beer just so long."

A man of adventure, Lindgren has taken swimming lessons, tried roller skating and ice skating, and even paddled a canoe. He was quick to mention that he wasn't the one steering the canoe.

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Clinton Lindgren

