

Alternative programs help students

by Angela Williams
Staff Writer

There are many reasons that students drop out of high school. Everything from being stalked by an old boyfriend or girlfriend to just not being able to keep up with classes.

Clairmont Hall is the home of the Tri-Cities Alternative program. This program is designed to provide an alternative education system for those students who have never graduated from high school.

Tri-Cities provides both a General Equivalency Degree program and a High School Equivalency program. The GED is a test intended to prove a general knowledge of those things that a student should have learned in school.

The High School Equivalency program is designed to give students a chance to earn their high school diplomas by completing required high school courses at their own rate.

The study time taken to prepare for the GED depends on the student. Some students take the test immediately after they drop out of high school. Others wait, in order to learn more and earn more class credits before they take the test.

Christie Borgman dropped out of high school as a sophomore, because she would never go to school. Now she is working to-

ward getting her GED at Tri-Cities. "I want to get more credits, and then try to get my GED," Borgman said.

High School Equivalency is an entirely different kind of pro-

gram than the GED. The students who are working toward their high school diplomas, must complete the same 22 credits that a student enrolled in any high school would be required to complete.

The 22 credits turn out to be 44 different semester-long courses. The difference is that a student at Tri-Cities can complete these courses at their own rate. Jason Boyd is 17 years old. He dropped out of high school his junior year. His reason for doing this was to get his credits caught up, then return to high school as a senior to play varsity football with his twin brother.

"I want a letterman's jacket with a football on it," he said.

Boyd is one of the leading students this year in the Tri-Cities program. He has been in the program for only seven weeks,

and is now working on completing his fifth course.

The courses vary in content, but generally include some study work, four or five essays and about four packets of homework. When the material is completed, the student may or may not be required to take a test over the course. The students are allowed to take the work home and complete it, or only do work in class. The classes run Monday through Thursday.

Each student comes to the Tri-Cities program for a different reason, and with a different situation, but all of the students are given the same chances to be successful. Sara Burkitt, a 17-year-old working on her high school diploma, said, "I'll graduate before my class, and I even missed a full year of school."

"I'll graduate before my class and I even missed a full year of school."

-Sara Burkitt

Letters to the Editor:

Student, staff member speak out on 'Measure 13' letters

There needs to be something said concerning the comments made by Leigh Martin in his Nov. 16 *Letter to the Editor*. Leigh stated that he is a "Christian who happens to be gay." Well, unfortunately the two don't go together, just as a person cannot claim to be a Christian and also be a murderer. I would like to make this clear in a few words.

First of all, we need to establish what a Christian is. The Bible teaches, in a nutshell, everyone is sinful, and because of this sin, we are separated from God, awaiting judgment. Because of God's love, he has provided a way to be saved by accepting Jesus Christ as our savior. In so doing, we abandon sin. We can't be Christians and continue to live in sin. The Bible is clear on this.

It is common for individuals with little knowledge of the Bible to claim simply that homosexuality is not sinful. Along with that, these same people label

Christians who accept the entire biblical message (not just scripture that feels comfortable) as hateful bigots. Well, just for the record, let it be known that the Bible calls us all to abandon sin, and that certainly includes homosexuality. If there be any doubt, the Bible defines homosexuality as a "degrading of the body, shameful lust, and indecent act, and perversion." (Romans 1:24-32, I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Is opposition to homosexuality hateful on the part of Christians? No, it is simple obedience to God's word. If anyone has a problem with accepting this, realize that one who calls himself a Christian simply cannot condone sin because God, and his word do not allow it. Am I wrongfully judging you, Leigh? No, I am not. Read it for yourself and see if you can put God on trial.

Dan Sauder
CCC Student

The Nov. 9th *Letter to the Editor*, from Gaven Marble, deeply disturbed me. As an employee and student at CCC, I found the letter both distressing and pitiful. I am ashamed that this was published in *The Print*, but not for the reasons you may think.

Marble is apparently upset about Kate Gray's letter in reference to vandalism of a car that had a "No on 13" sticker on it. I think Marble's point was that the vandalism could have occurred for a reason other than the sticker, but that is not what he communicated.

What was communicated was an attack on Gray, the First Amendment and the homosexual community. The tone of the letter was rude and, as a result, unconvincing in arguing the point. I feel sorry and embarrassed for Marble.

In order to argue effectively, one must remember what we are taught. REMEMBER YOUR AUDIENCE! Marble neglected to back up the argument with concrete information and failed to define himself. For example, by

encouraging Gray to read Measure 13, Marble should have provided us with the portion of the measure he is referring to. In addition, by referencing the definition of "minority" as a legal status, Marble needs to provide a definition. Finally, Marble needs to explain to this citizen of the United States what "homosexuals in this country want." I wonder how Marble can know what an entire group of people collectively want. Does he know what all the blacks and Jews he referred to want?

I applaud Marble in his courage to speak up for himself, but strongly encourage him to take a WR122 Argumentative Writing course before he gives more fuel to his opponents. His poorly structured letter only proves to me that bigotry equates to ignorance. I feel sorry for the "future children" Marble is trying so hard to protect. I wonder if I am alone.

Lisa Tomlin
CCC Staff

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Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon, 97045; Barlow 104; (503) 657-6958, ext. 2309.

Passing Measure 16 was a mistake

by Angela Williams
Staff Writer

I feel that the passing of Measure 16 was a mistake. A doctor should not be allowed to assist a patient in ending his or her own life.

A medical doctor does have the ability to determine whether or not a patient is living or dead. However, a doctor is not able to make a determination on whether a patient's life will be valuable enough to continue.

I have a friend who had a heart attack at the age of 18. He fell into a coma and did not awake for months. Finally, the doctors gave his family paperwork that would allow them to turn off the machines keeping him alive. When the paperwork was finished, the machines were turned off, and my friend did not die. He began breathing on his own, and

his heart took over beating on its own. Still the doctors assured his family that he would not live long enough to ever regain any amount of his memory or intelligence back.

As time went by, he did remember some things from his past, and he did regain much of the knowledge that he had before. However, the doctors told him that he would have only six months to one year to live.

Had Measure 16 been in effect at the time, he would have had the choice to kill himself after having been told by a doctor that his last six months would be painful, embarrassing and expensive.

Today, three-and-a-half years later, he is nearly the same person he was before the heart attack. He has a slight memory loss and he has a pacemaker on his heart, but

he can do almost everything that he could do before. The choice to take advantage of Measure 16 would have ended a life which now is as happy as anyone else's.

Like my friend's life, no life is worth throwing away. Roughly 96 percent of the people who contemplate or attempt suicide do not go through with it. A doctor should have no hand in helping patients end their own lives.

If a person makes that decision, then decides they can go through with it on their own, then they can become one of the four percent who do go through with suicide. However, a medical doctor takes an oath to do all that is in their power to help save a patient's life. Helping a patient end their life is not in that oath. A doctor's assistance in suicide is nothing short of assisted murder.