

Cultural Awareness Week biggest success in years Public education crucial to America's future

Last week Clackamas Community College enjoyed one of its biggest successes in recent years, with the Cultural Awareness week celebrations.

With a mix of music, exhibitions, films, demonstrations and food, the celebration provided a diversity which students and staff, as well as college patrons, could—and did enjoy.

Monday's presentation on Guatemala is one example of the success of the celebration. The presentation centralized on the human side of the country, rather than the political side which can be seen on the news.

Highlighting the presentation was a video which spotlighted the mother's role in overseeing things such as sending their children to school and making sure there was enough food on the table for the children. The video also told of the process of how Guatemalan women construct their native clothing.

Clackamas Counselor Ellen Burbridge, and Margaret Cook, who traveled to Guatemala recently, were the hosts for the Guatemalan portion of the festival. Their presentation was interesting, and definitely a success.

The success of the Guatemalan

presentation was mirrored by the success of the other presentations at the week-long celebration.

On Wednesday, there were crafts from over 50 countries were exhibited, and on Thursday, slides of the Pacific rim were shown. The celebration lacked no diversity in cultures.

Perhaps the best part of the celebration was that attendance actually increased as the week wore on. One reason of the attendance rise can be attributed to the visibility of the celebration. People couldn't walk through the Community Center during the day without seeing one of the exhibitions, or hearing some of the music from the different cultures.

The event was a smashing success and all those who were responsible should be proud that they were the ones to bring it to students. This is the most successful event of the year at the college.

We can only hope that the celebration won't be a one-time event. It should run on an annual basis so these students, who are in college to learn about the outside world, can be exposed to the outside world.

Does the recent failure of ballot measure one spell doom for Oregon's public school system? It does if Oregon voters don't begin to realize that an educated populace leads to a more prosperous society as a whole.

Many of the same voters who helped defeat measure one complain about the so-called "welfare state." They hate paying taxes to support others who can't find suitable employment. They need to understand that in an increasingly more complicated and technical society, opportunities for unskilled laborers are dwindling fast. The only way to help insure employment is through quality education.

Another frequent complaint of those who don't support public school finance is that America is being outpaced in both the technical and business worlds. They gripe about the Japanese "buying up" the country. The reason the Japanese are more successful and Americans have lost the "edge" in the world community is the difference in education.

When the American educational system was first introduced it was heralded as a twentieth century miracle. It is in part responsible for the emergence of the United

States as a superpower, but this is no longer the case.

The Japanese have tougher standards in education, but at the same time provide support for that educational system. How can "American ingenuity" exist when the average American citizen can't find Vietnam on a map, or is incapable of doing math beyond simple addition and subtraction?

Americans have become complacent. We have enjoyed 200 years of democracy, never been invaded by a foreign enemy and are considered (right now, at least) to be the major superpower. We have simply forgotten how we arrived at this position and that education played a major part in the development of this country. If we remain unwilling to pay for the benefits we reap from our society we will lose our status as the leading nation in the world.

The Oregon legislature will probably come up with another plan to help our financially strapped school system in a few years. For the sake of our future, we cannot miss out on the next opportunity to finance our public schools. It may be the last chance we get.

Letters to the Editor...

Timber issue raises questions

To the editor,

RE: May 17th Student Opinions, "Should old growth timber or the timber industry be protected?"

Interesting, the new buzzword: ancient. My dictionary defines ancient as something very old, dating back to the Greek and Roman civilization some 2000 years ago. Find me an ancient tree.

Did you know that we use over 5000 products that come from trees? This newspaper you are reading is just one product. If we were to discontinue logging where would the chips used to make paper come from and how much would paper products cost? When you are ready to buy a home what will it cost? Second growth timber used in those homes is escalating in cost. Did you know that the Northwest states provide half of the harvestable timber in the nation?

The 1987 employment data shows that 131,000 jobs are timber dependent. And did you know that the wood products industry is responsible for 44 percent of Oregon's economy?

Are you aware that federal receipts from the harvest of timber paid to Oregon is \$253,400,724? Those receipts are used for our local schools and roads. Clackamas county receives about \$12,741,647. Will our property taxes cover the loss? Will school tuitions have to go up? How will we make up for that loss?

For those concerned that all of the trees are being cut down: in Oregon there have been 2.4 million acres designated as wilderness, never to be cut. And if you will look carefully where you see a "clear cut" you will see small trees growing back. Close

to 100 million trees were replanted on 190,000 acres in 1988. That amounts to 37 seedlings for every person in Oregon.

The displacement of some 75,000 workers in Oregon and Washington with a payroll loss of more than \$1.5 billion from all sectors of business will cause a severe economic setback to the economy of the Northwest.

Please do a little more study of this issue. What you see on T.V. and read in the newspaper does not begin to cover it.

Betty Beaudry
Beavercreek

Read next week's

FINAL EDITION

of

The Clackamas Print

featuring a summer movie preview in *Piller's Picks*.

Editorial Policy

The Clackamas Print welcomes Letters to the Editor. Such letters must be signed or will not be printed. Letters must not exceed 250 words and should be typewritten or neatly printed. Letters can be turned into The Clackamas Print offices in Trailer B North of Randall Hall. The Clackamas Print reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor for grammar, obscenities and libelous material. Letters to the Editor must be turned in Friday in order to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

The Clackamas Print

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