

DeLay reconnects with Misley

MAGGIE JIRASEK
Feature Co-Editor

One of Portland's outstanding blues musicians, Paul deLay, performed on campus September 28 for the Associated Student Government's barbecue to "Get Out the Vote," and met up with an old friend he hadn't seen in more than ten years— Bob Misley, life science instructor at Clackamas.

"In sixth grade Paul and me, we were best friends," Misley stated. "Paul was such an incredible, unique person, even at an early age. He came from such an artistic background, you could tell right away."

DeLay and Misley attended the same grade school and shared one big hobby, their music. But they lost touch with each other when Misley moved to Estacada while deLay went on to Milwaukie High School.

"I ended up moving away in sixth grade, and only was able to keep in touch with Paul as I followed his career in the Portland music scene," Misley explained.

"I know Paul has played in a blues band called Brown Sugar, one of the first real blues bands getting a lot of club work done in the Portland area. He then went on to play in numerous other

bands and he has recorded and toured Europe."

Playing in various local groups throughout the 70's, Paul assembled the first version of the Paul deLay Band in 1979. While displaying an affinity for Chicago blues, the deLay Band has always mixed jazz and gospel into their sound, enhanced by deLay's amazing skills on the chromatic harmonica.

Today, deLay, singer, harp-player and songwriter, is regarded as one of the world's most outstanding blues harmonica players and as a blues artist on the way to his breakthrough.

The Memphis-based Blues Foundation nominated him in

1999 for W.C. Handy Awards- best harmonica player; and best song ("14 Dollars in the Bank," on deLay's new CD: "Nice & Strong").

While deLay was building a name in music, Misley, who also plays in a "surf-rock" band, pursued a career in education.

"Now, here is the strange connection," Misley mused. "I haven't seen Paul for over ten years. My son, who is now in sixth grade, found this old picture of Paul and me. He was just looking through pictures down at my mom's house and he picks

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Bob Misley
Life Science Instructor



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE DELAY FAMILY

Paul deLay, center, celebrates his sixth birthday with friends, including Bob Misley, future life science instructor, left, at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor in Portland.

out this picture, he brings it back to me and says 'Dad, who are all these people?'; I looked at the picture and I just got transported in time. I was able to name every person in the picture. Now what does that say about memory of events in the sixth grade? I can't even remember names of people that I had in my class a year ago."

Not knowing that deLay would be playing at Clackamas only a week after the discovery of the picture, Misley kept it, won-

dering what would have happened if he had not moved away and deLay and he had stayed in touch.

"Maybe I would be part of his band today, who knows," Misley wondered. "But when I found that old picture there and saw that Paul was playing at the college, I took it up to him and, not letting him know who I was, I put the picture down in front of him and he did almost the same thing I had done; he pointed at the picture and said 'That's Bobby Misley.'"

Although deLay and Misley haven't seen each other for a long time and have their own lives and careers, they remember the friendship they once had.

"We are still friends," said Misley, "it's just that both of us have been so busy and we didn't really get to see each other a lot. It's the irony or the timing of my son passing that picture to me and then seeing a poster saying that Paul is playing at the college that has brought us together again."

Connections program plans European trip

TAM OLIVER
Feature Co-Editor

"Connections," Clackamas' program for women, affiliated with the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, will meet Monday, October 16 to plan its fifth European trip for women, at noon and 6 p.m. at the Community Center, room 217.

The trip will take place around mid-June of next summer and will cost approximately \$2300. It consists of a 10-day educational tour of London, Paris, and the Swiss Alps and is meant to be introductory in nature.

The trip organizers, Linda Vogt and Carol Evans, have led these tours every other summer since 1991. According to Vogt, they are designed to help women "...see and do things they didn't realize were possible."

Vogt explained, "We've discovered there's a benefit in creating this experience for women. Often women haven't traveled on their own."

Mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends are encouraged to attend one of the two planning meetings to discover this safe and affordable way for women to travel. Extended travel options will be available for those interested.

Exchange program brings Costa Rican students to Clackamas

MAGGIE JIRASEK
Feature Co-Editor

Clackamas will host retired Costa Rican professionals Tuesday, October 17, as part of its annual cultural exchange program, coordinated by Carlota Holley, former foreign language department chair and Spanish instructor at the college.

Twenty Costa Ricans arrived last Wednesday in Portland for a month's visit, sponsored by the Oregon chapter of the national organization Partners of the Americas, the largest volunteer organization in the western hemisphere to foster and promote Inter-American friendships, cooperation, understanding and social and economic development.

"The program is very important to me because it strengthens our understanding and our relations with South American

countries," Holley explained. "We get to understand one another better and we can develop our perspective."

Within the organizational framework of Partners of the Americas, each state in the U.S. is paired with one of the Latin American countries of Central America, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Oregon is paired with Costa Rica. To date, Oregon and Costa Rica are the only partners to have pioneered a Retired Persons' Exchange Program.

The visitors will stay with local families and varied activities, including a visit to Clackamas' Environmental Center and Spanish

classes, will keep them busy.

"We want to provide the students an opportunity to meet with the visitors and practice the language. There will be a luncheon for the Costa Ricans on Tuesday, October 17, at the college," Holley said. "It's a good experience for the students as well as the visitors. They have never seen a community college because it doesn't exist in Costa Rica."

Since the inception of the program, more than 600 individuals have participated in the cultural exchange. In January, a group of Oregonians will travel to Costa Rica to experience some of that country's culture and customs.

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Carlota Holley
Former foreign language chair

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