

## Into that good night: a parting ponderance

This week, allow me to belabor the obvious: the school year is coming to an end.

As summer draws nigh, we all see with increasing clarity the ap-

poignantly, "Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

The "God question" is so vital both in and after life that I cannot

help but urge you to consider, before it is too late, your eternal destiny.

In my five years (and counting) at Clackamas my heart has ached for you, my classmates, my

mentors, my companions, and my dear friends, as I have watched lives spiral into unhappiness, and friends lash out to hurt

those whom they love. My writings these past years have been largely my struggle to find a voice which could call my brethren to peace.

I have watched countless close-knit groups disintegrate, and friends and lovers turn on one another, and seen my own failings in loving my brothers and sisters, and it has broken my heart. I wish that I could wave my hand and mend all these hearts, but the melody is deeper than my mortal reach.

In Switzerland near where Nietzsche died, there is a poem of his engraved on a plaque set in a mammoth rock. It reads, *O man! Take heed of what the dark mid-night says: I slept, I slept from deep dreams I awoke: The world is deep—and more profound than day would have thought... Woe speaks; pass on. But all pleasure seeks eternity—a deep and profound eternity.*

Nietzsche, that prophet of doom for the modern rational man, died in lunacy and despair, having failed to fill the hole in his spirit. I pray that those I have lived, laughed, and loved with would not do the same.

Jesus Christ urged, "Come unto me, all you that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." In these, perhaps my last words to you, I ask that you follow after this peace, this love, this rest eternal. Do not go gentle into that good night. *I show you a more excellent way.*

proaching end to a chapter of our lives. Many of us will not return. Therefore, as we rush headlong into this changing season, I pause to ponder my own significance.

I often wonder if my words have made any impact on the mind and soul of Clackamas Community College, or if I have simply spoken them into a void. I wonder if any minds have been challenged, any hearts convicted, any souls reborn.

I have endeavored to challenge social ills and illuminate philosophical conundrums, but at the heart of it all, my aim has ever been the conviction of one soul.

The human predicament is an awesome spectre overshadowing our lives, yet few of us are fully conscious of it. Dr. R. Douglas Geivett puts it this way: "We are moral creatures with moral duties to one another, but we seem confused about the source of morality's claims upon our lives—and curiously impotent to practice our morality. Though we are familiar with the brevity of life...we have an irresistible and uncanny hankering for permanence...we ponder inconclusively the personal and cosmic significance of the many evils of human experience."

I have attempted, in my imperfect, human way, to point to a cure for this unyielding ache in the human soul. This is, to put it crassly, Jesus Christ and the God of the Bible. Gone now are the syllogisms and arguments, the proofs and the apologetics. I simply ask the reader to sincerely ponder the Christian claims upon eternity.

As Dylan Thomas said so

### THE ALTAR OF AN UNKNOWN GOD

JOEL P. SHERPERT  
Copy Editor



## Scheduling for classes at Clackamas is a headache

Has anyone noticed that college classes just don't seem to fit nicely together?

I sure have. My goal for this fall was to not have to get up early in the morning to go to school, and

offered once. The English class that I needed to take is only offered during the one seminar for physics. Karate is only offered in the middle of the morning on a Tuesday/Thursday, conflicting

with two out of the three physics labs and making my Tuesday newspaper production day would be a hectic one. The English class I need is only offered in the middle of the day on Monday — when I was planning to work.

The other English class that I need is offered at the same exact time.

This is a headache. There are times when I have three classes scheduled, and times when I have two hours of spare time to sit around and twiddle my thumbs.

Doesn't anyone look at the schedule of the typical student, and figure out that people who are taking classes just slightly off of the beaten path have no way to take all of the classes in all of the sequences they need—because they're all offered at the same time?

I understand that a whole bunch of factors affect scheduling a class.

The time of the class has to do with when the instructor is available. The day of the class depends on whether or not the coin comes up heads or tails. The place of the class has to do with what room is available when.

Could not someone take time out from this collection of organizational headaches to figure out that students are the customers of this college, and if they can't schedule the classes when students can take the classes, then the classes won't be filled up?

Surveys might tell the departments when students would take which classes. Another idea is a standard educational plan for people who are on different degree programs—my degree program is journalism, so the people who plan the schedules could figure how many people would be in what classes, and when, by the degree program that the different students are involved in.

Whichever solution is enacted, I just hope that I don't have to spend another Friday night trying to hammer out a schedule that I can live with.

*It's your choice; use your voice.*

### TO BE IN A PERFECT WORLD

KARL KATZKE  
Associate Editor



to be able to work on Monday afternoons. Fat chance.

First of all, I'm a journalism major. That means that I have two required classes, that I have to leave my Tuesdays open for newspaper production, and I can't take any classes between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

With those limitations in mind, I had one goal for next year: I am NOT getting up in the morning when I don't have to.

Unfortunately, the fall preview schedule didn't see things my way. My physics class has labs and seminars all over the place...and each of them is only

## Happy Retirement!

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Instructor, Physical Sciences
- ◆ Barbara Barrow  
Division Secretary, Industrial
- ◆ Jim Burrows  
Project Coordinator
- ◆ Stan Cox  
Assistant Administrator/Janitorial
- ◆ Marie Feddern  
Advising Specialist
- ◆ Donna Ford  
Counselor
- ◆ Judith Hylton  
Department Chair, Music
- ◆ Jan Stennick  
Dept. Chair, Small Business Develop.
- ◆ Les Tipton  
Dept. Chair, Art
- ◆ Joe Uris  
Instructor, Social Science
- ◆ Ginny Weber  
Dept. Chair, Life Science
- ◆ Dorene Witherite  
TA/Secretary, Skill Develop.

In honor of these retirees, dessert and beverages will be served in Gregory Forum Wed., June 9, at 2 p.m.

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