

News Clips

by Hafidha Acuay

There are no day classes Thursday. CCC will be hosting the 15th Annual Clackamas County Skills Competition. There will be competitions in many fields, including accounting, auto mechanics, drafting, graphic design, international education, journalism, mathematics, photojournalism and technology education. All Clackamas County high schools will participate in this event.

The Winter Term Red Cross Blood Drive will be held today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Gregory Forum.

There will be a community reading this Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. in P-105. All CCC staff and students are encouraged to read or just attend. For more information contact Kate Gray at ext. 2371.

All students are invited to enter the Christophers Video Contest for College Students. Entries must be five minutes or under in length and express the theme: One Person Can Make a Difference. Thousands of dollars in prize money will be awarded. The deadline is June 11. Entrants must be currently enrolled college students in good standing. For more information write to the Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or call (212) 759-4050.

International Women's Day 1993 takes place at Montgomery Park on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will be workshops, vendors, poetry, ethnic dancing, music, discussions and food concessions. Tables are available for organizations to rent for \$25 to \$45. Admission is on a sliding scale from \$3 to \$15. Organizations and volunteers may contact Linda Torgeson at 231-1604 for more information.

CCC recommends that students apply early for 93-94 financial aid. Those who apply early are likely to receive more aid. For answers to specific questions, call ext. 2422.

The LitEruption Book Fair will take place on Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Portland Masonic Temple. The fair will feature independent bookstores, regional presses, writers' groups, some of the Northwest's best authors, a children's book fair with storytellers and book designing, panel discussions, and readings from playwrights, among other things. Admission is \$3 for adults; children 12 and under are free. For more information, call 227-2787.

The Miss Portland Scholarship Pageant, an official preliminary to the Miss Oregon and Miss America Pageants, is seeking contestants. They will conduct a pageant on April 17. Eligible contestants must be single women between the ages of 17 and 24. The winner will go on to the Miss Oregon Scholarship Pageant; the winner of that contest will go on to compete for the Miss America crown. There are no entry fees. Interested young women should contact Dana Phillips, director of the Miss Oregon Scholarship Pageant at 738-8326, or write P.O. Box 1099, Seaside, OR 97138.

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Letters to the Editor

Gays in the military decision warrants no kudos

Dear Mr. Hibberd:

I don't think your article about giving Clinton kudos has shown every side of the problems concerning gays in the military.

I don't know how you can think that way when you have obviously served in an infantry unit. I, too, served in an infantry unit, so we come from similar backgrounds.

I don't doubt that gays have the want to serve our country. I don't doubt they are capable of it, either. The biggest problem I see about it is the invasion of privacy.

The men and women currently serving live in very close quarters; sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, tents and foxholes. Their lives are based on a systematic schedule that creates enough

stress as it is. The last thing they should have to worry about is whether or not their roommate is going to make an advancement.

Now maybe UCMJ would punish the gay person for doing this, but doesn't it still create a personal problem for the soldier that was on the receiving end of the advancement?

The only way to prevent an invasion of privacy is to create an entirely new and different structure of living for military personnel. The military would have to build all new barracks.

That's pretty spendy considering Clinton wants to cut \$60 billion more from the military budget, Mr. Hibberd. Who is going to pay for all new construction? The gay activists? I highly doubt it.

I suppose you would also let gays

serve freely in combat units too! Do you feel the same about women serving in front line units? If you don't, you're a hypocrite, Mr. Hibberd.

When every senior military official in our country's armed forces stands strongly against the Clinton idea, don't you think the president should wise up and listen? Especially since he knows absolutely nothing about serving in the military.

Clinton just wants to please a special interest group that helped him get elected. He should put the best interests of the country up front and leave well enough alone!

Sorry, No Kudos for Clinton.
Tony Fletcher
CCC Student

University education not so great

The following letter, written by a former Clackamas student, recently appeared in the University of Oregon student newspaper, The Emerald.

Here I am, the third term at Mickey's house (the University) here in Disneyland (Eugene), where "earthy" liberalism is the standard, and the quality of education is a poor dollar-for-dollar value.

As a Portland transplant, I am again wondering why the cost of a university education at Mickey's house is so expensive, yet so cheap in quality.

At Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, for \$350 a term, just a little more than one-third of the \$900 a term at Mickey's house, I can honestly tell you that my history instructor, who had a Ph.D., was a "real historian," eager and anxious to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with his students.

And my geology instructor, a "real geologist" who is as equally educated in the field as in the classroom; he, too, was eager and anxious to share his wealth of knowledge and experience.

This is not true at Mickey's house. At Mickey's house, enduring boring pre-packaged lectures directly from the publishers, laboriously delivered with a sense of apathy, are standard. Lectures are so twisted and tangled that you leave feeling like a rat exhausted from running within a maze.

Where is the interaction among students and between student and teacher? Or is it that Mickey's house has only lecturers and not teachers?

