

Daedalus is a big hit in the English Department

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Contributing Writer

As students pass by one of the computer classrooms, they notice a journalism class talking to each other . . . without saying a word.

The students are surrounded in a "chat room" environment, sending messages to each other, and sharing their ideas on the screen. This is the latest technology buzz, and it's possible through a computer program called Daedalus.

Clackamas Community College is using the computer program Daedalus on a test basis through the month of December. Daedalus is a computer program used in the English department to help students learn how to improve their writing skills by interacting with each other and their instructors on the computer.

Jeff Knorr, English instructor, was asked to take on the challenge of familiarizing the students of CCC as well as the English department staff with the program. His involvement with Daedalus is

enthusiastic, and he had a lot of positive words for the program.

"I love it. I think it's great. It sets up a collaborative situation for a writing classroom, and I think the most profitable situation for a writing classroom is to be a collaborative workshop so people get to share their work with others, and it allows the students to work with ease," Knorr said.

As an English instructor, Knorr uses the program with his Technical Writing classes one out of the two days they meet. Knorr also said that a few other English teachers have used Daedalus for quizzes, and it has been a big success with the instructors. ut Students who used Daedalus had positive remarks toward the program.

"I enjoy the interchange section a lot," Jeff Williams said.

"I like all the options that Daedalus offers," Ed Asquith added.

Chris Buckland also had high thoughts about the program. "I like everything about it. It's an easy Word Processing program to

use," he said.

All English instructors have been given an instructor's guide for Daedalus, and every Tuesday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the English Computer room Knorr has been holding an open seminar. Although this has not been mandatory, it is a chance for staff to

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talk about philosophical issues of using Daedalus in the classroom.

"Daedalus is designed as a writing program, so it's designed to be used in an English department. This doesn't mean that it can't be used outside of that, but that's what it's designed for,"

Knorr said.

Aside from the problem of many people not hearing about Daedalus, those who have are still working on figuring out the details of the program. Although there is still much frustration with the program, Knorr advises students and staff to be patient.

"Because it's a new program, and there are people who are venturing into doing it who have never worked with computers before, it's an entirely different ball game," he said.

Overall, the students and staff of CCC seem to be giving Daedalus a chance. Knorr commented how he has been involved with Daedalus at other campuses, but he hasn't seen the acceptance that people have given it here, where everybody has been truly supportive.

Even though there are numerous schools through the country using Daedalus, CCC and Portland State are the only schools in Oregon using Daedalus. Knorr believes that this says something about the vision of the instructors

here, and how they value the students' education.

"Because the students and staff have given Daedalus an honest shot, I think it will survive, and hopefully it will be purchased and not taken off the system," Knorr concluded.

Instructors receive literary fellowships

Two English instructors have been honored recently by receiving Oregon Literary Fellowships.

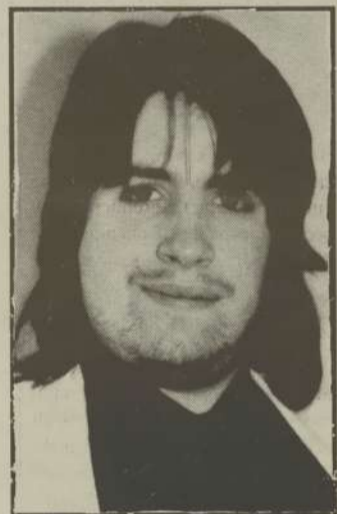
Instructor Kate Gray received the award in poetry. Her project is to write poems about the Willamette River, and to do photographs to accompany them.

Tim Gilmore received the fellowship in the category of Creative Non-fiction.

Gray and Gilmore join colleague Jim Grabill, who was selected winner of the Oregon Book Award for his collection of poems.

Rewards of the 'American Dream'

A capitalist's view of an economic system



Eric Eatherton,
Columnist

When I read a column that a colleague of mine wrote, I decided some of my own commentary was needed.

My commentary deals with concerns about an article dealing with a collection of entities my colleague refers to as "the Man."

In that article, he comments about the things he feels are problems, then he advocates the "complete, comprehensive unionization of the world's work force," saying it will "drive wages and benefits up . . . Higher wages increase the workers' buying power..."

Check those emphasized words with those later in his own article: "Prices for most consumer goods would rise drastically, . . ." If consumer prices rise, the increase in buying power would be negated severely, if not canceled entirely.

Moreover, the increase in consumer prices could be attributed in part, to the newly-inflated labor expenses.

You enter business to make money and how you do it is to produce goods and/or services for the general public or for a certain target market. But you also have to watch out for expenses. This

doesn't constitute in any way a defense of some of the tactics which he considers "strong-armed" and "intimidating."

