

CCC volunteers make a difference

Karin Redston
Staff Writer

Last Sunday the Easter Seals Telethon aired on KPTV Channel 12. Some of the volunteers were Clackamas students and the Associated Student Government (ASG) officers.

During the Flood of '96, faculty, staff and students volunteered in many areas, even though the college was still open.

Not only did Clackamas students volunteer, high school students from several schools also kicked into gear. This included filling sandbags, trying to stop flooding of homes and businesses.

Volunteerism happens in various forms, be it spending a couple of hours each week with an at-risk child or teen, or donating blood. Whatever we do

to help our society is fantastic. Oregon has acquired a reputation for volunteerism.

ASG student officers spend numerous hours volunteering. They raise funds for needed areas like child care scholarships. They are the college's most valued ambassadors in promoting enrollment to this school.

Another overlooked group on campus is the faculty. They put in many hours grading papers and advising clubs such as Chrysalis.

I think when one becomes a teacher, one's social life goes out the window.

Clackamas students and staff have shown a strong willing-to-help attitude. I have not seen this at many schools. We should be proud. Know that others see our volunteer work as making a difference.

Right to love: should be guaranteed for everyone

Laney Fouse
Assistant Opinion Editor

As a student reporter my beat enables me to participate in a wide variety of subjects and activities on campus. Recently, I had the opportunity to cover a general meeting of Phi Theta Kappa.

The topic, "The Right to Love," doesn't necessarily sound "intellectual" enough for the Honors society to be discussing. But add the right to love by gays or lesbians and the room is buzzing. The three areas of discussion included rights, privileges and responsibilities.

Let's define rights. My husband and I enjoy many rights as a "straight" married couple: We have the right to get married or divorced; pay or receive alimony and child support; file a joint tax return; inherit each other's property; receive medical coverage; act as custodians of each other's will and receive survivors' benefits. We enjoy the freedom of our U.S. citizenship. We are allowed to display public affection. We are also deemed socially acceptable.

Comparable rights for gay couples are limited to companionship and communication. Few communities recognize or accept their domestic partnerships.

The battle for freedom in this country fills our history books. These struggles have allowed us the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of choice.

Yet, why do these same freedoms not hold true for everyone?

Perhaps, I missed the small print at the bottom of the American Constitution that reads, "the freedoms stated above do not apply to those who are different."

When the Europeans came to this country, they encountered my ancestors. Because the Pilgrims held such staunch religious beliefs, they viewed the Indians as 'children of the devil.' My people were regarded as a nuisance to the

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Westward expansion, regardless of the generosity shown to the Pilgrims.

As more Europeans descended upon our shores, the spirit of friendship faded. The Indians were forced from their homes and you know the rest.

Not so very long ago, it was considered illegal for a man and woman to publicly display affection. Yet, today's society finds it acceptable. As recently as the early 1900's, women weren't al-

lowed to vote, to smoke or even expose their ankles. As one ad campaign so appropriately stated, "We've come a long way, baby." So why would we want to take a step backwards by denying basic rights to those who are equivocally minorities.

For those who consider yourself spiritual—I would like to ask you this. On which page does it say it's okay with God to judge his children? Am I reading a different Bible than you? Quoting the Scriptures is one thing, but the greatest difficulty for us mere humans is living up to the expectations of those words.

It's a shame some folks justify their prejudices by using the Bible as a tool to discriminate. From what I've read, it opposes several activities of humanity, including eating meat on Friday.

This nation has overcome economic hardships, cultural differences and other social injustices. Time and perseverance will heal the misunderstanding of this too. Let's face it, gays and lesbians are out of the closet—they are not going to just disappear.

Issues surrounding homosexuals' right to love cannot be solved by just a few people. Without a doubt acceptance and education are vital for everyone.

As a woman, I thank those who paved the way for me to enjoy the freedom to write and pursue my educational goals. As a minority, I thank those who paved the road so that I could drive off the reservation.



photo by Karin Redston

Barlow parking lot was under water during the Flood of '96.

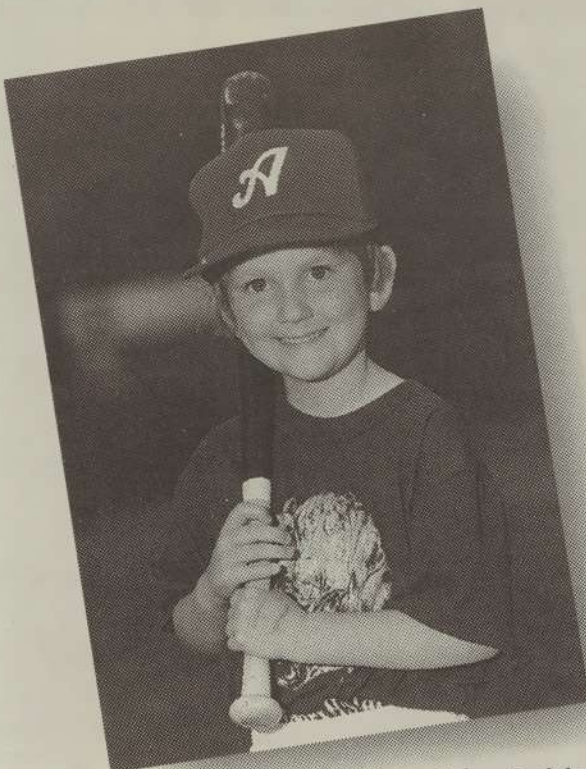
Letter to the Editor:

Pamela Sirianni,
Thank you for the excellent story on Edward Albee's appearance at Clackamas. The paper has been quite good this year; this story is one of the best.

Alan Contreras
Senior Associate



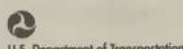
Oregon Community College Association



Bethany Cartledge
In-line skater.
T-ball slugger.
Drunk driving victim.
January 18, 1994
Cheraw, SC

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

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