

# El Niño encourages not-so-honest excuses



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Not many people know this but in an ancient Aztec dialect, "El Niño" means "small and unobtrusive" - as opposed to what it currently seems to mean: "The Excuse."

Many of our readers have asked themselves, "What is El Niño? What does it mean for me?"

El Niño means that for many more months to come you don't have to take responsibility for any of your actions. That's right! El Niño does not just affect the weather, it affects your entire life.

The great news is that the El Niño excuse can be used by anyone - and it's hard to refute, too. Compare "my dog ate my homework" with "El Niño caused a temporary disturbance which sent my homework back in time." Clearly, the El Niño excuse is better.

Readers have also asked, "What is El Niño, really?" No one is sure. At

first, El Niño was a warming of an area of the Pacific ocean. Maybe that's all it still is, but apparently when water gets warm weird things happen. New fish appear, old ones disappear. Certain plants die off, others begin to flourish. These things cause all sorts of weather phenomena which include: rain, snow, clear and cloudless days, lightning, hurricane-force winds, earthquakes and other weather related items.

In the future, however, readers should be advised that they should not limit themselves to simply using El Niño as an excuse as to why common, everyday problems occur. El Niño has been officially declared a valid excuse to use on the following activities (which used to have no good excuse): driving erratically, misdemeanor-class crimes, forgetting important dates or activities and why the computer trashed your important documents.

The Clackamas Print will continue to update readers when new ways to abuse a weather phenomenon occur.



## Apply now: Student Child Care grants available for winter term



The Foundation Board has included child care grants in plans for a "student success" program.

Jacob Boenisch  
ASG President

Clackamas student parents who need financial help to cover day care costs while they attend classes may be eligible to receive an Associated Student Government child care grant.

The child care grant program started in 1994 Associated Student Government purchased two full-time slots at the Clackamas Community College Family Resource Center and divided those slots into seven part-time child care grant awards. Grant recipients were selected through an application and interview process and grants were awarded to students who exhibited a financial need for child care support.

Following that initial start, Associated Student Government requested help from the College Foundation Board to fund child care grants. Since that time, the Founda-

tion Board has included child care grants in plans for a "student success" program. Associated Student Government continues its efforts to raise the board's awareness of the need for affordable student child care. Money to establish a child care grant endowment at Clackamas Community College has come from Eric and Kay Allenbaugh, the Clackamas Rotary, the late Dr. Charles Seagrave and his wife, Louisa, and the College Foundation.

During Fall term 1997, eighteen students were selected to receive a child care grant award. Five of those grants were used to pay for day care at the Family Resource Center at Clackamas. The remaining 13 grants paid for care at several licensed day care facilities in the community.

Associated Student Government members who are responsible for managing the child care grant program are Lela Stanley, child care officer, and Ann Tuttle, child care senator. To apply for a child care grant for Winter term, come to the student government office in the CC140, across from the cafeteria, between now and December 5th to pick up an application.

## In case of inclement weather

It's that time of year again to be on the look out for bad weather. In the event of inclement weather the college may close or some events may be cancelled. In order to ensure accuracy the college has a system for notifying students in the event of a closure or cancellation.

The college will notify:

- KINK 620
- KXL 750
- KWJJ 1080
- KEX 1190
- KUPL 1330
- KFXX 1520
- KGON 92.3
- KXL 95.5
- KISN 97.1
- KUPL 98.5
- KWJJ 99.5
- KKRZ 100.3
- KUFO 101.1
- KINK 101.9
- KKCW 103.3
- KXYQ 105.1

•There will be "College Closed" signs and barricades at the Molalla Avenue and Beavercreek Road entrances to the campus.

•There will be a pre-recorded message available at 657-6958.

The same procedures will be followed in the event of a late opening (10 a.m. for day classes, 6 p.m. for evening classes), evening class closure, day closure/evening open, and weekend or holiday closure due to inclement weather.

Although the decision to close the college is up to Dean of Instructional Services, Liz Goulard, The college asks students to use your own discretion when traveling in inclement weather.

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