However, if your expenses rise, doesn't it only make sense to find some way to regenerate the lost profits? Towards that end, one of two things would happen: prices would have to rise to keep up with the newly-inflated labor expenses and/or companies would have to "down size," (lay off some of its workers and not fill their positions)—which, either way, would defeat the purposes of even organizing a union.

There's even been an attempt to organize the workers into a union earlier this century. The idea was developed in the last century by Karl Marx, a German socioeconomic philosopher; it was called "Communism." There are many theories as to why it was disproved as an ideal economic system. They range from lack of incentive to creating social classes while trying to create a classless society.

Speaking of unionization, how many unions would make up his ideal unionized global work force? He never said how many, leading me to consider two possibilities.

One, that there would be one union, consisting of the whole world's work force. Did you ever attempt to rally roughly 2.5 billion people on a common cause, especially knowing they speak numerous languages and hold just about as many beliefs?

The other possibility would be having many unions, as different workers do different tasks. If that's the case, who's going to speak for whom? I won't say my colleague advocates an alternative economic system; however, it is meant to make him—and you—think about those things.

Capitalism has its flaws. To say that it doesn't would be mis-

leading on my part. But I'm willing to live with those flaws if the strengths outweigh the weaknesses—which I think they do. Capitalism is incentive-oriented, which is why we reward those who build the proverbial "better mouse trap." We honor achievements in science, medicine, academics, etc. We reward those who aren't afraid to risk their shirts in the search of the "American Dream."

They have one thing in common—they have dreams. And they are willing to work toward the realization of those dreams. And when those dreams are fulfilled, there's a sense of pride knowing that the rewards they get—be it money, merchandise, the Academy Awards—for all their efforts they earned.

Where's the incentive in other systems? The government sets up programs for those who need them. These programs include cradle-to-grave health care, maternal leave, etc., but at a steep cost. The problem is sooner or later, these "safety nets" end up being hammocks. Also, have you seen the tax structure of some of these European nations?

When the writer complains that "the Man's associates in Salem, or any other state capital, and Washington, D.C. pulled [30% of his gross wages] away," he should not be griping. This percentage could easily be a lot higher in European and other socialist nations.

In fact, workers in the United States pay less in taxes than do their peers in Europe or Japan.

And to raise taxes because someone thinks we need to be more like Europe, would in my opinion, lead to a new economic Dark Age. "The next time you get paid, consider the trade you make with 'the Man.'" Yes, and while you're at it, consider what that trade would amount to in Europe or Japan.

Finding ways to give

Useful parties continued from page 2

tect the victims of abuse.

It was asked that the donations not be wrapped, as there is an event in which the women come and openly choose what they want.

Anyone can host a party like this. However, it is effective to coordinate your efforts with a charity of your choosing. Each organization has their own Christmas programs and their

suggestions will ensure that your donations are the most useful to the people in need.

This season, try and think of creative ways in which to give. Each of us has something to contribute. You can volunteer your services to the handicapped or offer free baby-sitting to a good friend. There are many ways in which to give. Just remember to have fun with it.

The effects of computer piracy

Letter continued from page 2

on which social values and mores are established, in the type of society we have chosen to structure.

Now for some facts regarding software piracy.

The software industry loses an estimated \$15.2 billion worldwide because of software piracy. Software piracy being the illegal copying of software for retail sale or internal organizational use.

The United States loses \$2.8 billion annually from software piracy.

China is one of the worlds biggest software copyright offenders. Approximately 98% of software used in China is pirated, with losses to U.S. publishers at an estimated \$526 million.

A program that reflects years of effort by a team of software developers, and millions of dollars of investment, takes only a few minutes to copy.

Why should we care? An increasing percentage of businesses and industries in this country, and in our local area, are based on information and service. And the foundation of these businesses is software. Software, be it good or bad, is the result of research, creativity, industriousness, and thought. The reward in this country for engaging in these activities has always been recognition, profit, and advancement. If the product is bad it is weeded out naturally, or improved by added shots of creativity and industriousness by the manufacturer or competitors.

Therefore to steal, or pirate, software is to tell all of those people who invested their time, money and expertise, that Your investments are worthless, and you should not be rewarded for it. It is my right and duty to steal your work. If developers continue to create products that are stolen, and receive little or no monetary gain, they will stop creating. There in lies the inherent danger of software piracy. The thwarting of inventiveness and creativity. The denial of just rewards for a job done, be it a good job or a bad one.

Mr. Zimmerman would have you steal other people's work, just because it has not passed his standards of testing. I exhort Mr. Zimmerman to examine his words carefully, and also to examine the possible ramifications of them in light of his present position, and his future goals. And if he is having any further thoughts about the rightness of his proclamations, to please contact the Business Software Alliances Anti-Piracy hotline at (800) 688-2721, and do a little deeper research into the side effects of his ideas.

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