

U.S. 'just like a dream' to Clackamas student from Micronesia

by Melissa Freets
Staff Writer

"When I came out here it was like a dream," said CCC student Gloria Ilemangbug, 22, who moved to the United States approximately 3 years ago.

Ilemangbug had lived on the island Woleai of Atoll Micronesia, which is located in the Caroline Islands (near New Guinea), for her entire life. For years she had been exposed to American culture through television and saw many of the things that American culture and society offered.

Ilemangbug was given the chance to "really try some things that I saw on TV" she said, when her uncle and aunt, John and Patricia Tafelieg, invited her to come to the U.S. and live with them.

Once she arrived in America, Ilemangbug began to notice the cultural differences between America and her home on Woleai.

Last winter was the first time Ilemangbug had ever been around snow. "I was really surprised. I felt really cold," she said. She was also surprised at Oregon's cold rain. "We have rain (on Woleai), but ours is warm," Ilemangbug said.

Despite the coldness of the snow, however, Ilemangbug found that it was a great way to learn how to ski—a sport that is not possible in Woleai's warm climate. She took skiing lessons, but she said, "I'm

still not good at it." Will she ever attempt to ski again? "I said forget it . . . maybe I will try again," she said with hesitation.

Ice skating also sparked an interest. "I watched and said 'I want to try that,'" Ilemangbug said. Like skiing, however, she found that ice skating isn't as easy as it looks.

Over the past few years Ilemangbug has had to adjust to American food—which she believes is the most difficult adaptation she has had to make. "It's really different from the food I eat back at home," she said. Woleai cuisine primarily consists of seafood.

Although students in the Caroline Islands speak a language called Carolinian, they also study the English language. When Ilemangbug first arrived in the U.S. she felt like "I was talking and they (Americans) were laughing," she said. After three years, however, she has become more confident when speaking.

Woleai culture is "really different (than American) because ladies don't wear pants or shorts," Ilemangbug said. Through a process called "lava lava," the women on Woleai weave their own skirts. Many men wear material wrapped around them, Ilemangbug explained. Today, however, Woleai society has begun wearing clothes similar to those of American society.

Ilemangbug has found

many things in America that she enjoys. "I like tennis and I like reading books," she said. These are two hobbies that she picked up after she moved to the U.S. She also enjoys listening to music. On Woleai, "We have our own music and we have American music," Ilemangbug said.

Ilemangbug describes the Caroline Islands as, "really small and really friendly"—everyone knows each other. "When I came out here I thought some people were rude to each other," she said.

Many of the islands are very close to each other and the islanders spend much of their time on the other islands. "We always go on a canoe to go island to island," Ilemangbug said.

Ilemangbug's schooling on Woleai is similar to that of most Americans. She went to kindergarten and elementary school, but chose not to finish high school. The island of Woleai does not have a high school, so students must live in a dormitory on one of the larger islands where there is a high school. Ilemangbug explained that she "didn't want to go to a different island" so she stayed with her family and chose not to finish school.

Currently Ilemangbug is taking courses at Clackamas in order to earn her GED. Eventually she would like to major in English.

In addition to school, Ilemangbug spends much of her time



Photo by Vliet Johnson

Gloria Ilemangbug moved to the United States 3 years ago. She is now attending CCC to study for her GED.

working at the Roundtree, which is a home for handicapped people, in Oregon City. It is her first job and she has only been working for four months, so Ilemangbug often finds that it is difficult to balance working and going to school. Ilemangbug also spends much time taking care of her uncle's children.

She has also found that spending time with other international students is very helpful. They have meetings and parties for birthdays and holidays. She enjoys going shopping and to the movies with

her best friend, Miwa Suzuki, who is from Japan. Neither of the girls drive so they have become accustomed to riding the bus when they go out.

Ilemangbug has also traveled to Tacoma, Wash. where her sister, Margret, lives.

Ilemangbug does not know how many more years she will be in America. When she does return home to Woleai, she plans to live with her family and to get a job as a secretary or someone who works with computers.

International Orientation class started to assist foreign students

by Scott Morris
Staff Writer

Clackamas Community College is offering a new course entitled Intercultural Orientation, that has been started to assist students who are new to our country adjust to our college and our culture. The course, taught by Coun-

selor Ellen Burbridge, started Winter term.

"We have students from all over the world at CCC, some adjust to being here very well, some not as well." According to Burbridge, this course "gives the students a place to come with problems and questions."

Intercultural Orientation was designed to help the students deal with a number of problems that new people in our culture usually have, including how to deal more effectively with issues and problems in the U.S.; how to develop skills to be successful while living in the U.S.; and to help gain

an appreciation for individual and cultural differences.

"Many of the students had problems that were too big to manage on their own," said Burbridge, when asked why CCC decided to add this class. "It gives the students a support group, a place to come help and teach each other. It

takes a lot of strength and courage to start a new life in a new culture. I think most people don't realize how hard it is."

Intercultural Orientation is only open to international students at this time but Burbridge hopes to start an International Communication class in the future that would be open to everyone.

One-act plays feature 'hellish' point of view

by Ginger Land
Staff Writer

How do you picture hell? This is the question that Director Ryan S. Hull had to ask himself while di-

recting the play "Final Exit," an existentialistic view of hell, written by Jean-Paul Sartre. This is just one of the three one-acts put on by the Clackamas Community Col-

lege Theater Department this term. Dennis Corwin, a familiar sight to both the Clackamas Theater and many local Portland companies, has chosen to direct a play called

"Chinamen." Corwin, who was just in SRO's Production of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," felt that this would be a challenge because of the timing involved. "Chinamen," written by Michael Frayn, is a fast-paced comedy about a dinner party. The catch is that there are only two actors to play the five characters.

The final play is written by a Clackamas alumnus, David Burett Jr., and is called "The Calliope Played at Midnight." Burett is now a student at Western Oregon working on a major in Theater.

This is not the first play Burett has written but the director, Lichen June, thinks it will be a challenging piece of work.

The concept of the play is about insecurity, the main character being a clown. This, being the premiere of Burett's show, will be a definite "don't miss."

The one-act plays will be performed on March 8, 9, and 10, during the lunch hour with one evening performance on March 10, at 8:00 p.m. All performances of the one-act plays are FREE to Students, Faculty and the general public.

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Photo by Vliet Johnson

The play "The Calliope Played at Midnight" was written by Clackamas alumnus David Burett Jr. The one act will be performed by CCC students at the end of the term.