

CCC student Terry Demezas to lead cultural exchange

by Anjanette Booth
News Editor

"To promote international awareness, understanding, and friendship," this is the main objective of the Rural Mexico Cultural Exchange Program.

Terry Demezas, acting president of the program, and his 16-year-old daughter, Myriam, co-coordinator of this year's trip and Grant High School student, will be leading the cultural exchange to Teocelo, Veracruz, in July.

Teocelo is a small rural town in the subtropical region of Veracruz, about 40 miles from the southern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The movie "Romancing the Stone" was filmed in this area.

Demezas will be taking 10 to 13 Oregonians on a one-month family stay and community service program to Teocelo from July 20 to Aug. 21.

Exchange students are encouraged to contribute to the community of Teocelo with whatever knowledge or skills they may have. Past community services have included cleaning up and planting flowers in the church yards, printing street signs, working in the local health clinic and running a children's summer school program offering courses in English, arts and crafts, music and dance.

Participants and their

Mexican host families can also participate in a variety of special activities. Visits can be taken to the state capitol of Jalpa, to the port city of Veracruz, to the neighboring rural towns, to ancient Indian pyramid ruins and historical sites and museums.

Oregonians may also enjoy participating in evening fiestas and dances, an overnight backpacking trip to an isolated mountain village, hiking, swimming, playing basketball, soccer and volleyball with local men's and women's teams, and taking Spanish lessons.

Demezas is still looking for Oregonians that are interested in participating in this cultural exchange. He is looking for participants that aren't just looking for a vacation, but are interested in looking at another culture from the inside.

"We are looking for people who have a sincere desire to experience traditional Mexican culture or life, and would be sensitive and appreciate cultural differences," Demezas said.

The total cost of the one month trip, \$1,200 per person, includes trip coordination and leaders and all round-trip transportation and travel expenses from Portland to Teocelo. The money is also used to buy material for classes and for a night spent in Mexico City.

If there is money left over, it will be used to help buy four to

six tickets for citizens of Teocelo to come to Oregon in 1996.

The cultural exchange program was started almost 15 years ago through SETEJ, the Mexican Educational and Tourist Service for Students and Youth. Since the program began, many goals have been reached, and friendships and marriages have been made.

In 1987, Demezas and his wife Vicky, whom he met in 1985 in Teocelo, lead a group of eight people aging 23 to 65 years old, to Teocelo. While there, the group lead a summer school project teaching English to a group of 67 kids aging from four to 18 years old.

A generous donation was also made by the group toward the "Teocelo Ambulance Fund," which ended up helping Teocelo finally purchase their own ambulance.

In 1992, the summer school exchange program almost tripled in enrollment with 185 kids. Rod Cooper, an Oregonian, also donated 40 boxes of medical supplies and equipment to the town. Cooper returned in the winter to open a free medical clinic, "Lazos Pro Salud," and to donate another 150 boxes of medical supplies.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Rural Mexico Cultural Exchange Program, can contact Terry Demezas at (503) 249-8243.

FRC receives name ✓ Donors receive thanks at dedication

by Tina Guinn
Editor-in-Chief

After a rigorous fund-raising campaign, the Family Resource Center has finally been paid for, and the donors have been honored.

Last Thursday, at a dedication reception held in the Gregory Forum, College President John Keyser began the ceremony, saying, "This is a great day for everyone in the room who were in a partnership for this program.

"It is the culmination of the past few years of tough, rewarding fund-raising to finish payment on the Elizabeth McClung Brod Family Resource Center."

He went on to thank everyone who contributed and especially the college board members who "are responsible for taking this risk.

"We hit a very large and ambitious target," Keyser said.

Elizabeth McClung Brod, after whom the Family Resource Center was named, worked to advance opportunities for women in the work force from the 1930's until her death in 1989.

McClung Brod made a name for herself in the industrial field during a time that was predominately male.

Since 1992, the staff of the Family Resource Center, which houses Life and Career Options Program, Young Parent Opportunity Program and the Camp Fire Child Care Center, has been working to help disadvantaged families break out of cycles of dependency while developing and

maintaining needed skills to become self-sufficient community members.

Camp Fire Child Care Center Director Judy Kling was pleased that the fund-raising campaign had concluded.

"It's exciting to me to have been here for the conception [of the idea for the Family Resource Center] to the opening [of the building] and now to be here for the dedication and the project being completed.

"The fact that we're able to have a partnership with the college is a unique and exciting concept. It's neat that Camp Fire and CCC can work together and make this happen for the benefit of the whole community," Kling said.

Rene Rathburn, assistant dean/extended learning services, was also excited to see the project finished.

