



Remembering Brian Trapp

Check out the story on Page 8

A tribute to longtime Clackamas student who passed away on campus

FILE COPY THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Wednesday, January 26, 2000

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

Volume XXXIII, Issue 11

Debate sparks vigil tonight

SANDY LUPO
News Editor

Last week's *Print* article about a student quitting Donald Epstein's Judaic Studies/Holocaust class—because he was offended by Epstein's anti-homosexual statements—sparked a Candlelight Vigil for Tolerance to be held today at 5 p.m. between McLoughlin Hall and Gregory Forum.

Kate Gray, English instructor and advisor for the Rainbow Coalition for gay and lesbian students, described today's vigil as the club's attempt to "do something" in response to intense and mixed feelings arising last week from the Epstein incident.

"They were outraged," said Gray of the larger than usual group of Coalition members who met last Friday. "Members spoke of the hurt and further alienation that anti-homosexual comments cause, and of feeling unsafe on campus. The tenor was very emotional, they were trying to figure out what to do."

Gray expects a good-sized crowd today and much light. Students have expressed to her their desire to use their energy in a productive direction, for tolerance and healing.

She expects leaders of diverse faiths to attend, including the minister of the United Church of Christ in Beavercreek, who has offered to lead the group in prayer or song.

"If there were one positive outcome of all this, there is one I have already seen, and that is the straight faculty and students standing up (against intolerance) too," Gray said.

Interest in last week's article in the *Print* was widespread. The *Oregonian* followed the *Print*'s story with their own on Saturday and that was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in Salem's *Statesman Journal* and in Vancouver's *Columbian*.

It was discussed over the weekend on National Public Radio and on Monday morning on KEX and KBOO radio shows, according to reports. Many letters have been received (and reprinted here) by the *Print*.

Epstein incident resolved

SANDY LUPO
News Editor

The *Print* received word from the college last night that Joshua Alexander, the student who filed a complaint last week, and Donald Epstein, instructor and subject of the complaint, "have resolved their differences." Epstein wrote a letter of apology to Alexander and has decided to retire March 31.

Following is the statement given to the *Print* by the college at 6 p.m. Tuesday:

A Clackamas Community College instructor and student have resolved their differences over a comment made in class by the instructor, ending a complaint filed by the student.

History instructor Dr. Donald Epstein issued a written apology to the student, Joshua Alexander, who had filed the complaint over a classroom comment about ho-

mosexuality. The comment had been made in a Judaic history class as Dr. Epstein was discussing the evolution of traditional Jewish belief systems.

In his letter, Dr. Epstein explained what he felt was a misunderstanding regarding the context of the comment and apologized to Alexander for the pain and distress that the comment caused.

In delivering the letter, Associate Dean for Humanities Kay Slusarenko also informed Alexander that Dr. Epstein would no longer be teaching the course on Judaic history due to his pending retirement. Dr. Epstein, who has taught at CCC since 1969, will retire March 31.

The resolution was reached during an informal incident resolution process involving the instructor, the student, the department chair and the humanities di-

"...the college is committed to building awareness of cultural diversity on our campus and in our community."

Excerpt, College Statement



Dr. Donald Epstein

TIMOTHY A. BELL / Clackamas Print

vision associate dean.

Clackamas Community College values both the academic freedom of its instructors and a strong respect for diversity in its community.

The college's long-standing Code of Ethics "calls all of us to perform our jobs in a way that fosters personal growth and aca-

ademic excellence, recognizes the inherent goodness of all people, models personal and academic integrity, respects diversity, and shows concern for the needs and feeling of others."

Within Clackamas Community College's institutional values

See Epstein, page 7

Fight Club author shares new work

Chuck Palahniuk will read at 1 p.m. in Gregory Forum today

KRISTEN WISER
Staff Writer

Novelist Chuck Palahniuk, writer of the book *Fight Club*, will be at Clackamas in the Gregory Forum at 1 p.m. today to read an excerpt from his new book, *Invisible Monsters*.

Palahniuk, who is listed as one of the ten best new novelists of the year by the *New Yorker*, is the author of three novels, *Fight Club*, *Survivor* and *Invisible Monsters*. He was also the winner of both the Pacific Northwest Book Award and the Oregon Book Award.

Fight Club, his first novel, was recently made into a motion picture, which gained him national attention. The movie starred Brad Pitt, Edward Norton and Helena Bonham Carter. During filming the author met and became good friends with Pitt.



Chuck Palahniuk

Palahniuk is known for writing about potentially touchy subjects. *Fight Club* discusses the challenge to men's masculinity and male dominance using violence. The book was written while he was a member of the Dangerous Writers Club. The club is made up of writers who are willing to open themselves up to new ideas and to write about subject matter that is not always socially acceptable.

Invisible Monsters, his new book, also stays with this type of theme. The book is a road story about a barbiturate-popping, male-turned-female transsexual and a model whose face has been shot off.

Palahniuk is a local writer who lives on Sauvie Island and attended the University of Oregon. Before becoming a writer he worked as a mechanic for Freightliner.

"He is funny and quick-witted. I think people will really enjoy him," commented Allen Widerberg, English instructor, who is in charge of organizing the visit.

This is not Palahniuk's first visit to the college. Last year he attended Authors' Night with other Dangerous Writers Club members.

Palahniuk will appear at 1 p.m. to answer questions, read a piece from *Invisible Monsters*, and sign books.

