

## Former CCC student becomes novelist

by Caree Hussey  
Feature Editor

"I'm magnificently average," stated author and former CCC student, J. Dana Haynes.

Written under the pseudonym Conrad Haynes (thus giving his wife Peggy Conrad Haynes credit for her help) "Bishop's Gambit, Declined" is a murder mystery set at a fictional Portland college. Haynes drew on his four years at CCC and two years at Lewis and Clark College to provide the backdrop for John Jacob Astor College.

He initially wrote a novel in the summer of '83 to "keep up the strength in my hands between the spring and the fall quarters." A year later, he went back and looked at it and realized "it stunk," but it was the knowledge that he could actually write a novel

that prompted him to begin another. In three months it was finished.

Haynes read "The Writer's Market," a book that tells new writers how to get published. He sent in for a list of agents. When the list was received, he began to send out query letters. At last he found Eileen Fallon. Four weeks later ("light speed in the publishing industry") Haynes

*"I'm magnificently average"*

got a two book contract with Bantam. He signed the contract for his first book in December '85, but it wasn't until June '87 that the book hit the stands.

"Writing a book is an art form, selling a book is an art form," stated Haynes. He ad-



J. Dana Haynes spoke at CCC on Oct. 17.

Photo by David Falconer

vises new writers, "If you're interested, get an agent."

There are three morals to this story according to Haynes:

1. An average person can

generate enough copy to make a book.

2. Agents and editors are wonderful people.

3. "This (Bishop's Gambit, Declined) is not the Great

American Novel - but its a fun novel and I think it's a good book and I'm real proud of it!"

Haynes' second book, "Perpetual Check" is due out in April.

## Displaced Homemakers program teaches self esteem

by Caree Hussey  
Feature Editor

"The traditional description of the displaced homemaker is a woman who's been out of the (job) market place, who's been caring for her family or caring for a home and a spouse, and for whatever reason becomes displaced," explained instructor/counselor Carol Strazer.

What usually happens is that either through the death of a spouse, the disablement of a spouse or through separation or divorce a woman is forced to go back

into the job market. Displaced Homemakers also deals with "homemakers in transition."

These are women who are displaced not because something has happened to their spouses, but because their role has changed, for example their children have grown up and moved away.

The Displaced Homemakers is a very structured 11-week program. Women receive 80 hours of pre-employment training. They meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four hours at a time.

There are classes on personal growth, self esteem and career orientation. Personal growth classes tend to be on stress reduction, communication skills, assertiveness and decision making.

"Mainly personal skills that they feel they need to develop," stated Strazer, "probably the skill that they feel we are requested for most is self esteem. The reason for that being that the women find their self esteem has become very low, just the experience of being rejected by someone... and especially as they try to re-enter the job market," commented Strazer.

"We work a lot with the community resources and one of the things that is so important for the women is to get information." This information includes what other kinds of support are available and possibilities for additional schooling and additional training. They have various people from the com-

munity come in to speak, people from employment training businesses and people from the college who tell the women about what resources are available.

The Financial Aid Office works closely with the program in helping the women get the monetary support needed to continue their education. A woman going through a divorce experiences about a 74 percent loss of income. There is less and less spousal support, consequently a woman is forced to suffer some devastating financial setbacks. The average age of a divorced woman going through the program is 42 and the average length of the marriage was 17 years.

After completing the program, women go on to sup-

port groups. "Reducing isolation is probably one of the most critical things; it helps just being in a room full of women who are in similar situations," Strazer said. These support groups last from one to two terms.

"The college is very supportive of the women and our grant helps out with childcare and transportation depending on the need," remarked Strazer.

Lynne Maloney, D.H. assistant adds that it "feels real good" to hear from the women who have been through the program and become successful.

If you are a Displaced Homemaker or you know someone who is, you can get more information on this program by calling 657-8400 ext. 526.

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