

News Briefs

Compiled by Vicki Welch

Neil Lomax, former quarterback for Portland State University and the Phoenix Cardinals, will speak at Clackamas Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Gregory Forum. Lomax will discuss his Christian beliefs in a presentation sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The public is invited to attend the presentation free of charge. Bring a brown-bag lunch. For more information, call ext. 2418.

Annual Writers' Club Contest deadline has been extended to March 4. Entries may be fiction, poetry or creative non-fiction. There may be a maximum of six poems and/or one fiction or non-fiction entry. Entries must be typed, double-spaced with three copies of each entry. Entries must have a cover sheet with name and titles of works and Social Security number on individual entries. For more information, call Allen Widerburg at ext. 2359.

Now accepting submissions of short fiction and poetry for publication in future insert of the Clackamas Print. Please bring your submissions to Barlow 104. Don't be afraid to submit to The Print. The last day for submissions to Rhapsody is Friday.

Illusion and reality will take center stage in Clackamas' winter theater production, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Performances are scheduled for March 3, 4, 5, 11, and 12 at 8 p.m. and March 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theater. Tickets are \$6 general, \$3 students and staff, and senior citizens free with reservations. For reservations or more information, call ext. 2356.

There will be a panel discussion today to discuss "Gender Issues in the '90s" in the Gregory Forum at noon. The panel will consist of Loren Ford, Bernie Nolan and Joe Uris. They will discuss healthy relationships, promoting them and maintaining them, and will have a debate discussing education, salary, communication and health.

Tryouts for CCC's Spring Theater production will be Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. Tryouts are open to the public. Three men and four women will be needed for the production of Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs." Audition materials may be picked up in M-120. For more information, call ext. 2356.

Students in the college's Theater Arts program will present three one-act plays March 8 through 10 in the McLoughlin Hall Theater. The performances are free and open to the public. For more information or showtimes, call ext. 2356.

Professional Core entrance interviews will be held April 14 and 15 on the Western Oregon State College campus. They will be selecting students to enter the program during the 1994 to 1995 school year. Applications from community colleges are due in the office by March 24. Candidates should be third-term sophomores (minimally) who are completing Western's LACC requirements or the Block Transfer. Candidates will be notified of their eligibility to interview and an appointment time. For more information, call (503) 838-8471.

Virtual Reality: A brave new world

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impression of being inside the model.

Despite the reality of these virtual worlds, Shumaker said they won't be really real. "Models in Virtual Reality will not in the near future be equal with reality because of the limits of computers. The quality of the system you want is directly related to the hardware and the complexity of the computer," Shumaker said.

The software used here, AutoCAD, allows for the drawing of 3-D models which can be used in the Virtual Reality software.

So now that the software and hardware are all set up, what can Virtual Reality do for the drafting department? Well, the practical applications of this experience are about as limitless as those in the entertainment industry.

Imagine walking into an architect's office and saying, 'I want to design my own home.' The architect takes you to the computer, puts the goggles on you, puts the glove on your hand and turns you loose inside a model. You then have free reign. You walk down the hall and decide it is too narrow, so you push it out. You walk into the kitchen and decide the window is too high, so you lower it. And every time you make a change, it is stored in the

computer's database which could be sent directly to a builder. Voila! You have a custom-designed home.

Virtual Reality can work the same way for office design. Japan uses Virtual Reality for kitchen design. Despite all the leaps and bounds made in discovering the possibilities of Virtual Reality, the U.S. is still behind in the game.

"It was developed in the U.S., yet we are the last to use it in a practical way for human advancement," Shumaker said.

That is just the beginning. Telepresence Surgery allows doctors to operate on patients without even being in the operating room. The surgeon is in a room in one city with stereo eye wear, hooked up to a satellite. The patient is in a room in another city prepped for surgery and situated beneath a pair of robotic arms that emulate the surgeon's moves. The doctor is only present via satellite, yet this new form of surgery has been used, and according to Shumaker, is "highly accurate."

Telerobotics is similar to telepresence surgery, except the robot is sent into situations that humans would not be able to enter into. "It is dangerous work. You have the robots do it, but, who controls the robots? The person

working with the 3-D Virtual Reality model," Shumaker said.

While this new form of technology is intriguing and fun for many, Shumaker said it does have its dangers. "With every 'advance' made, we lose something. There are negative sides to everything we do. We sacrifice of our world, ourselves and our relationships with each other. We have no plan for the technology we create. We have not yet to begun to realize where technology is taking us. And that is the dangerous part of where we think we're going," Shumaker said.

Shumaker warns against becoming too hooked on Virtual Reality. As it becomes more real and more detailed, the abuse people encounter in the real world can be displaced with the seeming realities of a self-created virtual world. Shumaker said it is possible to abuse Virtual Reality and not want to leave a self-created virtual world, or to not be able to distinguish between real life and a virtual life.

While Virtual Reality is still new and exciting there are limits to what can be done, at least right now. However, even those limits aren't too binding.

"Imagination is the only limit to the possibilities of Virtual Reality," Shumaker said.

Landmark class offers glimpse of Virtual Reality

by Kathryn Tongue
Lake Oswego High School
First Place News Writing

"This is the only class of its kind within several states of the west," said Diane Delters, news service coordinator for CCC, while speaking of a new, one-day course in Virtual Reality which will be offered at Clackamas Community College on both May 6 and May 20.

The course will be offered through the Clackamas Drafting department and is a non-credit class costing \$150. It will introduce students to software and hardware available to do Virtual Reality. The class will also include discussions of the applications of Virtual Reality and will

allow students to create and navigate a virtual world.

According to Delters, several faculty members, such as Terence Shumaker, were instrumental in bringing the course to Clackamas.

"They wanted to offer the course to keep Clackamas on the edge of delivering new knowledge," Delters said.

Virtual Reality has already been used to perform surgery via satellite, and it will enable fire fighters to extinguish toxic fires without endangering themselves. In addition, Virtual Reality can be combined with robotics and satellites to overcome obstacles of distance and danger.

"This summer, Virtual

Reality is expected to become more available to more people," said Delters. "You can expect Virtual Reality to pop up at malls and theme parks."

The college has already taken advantage of the increasing availability of Virtual Reality and has created a 3-dimensional map of campus. In addition, Clackamas is planning to offer two more nine-hour courses in Virtual Reality next fall.

There are no prerequisites for the course, and any interested high school or college students, as well as educators, school administrators and business people may enroll. Space is limited, however, to 15 students per class.

- CFCU -

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Join today and see the difference. We welcome you to become a member/owner of **Clackamas Federal Credit Union**.

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4400 SE International Way - Milwaukie, OR 97222-4689 - Phone (503) 653-7788 FAX (503) 653-9771

Men and Women in the 90's

Rules, Roles & Responsibilities

Gregory Forum Noon March 2

Speakers include Dave Campbell, Loren Ford, Bernie Nolan & Joe Uris

Sponsored by CCC Social Science & Counseling Departments