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Classes cancelled Monday, first time at CCC College closes to honor King's dream

by Nolan Kidwell
Features Editor

Classes will not be held, and the college will be closed, Monday, Jan. 20 in celebration of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Clackamas had not previously observed this national holiday, while most of the other schools and colleges in the area did. This is, in part, because the staff contracts did not allow for this date off.

"Contracts are negotiated every three years," said Assistant Dean of Human Resources Jim Painter. "It did not provide for Martin Luther King Day to be off."

Last year, according to Painter, there was a meeting with the part time faculty, full time faculty and classified staff associations in which it was voted that there should be no school on that day.

"Several years ago the state required the public schools to take the day off," explained Dian Connett, dean of student services. "Over the last couple years we have tried to stay in synch with the other community colleges." Last year Mt. Hood and Clackamas did not have the day off. Clackamas celebrated the week of Jan. 20 with videos and speak-



Photo by Benedict J. Fernandez from Bethel

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ers on King and other black American history.

Another contributing factor to requesting that Clackamas would have Martin Luther King Day off this year, according to Connett, was that many of the students here at the college have children in the public schools. Those children had the day off.

"We had a number of instructors complained that classes were fairly empty," she said.

"It's to really bring us in with the

other schools and colleges in the state," said College President John Keyser.

King's birthday is actually today, Jan. 15, 1929. King was a fundamental leader in the peaceful struggle for racial equality among black Americans, and he received the Nobel Peace Prize for this in 1964.

"He was certainly a great American leader," according to Keyser. Keyser felt that it is very appropriate that we should take a day to recognize someone who helped our nation, "recognize equality" in the way that King did.

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During his lifetime, King worked with peaceful demonstrations and marches in protest of segregation, inequality, discrimination and the Vietnam War. He was not always praised for his efforts however. King was nearly arrested several times, he was stoned by a mob in Chicago, and was often ridiculed for his passivity by some "black power" militants.

On Jan. 21, the day after Martin Luther King Day, there will be a variety of civil rights films and videos shown all day in the Fireside Lounge according to Associate Student Government Activities Coordinator Eddie Murphy.

A Reggae music group, "African Kings," will also be playing in the Skylight Dining Room, located in the Community Center. This group's music centers on African-American heritage and Malcolm X. Murphy describes the group as "hot on the Portland music circuit."

Students selected for Natural Helpers program

by Heidi A. Hoffman
Editor-in-chief

Through peer selection a group of "Natural Helpers" have been chosen to attend the first Natural Helpers training session. At the winter term registration a survey went out to the students and a large response set the program rolling.

"The Natural Helpers concept focuses on peer selection. No one knows better who would be a Natural Helper than those who are 'Natural Helpers,'" commented Vince Fitzgerald, the program's co-director.

The training session will be on Jan. 17 and 18.

"We had hoped to begin the program last year," said Fitzgerald.

This is the second year of the FIPSE (Fund for Improving Post-secondary Education) grant which is a federal grant designed to increase awareness and concern for alcohol and other drugs. The grant will be used to fund the Natural

Helpers program.

According to Fitzgerald "Students need support. Why not get it from fellow students that are specially trained?"

"Basically it's an opportunity for students to be identified and trained to do the kind of help that many already do naturally," said Fitzgerald.

The program includes training on peer support, referral resources and how to help a fellow student survive and cope with a number of situations.

"The program is also so that these 'Natural Helpers' can be recognized as students that have skills that are of value to their peers," explained Fitzgerald.

According to Fitzgerald, "We're breaking new ground, we intend to make this a continued part of the institution for peer assistance."

A peer assistance class may soon be available for credit.

When parking illegally, 'no one wins'

by Jennifer Lessard
News Editor

If you have received a parking ticket lately, you're not alone. The Public Safety program has begun to really crack down on parking violations.

Jim Wiseman, chief of the Public Safety Department, estimates that the Public Safety Department has ticketed about 75 cars in the last two months.

A parking citation can cost an illegally parked motorist \$5 to or \$10, but motorists who park in handicap parking spaces without a permit can expect a \$100 citation, according to Wiseman. Wiseman says that illegal parking "continues to be a problem."

He explains that "we try to make sure the rules and regulations are followed."

According to Wiseman, "there are always two to three percent of any society that feel they can circumvent the parking situation." He explains that "by and large, most people abide by the laws," but there



Photo by Kyle Moe

Jerry White, a campus public safety officer, tickets an illegally parked car in the parking lot behind the trailers.

are always some that don't. Parking citations can be appealed by picking up an appeal form at the Information Center in the Community Center Mall. The appeal form goes to an appeal board made up of five individuals

from campus: one faculty member, one staff member, one administrator and two students. The board then makes the decision whether to waive the charge or not.

Wiseman explains that "no one wins" with parking illegally.