

Gaskell solicits help of KATU

ASG senator diverts gifts for happy holiday

by Melissa Freels
Staff Writer

Imagine spending part of Christmas Eve in the KATU newsroom.

For most people, this situation is almost unthinkable, but for ASG Senator Amy Gaskell, it was reality. Gaskell, who organized CCC's "Giving Tree," walked into the KATU newsroom at 10:20 p.m. on December 24—just 40 minutes before the 11 p.m. news was going to air—and she literally stopped all news production.

How did she do it? What was she doing there? Let's start at the beginning.

In mid-November, Gaskell set up a "Giving Tree" in the CC Mall. Students and faculty members selected tags, which were provided by the Salvation Army, from the tree and purchased gifts for needy children. Each tag specified the child's "wish" or "need," and some even included stories about the child's situation.

By the end of Fall term, Gaskell had collected 64 gifts and she planned to take them to Salvation Army over Christmas vacation. Unfortunately, things didn't go as she had planned.

"My entire Christmas break was spent simply trying to get in touch with Salvation Army to deliver the gifts to them. This involved driving to the warehouse on

several occasions," Gaskell said. Every time she attempted to deliver the gifts, however, there was no one at the Salvation Army warehouse, or there was simply no one available to take an inventory of the gifts.

ried that someone might try and steal the gifts from her car. When she went shopping, Gaskell asked the Sears Automotive Center if she could park her car in their garage because she feared that someone would break into her car and steal

broadcaster Jeff Gianola and reporter Michael Hanna were preparing for the 11 p.m. newscast. "The whole newsroom stops . . . and they all had me tell my story," Gaskell said. According to Gaskell, when the news staff saw the gifts that were packed in her car, "They were astonished."

So, with the help of the KATU staff, Gaskell was able to hook-up with "Metro Crisis," an emergency center for people who don't have a place to live. According to Gaskell, "Metro Crisis" was just in the process of telling the 60 people in the emergency, "I'm sorry, but all of their toys have gone out." The people in the center would not receive any Christmas gifts—Gianola's call to "Metro Crisis" changed that.

Gaskell was ready to take the gifts to "Metro Crisis," when Gianola and Hanna decided to escort her. It was 10:35, and Gianola was scheduled to go on the air in 25 minutes. When they arrived at "Metro Crisis," they began unloading the gifts and distributing the gifts to the families.

"Those people would've for sure gone without Christmas," Gaskell said. "It ended up being a good, positive thing. It was scary for awhile and I'm sure it's going

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to be disappointing for students."

Gaskell stresses the point that although the gifts didn't go to the children they were intended for, they still made a positive impact. The gifts were given to people who really needed them.

Students help the needy, charity drive successful

by Melissa Freels
Staff Writer

"I was really impressed with the amount of student response," said ASG Senator John Cowart, as he discussed the food and clothing bins that were part of the CCC Christmas charities.

Cowart, who organized the food and clothing bins, was "overwhelmed" with the amount of clothes that CCC students donated over the holiday season. Clackamas donated a total of 36 garbage bags full of clothes to St. Vincent de Paul.

Overall, Cowart said, "It was kind of inspiring. You do something like this and you're like, 'Wow! People really do care.'"

Cowart would like to thank the CCC Wellness Committee, who

donated a whole barrel of food; the Oregon City Food Bank, who donated the food barrels; Levitz Furniture, who donated the clothing boxes; ASG, who helped organize and run the program; and the students and faculty at CCC, who donated food and clothes.

ASG plans to hold another clothes drive during the spring—"For spring cleaning," Cowart said. "Charity is not just one time of year."

In addition, Cowart and ASG Senator Amy Gaskell are planning to begin a GIVE (Giving Individuals Volunteering Efforts) organization this year. The organization is still in the planning stage. Cowart and Gaskell plan to submit a GIVE Constitution to ASG for approval.

the gifts. "They jacked it up for me so no one could get to the gifts," she said.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, Gaskell made one last trip to the Salvation Army. When she discovered that there was no one there, Gaskell began imagining herself handing out gifts down on Burnside. So, alone in downtown Portland, Gaskell was determined to find someone in need of gifts. She called various charities, but they already had donations from other organizations. Then she noticed the KATU building.

"I realized . . . I'll be safe there, and they'll have resources where I can hopefully find a place to take these gifts," she said.

After telling her story to a few workers at KATU, they took Gaskell into the newsroom, where news

"So all during Christmas vacation I was packing around hundreds and hundreds of dollars of gifts," she said. Gaskell was wor-

"On behalf of the Salvation Army, ASG would like to apologize that the gifts didn't go to 'Billy, age five' (or the child specified on the tag). But if they (CCC students) could've seen the faces of the kids . . . I got to see the real



photo by Nolan Kidwell

Amy Gaskell, ASG senator, helped organize the Giving Tree charity drive. people they helped," she said.

Gaskell would like to thank those at CCC who donated gifts. She also would like to thank all of the ASG members who assisted with the "Giving Tree."

Gaskell is currently filing complaints against the Salvation Army. CCC students who donated gifts, and who are upset because the gifts did not go to the child that they selected, can also file complaints. "They just have to understand that if they want to take their frustrations out, come see Amy in ASG and I can give them the (Salvation Army) address and phone number," said Gaskell.

Next Christmas, ASG will not be working with the Salvation Army. Instead, Gaskell explained, "We are going to be sponsoring our own 'Giving Tree.'" The CCC "Giving Tree" will focus on local families and families of Clackamas students. There will be an application and then the names must go through a "clearing house" before they can be approved to be on the "Giving Tree."

Giving tree contributors

Aaryn Kowe (3 Giving Tree Tags)
Marsha Depretto
Taffy Morgan
Kathy Sheer (2 Giving Tree Tags)
Laurie Guthrie
Kristi Rogers (2 Giving Tree Tags)
Sarah Piercey
John Hill
Maureen Jones
Amy Oakleaf
Suzy Alexander
Deborah Unrein
Gail Williams
Suzanne Shoemara
Elaine Kindred
Nicole Barns
Barabara Sassarini
Linda, Patty and Johnnie
Brian Cleveland
Brian Wilson
Junell Hollingsworth
Linda Oakslurg
Shelly Mitchell
Connie Mullis
Jennifer Hart
Vickie
Gale Miller
Korina Rogers
Mary Dykes
Kari Marsh
Stephanie Taylor
Marie Feddern
Cristina Rogers
Pam West
Donna Knight
Sue Manzella

20 students chose to remain anonymous

DRUG USE ISN'T ABOUT FUN . . .



IT'S ABOUT DEATH!