

The Clackamas Print

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Clackamas Community College

Measure 44: smokin'

Laney Fouse
Editor-in-Chief

Measure 44 seeks to increase the tax on cigarettes and change the distribution of the revenues gained from taxing tobacco.

If passed, it is estimated to increase state revenues from \$27 million in 1996-97 to \$80 million per year by 1998-99.

Proponents of Measure 44 include the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association of Oregon, doctors, nurses, research scientists, several public health officials, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and Governor John Kitzhaber.

Health appears to be the key issue behind Measure 44.

Those in favor want to reduce smoking in adults as well as teenagers. Their goal is to discourage teen smoking by raising the cost and providing prevention programs. In a report published in 1993 by the National Cancer Institute, evidence

showed teens were discouraged from purchasing cigarettes because of higher prices.

Other supporters feel extending the Oregon Health Plan is top priority. The plan provides health coverage for low-income Oregonians. Currently, a temporary tax of 10 cents per standard pack is distributed to the health plan. This temporary tax expires on Dec. 31, 1997.

Those opposed to Measure 44 include former Governor Victor Atiyeh; President and CEO of Plaid Pantries William C. Girard, Jr.; State Senator Lenn Hannon; and other private parties. They argue Measure 44 is another excessive tax increase. Former Governor Atiyeh feels it is unjustified to single out one group of Orego-

nians to pay taxes to a program that is everyone's responsibility.

The flip side of the coin is current policies have allowed increases in fees paid to doctors and hospitals. This 47-percent increase cost Oregonians \$255 million. According to Atiyeh, the fees cannot be reduced because other policies prohibit it. The passage of Measure 44 will reduce and redistribute funds to cities, counties, and elderly and disabled transportation programs.

Presently, 79 percent of the revenue from permanent cigarette tax goes to the state's general spending fund. This also includes all taxes generated by other tobacco products. Current distribution dedicates the remaining 21 percent to cities, counties and the State Department of Transportation for general purposes. All proceeds from the temporary tax go to the Oregon Health Plan.

According to the *Voters' Pamphlet*, Measure 44 will increase cigarette tax from 1.4 to 2.9 cents per cigarette. Cities, counties and the State Department of Transportation will receive a smaller proportion. A majority will be distributed to the Oregon Health Plan and tobacco use-reduction programs. It will increase the tobacco products tax from 35 percent to 65 percent of wholesale prices.

A "yes" vote on Nov. 5 will not only increase cigarette and tobacco taxes but establish new taxes. It will also change the distribution of those revenues.

A "no" vote will not affect allocation of tax funds. Cigarette and tobacco taxes will remain the same.

It [Measure 44] is estimated to increase state revenues from \$27 million in 1996-97 to \$80 million per year by 1998-99.

Oregon's best writers present at Authors' Night

Three Oregon writers read from their most recent works on the theme "Conflicting Cultures in Fiction"



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Diana Abu-Jabar was one of three Oregon writers to read at Authors' Night last Wednesday. Abu-Jabar read from her book *Arabian Jazz*.

Tracy Clay
Staff Writer

Attendance at Authors' Night, held last Wednesday, filled the Gregory Forum to near capacity.

The host of Authors' Night was Allen Widerburg. He presented three of Oregon's best writers, Diana Abu-Jabar, Jennifer Cornell and Clackamas's own Craig Lesley. Each read a piece of literature from their books dealing with the evening topic, "Conflicting Cultures in Fiction." They each read for approximately 20 minutes, and then the audience asked questions.

Author Craig Lesley read from his latest novel, *The Sky Fisherman*. The story involves the inhabitants of a small Oregon town located near an Indian reservation. The central characters include a young teenage boy named Culver,

his mother and his Uncle Jake.

Lesley read an excerpt from his story dealing with the discovery of a murder victim. The man, Kalim, is a Native American missing from the local reservation. Culver and his Uncle Jake pulled him from the river. But the man did not die from drowning; he had been shot.

When Billyum, the reservation police officer, arrives, he checks the body bag. Culver suffers a pang of guilt because he had stolen \$300 from the dead man's pocket.

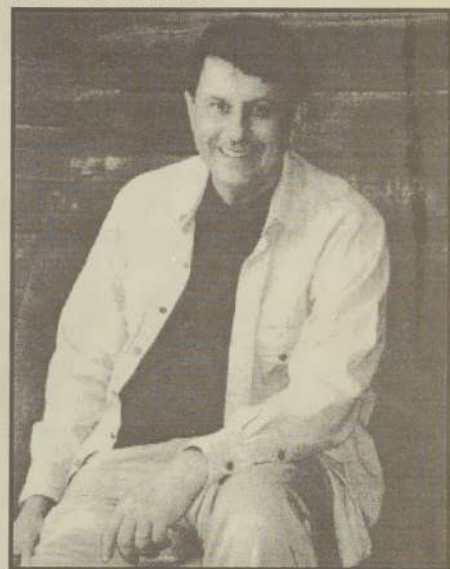
Jennifer Cornell read from her novel *Departures*, which is a collection of stories centered in Belfast, Ireland. She called her story "Start of the Season" the "most explicit story dealing with conflicting cultures."

The story is about a couple, Jean and Martin, who are in Italy

for the first time. While there, they sit at the same table as a just-married British couple. The couple acts very hostile towards them. Jean, who wants to be as rude to the couple as they are to them, is self-conscious about the fact that they are Irish. This is because Northern Ireland, where Belfast is located, is in chaos over a division between the Catholics and the Protestants.

Diana Abu-Jabar read from *Arabian Jazz*. She read a humorous excerpt about Aunt Fantana and her two nieces, Melina and Jemora, who are about to turn 30. They are both unmarried and the aunt is looking for husbands for them. Fantana comments on how prissy Melina is and how conservative Jemora is. This book added a great touch to the night.

Craig Lesley, an English Instructor at Clackamas, read from his book *The Sky Fisherman*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.



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News Briefs

Friday forum to answer Measure 47 questions

A "question and answer" discussion on Measure 47 will be held in Gregory Forum, room 108C, on Friday from noon to 1 p.m. President John Keyser will moderate along with Deans Dian Connnett and Gary Dirrim.

The subject of the discussion will be how Clackamas will make transitions if Measure 47 passes. Faculty and students are welcomed to attend.

On the same topic, ASG President Mike Caudle will be in the audience Sunday on KATU's Town Hall. The program airs from 6 to 7 p.m.

Clairmont Hall holds open house

The ESL and the Skills Development Departments are holding an open house tomorrow from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. They invite everyone to visit their new location in Clairmont.

Life Sciences present slide show

The Life Science Department will hold a slide show as part of its fall science series tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. in Pauling 101. The discussion will focus on mushrooms and their role in the forest ecosystem. Everyone is welcome to bring lunch and a friend to the show.



Photo by Joel Coreson

ASG President Mike Caudle (left) and ASG's Advisor Norm Bernie (right) traveled to England last week as representatives of the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC). While in England, Caudle and Bernie visited nearly a dozen community colleges and universities. The focus of the trip was to see how other colleges were coping with problems similar to those at Clackamas.