

VA disallows 'W's'

New rules released for vets

Some important changes have been made in regulations for Veterans Educational benefits, according to Chuck Adams, Clackamas Community College registrar.

"They (the changes) have to do with 'W's, incompletes, and variable credit grades," Adams said. 'W's' are withdrawals from a class with no grade.

Effective this term, the Veterans Administration (VA) will no longer pay for non-punitive grades. In the past, a student receiving an incomplete could make it up. Under the new policy, the VA will charge a student for overpayment should he receive no pass, withdrawal, or incomplete, unless there are what the college considers "mitigating circumstances."

"A, B, C, D, P are the only grades veterans should receive. Any other grades will cause problems with payments," said Adams.

Veterans counselor John Derr said the VA's new rules for variable credit programs, such as the self paced welding, electronics, and math classes at CCC, could cost some veterans as much as \$450 this term.

"On variable credit grades, where a student can earn one, two or three credits in a term depending on how far he goes, they now get paid for what they get, not what they sign up for," Derr said.

If a student completed two credits of a three hour class, this could drop him from full to three-quarter time, a difference of \$100-150 a month if he has dependents.

"In three months the student could owe \$450 just because of one credit hour," said Derr.

The college was notified of these changes

in a circular issued by the VA on Feb. 9, a month after the new rules went into effect. Adams said that delay could create some problems for the 750-plus veterans on campus, but added, "We haven't had to handle them yet."

"We've got some guys who are looking at over \$1000 in back payments, not always because of changes in the regulations

but because they drop out and don't officially withdraw," Adams said.

"The best advice to the veteran is to plan his program carefully, do exactly what he plans to do, and notify the VA immediately of any changes," he said.

Veterans who want more information on the new standards can contact the VA office, CC 115.

Affirmative action progress told by president's office

John Hakanson, president of Clackamas Community College, has appointed a committee to evaluate the college's policies and practices toward Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Title IX states that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

In order to continue to receive federal funds the college must conduct a self-evaluation of its policies in regards to Title IX.

The college committee will evaluate the current policies and recommend remedial steps to eliminate any discrimination that may exist. The college must be in full compliance with the regulation by July 21, 1978.

The committee members are: Jerry Bellavita, in charge of the president's office;

Joan Wiechmann, in charge of financial aids; Ron Hoodye, student activities and student health center; Pat Hemenway and Judy Smith, student recruitment and admissions and records; Alf Lair, counseling and testing; Dave Madsen, placement office; Eileen Elliot, business office; Mary Oldford, athletics and women's athletics; Chuck Hudson, health, PE and recreation; Jim Painter, Jerry Bellavita and Susan Fredd, personnel services; Russ Wiebe and Larry Noonan, instruction.

These people, who are representative of students, faculty and administration, will meet weekly at 3 p.m. in the Barlow Hall Board Room.

Everest show

Everest -- The Hard Way, a slide show and commentary on the 1975 British Everest expedition, will be presented at the Western Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, on March 9, at 7 p.m.

Chris Bonington, who is giving the presentation, was the leader of the expedition and made the first ascent of the southwest face of Everest. He was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1975 for his achievements in mountaineering.

Admission to the event is \$2. Tickets are available at Recreational Equipment, Inc. 1798 Jantzen Beach Center, Portland.

Crime report

Forty-five parking tickets were handed out by Clackamas Community College security this week. Thirteen were for parking in unauthorized areas; 15 were for parking in the loading zone; and two were for parking in the cycle area.

Legislative forum informs constituents of processes

A five-member panel discussed proper methods for contacting state legislators and proposed legislation affecting college students during the Legislative Awareness Forum held last Thursday.

John Hakanson, Clackamas Community College president gave a presentation on meeting and communicating with legislators. Hakanson stressed the importance of planning when visiting the state legislature.

According to Hakanson people wishing to speak with their legislators should make appointments with them well in advance and should reconfirm the appointments.

If a legislator's schedule changes and he would be unavailable to keep the appointment it was suggested that arrangements be made to talk to his assistants or staff members.

Hakanson also stressed the importance of knowing what to say and how to say it to the legislators.

According to Hakanson a positive approach works much better than a negative approach.

Political Science instructor John Rau gave a presentation on Clackamas County representatives in the state legislature. Rau outlined the different districts within the county and gave background information on the legislators from these various areas.

Three CCC students also participated in the forum.

ASG President Charlie Bennett talked about the current proposed marijuana legis-

lation and explained the steps that the CCC NORML club is taking to get this legislation passed.

Gerard Bellavita, ASG's Community Colleges of Oregon Student Association and Commissions (CCOSAC) representative, discussed the CCOSAC lobbying commission and legislation that they are working on.

ASG senator Ken Roberts talked about Child Care legislation and said that the current bill dealing with child care will be put before the Oregon House of Representatives Ways and Means committee in April.

Roberts said that there are 28 sponsors for the bill which would provide child care funds to many students who don't qualify for it at this time. This includes freshmen and sophomores at four-year institutions and community colleges. Graduate students are also included.

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