"It is very exciting to have the culmination of all the hard work that's gone into the donation drive.

"The part that especially makes my heart feel good is to see the people being served through the program," Rathburn said.

Approximately 500 people, donated money to the fund-raiser to make the dream of a Family Resource Center a reality. All of the donations were appreciated. And several donations made were \$5,000 or greater.

To honor those who donated amounts in that category, rooms inside the Elizabeth McClung Brod Family Resource Center were dedicated in their names.

If You're A Punk, I'm A Rocker ✓ Unstereotyping Society

By Daniel Rogers and
Wilson Hur
Contributing Writers

What is life but to live and die? Is it to be rich and materialistic? Is happiness found there? I had a friend named Jacob whose outlook on life was so different, it intrigued me to write this paper.

His image was: "I'm a rebel punker and I do what I want. Don't mess with me, or I'll fu--you up!" Not only were his attitude and brain cells formed this way, but he definitely lived it, breathed it and walked it.

Jacob was an old school punk rocker. I don't really know that much about old school punk, but in my own words, I would describe them as a "liberated breed from society."

Just as you can't judge a book by its cover, you can't judge punk rockers by the way they are. Furthermore, who in society are we to judge?

Should we judge the headhunters in Indonesia who live opposed to society's standards, which are created by society? Does life advocate their cultural heritage, which seems weird and out of place to the norm? Should

we judge people based on color, background, family, religion and financial status?

One of society's downfalls is that it seems to degrade people, stereotypically. Jacob was an easy target.

First of all, there was Jacob's overall appearance. He usually wore a run-down, stained T-shirt with an old punk rock band logo on the front.

He usually had a dirty pair of work jeans on. His only pair of shoes were a pair of steel-toed work boots, drenched in mud. And of course, he had a torn-up black leather jacket with a "Misfits" patch on back.

He stood about five foot five and weighed 130 pounds. Various tatoos covered his defined chest and arms. His dirty blond hair hung down to his mouth, hints of old purple dye thinning out. He was proud and unashamed of who he was.

Jacob worked construction. After a hard, ten-hour day, he would come home and plop down on the couch. He would still be in his work clothes, which were also his regular clothes.

"Hey, Wilson dude, what are

you doing?" he would say in a loud, shrill voice. It was totally obnoxious.

We would usually go hang out in one of the many places in Seattle. Or, we would visit different friends in the shelter. I was under rage, so I could rarely get into bars with Jacob, where he went so regularly. So, often, he'd buy us a six-pack and we'd hang out and drink our lives away.

Sometimes he would get plastered until 2 a.m. and have to be at work at 6 a.m.

One thing about Jacob was if you were real with him, and showed no fronts, he would be straight up with you. If you were a poser, a faker or snobby, he would tell you how it is. No matter who you were, if you screwed with him intentionally, he would kick your ass. He even did this with his close friends on occasion.

I believe Jacob is the person he is because he has been in a normal society, whatever that is. He has lived it, hated it and screwed it.

He grew up in a small 'hick' town in Arizona. He automatically did not conform to their society's system of life.

In trying to cope, he turned to drugs and rebelliousness at a young age. After running away a bunch of times and being in many other bad delinquent scenes, he was finally admitted to an asylum.

His parents thought he was crazy. He's been in a series of foster homes. He has been homeless on three different occasions or more. He's lost his best friend to a Christmas Eve suicide, and been disowned by his parents, whom he hasn't seen in years. Finally, he's become molded into the person we now know him as.

Jacob has now overcome his addiction to drugs and has settled into his construction job. He's managed to live to be 23 years old, and is making a decent living.

He still has no desire for material possessions, established goals nor the way of life society has to offer. He enjoys living day by day, moment to moment. That is all he knows: just to live liberated from the mold of this society as most of us know it.

Sure, he doesn't have many goals in life, but maybe life isn't really about goals and money the way a lot of people think. Just because his outlook on life is dif-

ferent, does it matter? Perhaps life isn't about living to get somewhere, because once you get there, where are you?

To this day, a lot of people just don't understand different people of different backgrounds. They may automatically stereotype people by the way they appear to be. But underneath that outer shell, Jacob is a human being just like you, me or anybody. No matter if it's a bum, a punker, an African or a school teacher, you're still human, no matter what.

What I have shared on paper is really vague. It goes far beyond any words or ink could ever display. You see, Jacob was a mean, hard-core punker, and even violent at times, but I knew him on the inside. I hung out with him and learned that once I got to know him on the inside, he was real and genuine.

It just goes to show appearance isn't everything, so it seems unfair to judge a person when you can't know their heart. I think we should learn to accept people the way they are, because once you get to know them, they may not be all that they seem.