

Norm Berney helps ASG make changes

by Hafidha Acuay
Staff Writer

I had to visit the Student Activities office three times before I was able to get an interview with Norm Berney, CCC's new coordinator for the Associated Student Government and Student Activities. I was leaving him a message on a memo sheet when he walked in.

Upon learning that I wanted to interview him for *"The Clackamas Print"*, he put his hands to his head and said, "Oh no, not *'The Print'*!" Panic started to set in; what would I do now? Then Berney said, "Nah, I'm just kidding."

After this rather jolting start, we went into his office. I sat in a squishy low chair, he sat in a big swivel one. While he did a couple of things in the outer office, I scrutinized my surroundings. The posters of Switzerland on the wall caught my attention. I was looking at them when Berney returned and the interview began.

"Has Student Activities changed?" I asked.

He began to laugh. "It's taking on a different focus," he said. The emphasis will be more on student issues and student-oriented activities.

"What do you do?" I asked him.

"Anything on campus having to do with students," he replied. This includes helping to organize the Red Cross blood drives; The Giving Tree, a fundraiser for needy families; and the craft fair in December. ASG representatives deal with issues concerning financial aid, tuition hikes, book price increases, and minority scholarships. The ASG is also responsible for the lockers, and the game room. Berney is also a Leadership Training class teacher. After this overload of information, I decided to change the subject.

"What are some of your hobbies?"

"Travel's probably my main one. I've been to Switzerland 23 times... lived in England for a year." Berney was in the teacher exchange program during the 1990-91 school year. He likes watches and attends watch and jewelry shows across the U.S. Then I risked being nosy and asked Berney why he'd been to Switzerland so many times. He told me that his grandparents lived there. That question spurred a long exchange that covered a lot of subjects, and somehow we ended up talking about me. I tried

to bring things back to him.

"Did you used to be a wrestling coach?"

Berney stroked his head with his hand, a movement I'd seen him make at least half a dozen times within the last half-hour. When he didn't say anything, I rushed on, "I'd always thought wrestlers were kind of short and big, you know, hefty... but I guess they're not always..." I winced as if in pain. Perhaps my statement impelled Berney to respond. He said he had been the wrestling coach for CCC from 1971-89, and admitted that he now stayed away from the wrestling scene. "I don't even go to the matches," he said. He also mentioned that he was a state champion, with just a trace of bravado in his voice. But he was too modest to tell me that he is in the Wrestling Hall of Fame.

"Do you like this job better than your old one?"

After some hesitation, Berney replied, "No... I enjoy both. About 25 percent of the work I do now is high school relations." He considers his new job to be challenging, but rewarding. "I like working with students." He considers the student voice to be very important. "They know so much more about what's going on in



photo by Anjanette Booth

Norm Berney, this year's new ASG and Student Activities coordinator, does anything on campus having to do with students.

the school," he said.

I could tell, from the way he spoke of his job and the students, that he really likes what he's doing. His enthusiasm is so ap-

parent, and he's such a nice man. When he tried to convince me that I would be great as an ASG member, I didn't agree, but I didn't disagree either. He's the type of guy you find it hard to say no to.

'Just one of the guys...'

Robin Smith excels at CCC autobody repair program

by Claudia Smulders
Staff Writer

Robin Smith, a 28-year-old student at Clackamas Community College, represented CCC

twice this year in an auto body repair and refinishing program contest.

Last April Smith won the Oregon contest, which was spon-

sored by the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. Smith competed that day with fake fingernails, knowing she had to be her sister's bridesmaid later that same afternoon.

The victory made her eligible for the National Skills Olympics held June 22-27 in Louisville, KY.

Smith was the only female at this contest, something she's used to. It is unusual for a female to do this kind of work and be good at it. Since Smith was the only girl there, people were paying a lot of attention to her--even during lunch.

"People acted like they had never seen somebody eating a sandwich before; they were even taking pictures of me!"

At CCC Smith isn't treated like that at all. She is just "one of the guys," she said.

"I have brothers, so I know

how to deal with them. If they give me a hard time they know I'll give it right back to them," said Smith.

Although Smith placed 24th at the Nationals, she wasn't disappointed at all.

"My boyfriend and family stood behind me, and I did the best I could, so why should I be disappointed?"

Why did Smith join this auto-body repair program?

"My boyfriend was an auto mechanic and I was doing general studies. He persuaded me to take some auto mechanic classes, which I did. I liked the classes, but I got too greasy. So, I went to the CCC autobody repair program and I got hooked up with it. I've always loved art and colors.

"At first, my parents thought I would grow out of it, but now they know I am serious about it. They stand behind me, although

my mom would rather I be a hair-dresser."

Smith is not only a full time student at CCC, but she also works at Smuckers. She works there as a forklift driver, from midnight until 8 a.m. When she gets off, she goes straight to CCC.

Since spare time for her is very precious, Smith has found a solution for doing her homework.

"I do my homework on the forklift, which is kind of fun," she said.

When Smith graduates from CCC she would like to work in a shop. She doesn't want to be her own boss, she would rather work for someone and get paid for it.

Her boyfriend even offered her a job to work with him in Dallas, OR, but she told him no.

"My mom always told me to never, ever work with your husband or boyfriend. You will always end up fighting, and I think she's right!" Smith explained.



photo by Anjanette Booth

Robin Smith's boyfriend got her into the auto mechanic program at CCC. She recently placed 24th in the nation at an autobody repair and refinishing program contest.

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