Then come the tests. Endowed with plenty of time, and being a good student that you are, you have already

read the textbook. With still more time, you study those interesting lecture notes and the textbook.

Now, complete with the "exuberance" of the lectures, the textbook and your lecture notes, you remember almost everything and get that A or B you desired, right?

Just last night I was talking with my fiancée, who after five long years, graduated from the University in 1988. This is what she said to me.

"When I came to the University directly out of high school -- having been an honor student every year -- I was very confident. I felt like I could do anything. But by the time I graduated from the University, I lacked most of the confidence I had when I came. I think a lot of it has to do with how difficult I found it to do well when the classes were so boring and impersonal. They don't teach you at the University. You teach yourself."

At the Clackamas Community College English Department, the instructors promoted free thinking and creative writing, with the objective of providing the student with the necessary skills to write effectively.

This is not true at Mickey's house. At Mickey's house, you must write with the same opinion or outlook as the instructor. Is this what a liberal education is about? Isn't the purpose of the University to create people who can think independently and effectively express their views and opinions?

Let me quote what my previous 300-level English instructor said to me: "Coming to the University, where the level of proficiency expected from the student is much greater than the community college, I can understand why you

may have some trouble."

I was quick to point out that in my opinion, the education I had received at the community college level was very good, and I resented her arrogance at assuming otherwise.

If, at the end of a hard day of lectures, crowded rooms and stale air, you find yourself frustrated and feeling either too slow or too stupid to get that A or B, console yourself. You are not too slow or too stupid. As with most university students, you are just overworked and under-taught.

My having said so much, you may be thinking to yourself: isn't this guy a little nervous about writing so critically of Mickey's house? After all, what if one of his instructors read this thing?

No, and this is why: First of all, I doubt many instructors really care about the opinion of the student body, and therefore probably don't read The Emerald. Secondly, if any of my instructors do read this, they probably don't know who the hell I am anyway.

And third, if it is my English instructor, I doubt he could be more critical of my work than he already is. What's a few more destructive comments scribbled on my papers?

A word of advice: don't waste \$900 a term in Disneyland at Mickey's house. First go to the community college until you can no longer -- then meet me in Portland at Lewis and Clark or Reed College.

By Daniel T. Frank, a sophomore majoring in pre-journalism.

Abortion not an empowering option

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to an article written by Robert A. Hibberd in the Opinion page of the Feb. 10 Clackamas Print. Even though I have my opinion about our new president, Bill Clinton and about gays in the military, I will refrain from sharing them. What I would like to address is the issue of abortion. I realize this letter is not going to change anyone's mind, but I would like to comment on Rob's article. In his article, he says that "abortion is an element of our society which empowers women." As a woman, I do not feel empowered because I can kill my unborn child. If anything, abortion takes away all rights of the woman. I know many women who have had abortions. Not one of them feel empowered by their decision. In fact, many of the women have been in counseling because of the choice they made and almost all have a deep sense of remorse because of their choice.

According to Hibberd's article, "without abortion, women are easily oppressed by dominant men, doomed to live out their lives as barefoot, pregnant housewives." This statement is totally invalid - the only time a woman would be

forced to have sex is if she is raped. The majority of women who have abortions have not been raped. We always have a choice of having sex or not. Whatever happened to the idea of abstinence? If one decided to have sex, what about birth control?

Oh, I realize women do get pregnant while using birth control, but there are still options beside abortion. You never hear people talking about adoption. I have heard people say "I would rather have an abortion than give my baby up for adoption, I just couldn't do that!" What a sick society we have that enables women to be so selfish that they would kill their child before they would let another couple raise him/her.

Instead of revoking the "gag rule," which enables counselors to suggest abortion as an alternative to giving birth, we should teach abstinence. If we didn't have sex before we were married, we wouldn't have to be discussing abortion, not to mention sexually-transmitted diseases or AIDS.

Most likely, this letter, and the arguments I have presented will not mean much to anyone, and in fact, will not change anyone's views on abortion,

(which was not my intent). If you want to know why I feel abortion is wrong, I will give you one example. His name is Brandon Wayne Barnett and he is 8 months old. I could have had an abortion and no one would have known except me, but I look at my beautiful boy and I know without a shadow of doubt that abortion is wrong.

Yes, I am a single mother, but I do not feel doomed to live out my life as a barefoot, pregnant housewife. I also don't care what sort of negative image others have of me because I'm a single mother. I have set many goals for myself, and I will accomplish those goals. I want to stay home with my son. I don't consider it a punishment to raise a child with a mother who stays at home. Actually, I consider it a great honor to be a mother and feel it would be a great honor to be a "housewife."

I know everyone gets sick of hearing about abortion, but I feel there are so many other options. You might go home tonight and thank your mom for not having had an abortion.

Shauna Barnett
CCC Student



The Clackamas Print welcomes well-thought letters to the editor. All letters must be submitted by the Friday before publication, and must be signed with the writer's name.

