



Volleyball awaits championships

Bumping it on Page 7



ASG, family and friends work together to clean Clackamas County road

Check it out on Page 3



Honoring our Veterans

Check out the special on Page 5

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Middle East colloquium turns into emotional debate

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Masoud Kheirabadi, geography instructor in Clackamas' social science department, speaks about Palestine as Dr. Donald Epstein, retired history instructor, readies his counter argument. The colloquium, held last Thursday, was to discuss the conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians.

A discussion on the current strife in Israel turned hotly political last Thursday, Nov. 2.

The social science department held a colloquium to explore the causes of the violence erupting in the Middle East. McLoughlin 229 was filled with students, faculty and members of the community who had come to hear Dr. Masoud Kheirabadi, geography instructor at Clackamas in the social science department, and Dr. Donald Epstein, retired Clackamas instructor, discuss the historical basis of the conflict.

Epstein began the lecture by telling the audience about the bombing that had taken place the morning in a vegetable market in Jerusalem, killing two Israelis. He spoke

from his chair at the front of the room, occasionally punctuating his comments with his hands. His main argument was that Israel had offered Palestine "everything they wanted," with the exception of Jerusalem, at the summer Camp David talks, and Yassar Arafat had refused the offer.

"Maybe he wanted a war," replied Epstein when asked why. "He (Arafat) wants the one thing that Israel will not give him—Jerusalem."

Epstein was pessimistic about a settlement between Israel and Palestine any time soon, and speculated that the "war" could continue on for two or more years.

"The peace process is at an end; there is no reconciling," he stated.

Epstein also voiced his concern about the possibility of becoming a regional war involving Lebanon and Egypt. He speculated that if that

happened, atomic weapons could become involved.

Kheirabadi stood to give his presentation on the Palestinian side of the discussion. He used the overhead projector to show diagrams of the area to the audience and explained in detail the history of the land and the people who had occupied it from as far back as the Byzantine Empire, around 1265 AD.

He explained the history of the state of Israel, and the history of the Palestinian Infintata, or youth rebellion.

The debate became heated. Epstein compared the Palestinian children fighting the Israeli soldiers to the Third Reich's army of eight-year-olds with grenades fighting the allied troops at the end of WWII. He questioned the

See Colloquium, page 4

Intolerance is charged in removal, defacing of campus posters

MAGGIE JIRASEK
Feature Co-Editor

The defacing and removal of signs and flyers posted by student groups at Clackamas has caused concern for staff and students and deepened discussion on issues such as values, tolerance and respect. Complaints about posters and signs torn down or defaced have been surfacing since beginning of fall school term.

"All our signs were taken down," complained Kate Gray, Clackamas English instructor and advisor of the Campus Rainbow Club for homosexuals, lesbians, bi-sexuals and asexuals. "We put up two different sets of signs, (and) the small ones we made were down within the first six hours. Most of the others were either ripped down as well, or had awful things written on them."

This is not the first time that Clackamas has faced this problem.

"I don't remember getting any complaints last year," remarked Dian Connett, dean of instructional and student services, "but from time to time in the past six years we have had those concerns that people have either written graffiti on posters, taken them down or torn them."

It is not known who is guilty of the vandalism, nor their motivations.

"I have no idea who could have done this, and I don't understand why people would want to do it," said Gray. "I just think that there is not a whole lot of room for tolerance for people that are just trying to do their own thing. It's hard not to feel hurt, especially if someone writes really awful things on your signs."

Connett has taken action by informing people of the values expected to be upheld at Clackamas. She wants all students to realize that

such violation of individual or group rights as removing or defacing their property could easily lead to tension among students and cause feelings of hurt.

CCC Value

We believe in respecting the inherent right of all persons to live with dignity and freedom.

Please respect the rights of our student groups to post their signs and flyers.

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"I put out yellow posters saying that the rights of our student groups to post their signs and flyers should be respected," Connett confirmed. "I think that we should keep

on talking about these issues so that people feel comfortable participating. If I'm walking down the hallway and I see someone doing that, I feel a lot more comfortable to go up to them and say 'hey look, you know we don't appreciate this kind of behavior at Clackamas, that's not appropriate here', and that's what we have to do so that everybody feels comfortable to say that."

Besides the Rainbow Club, several other clubs and Associated Stu-

dent Government (ASG) members have reported missing signs.

"I know that students involved in the Campus Crusade for Christ Club came in and complained about their signs disappearing," confirmed Glorianne Muggli, ASG vice president.

The college Diversity Committee will discuss the issue. In addition, the administration has sent a memo to all staff members asking for ideas and suggestions about the problem.

On behalf of the Rainbow Club, Gray has developed her own strategy to handle such intolerance.

"We are just going to put out more and more flyers, keep them coming, and try not to be discouraged."



MIKE POLLOCK/Clackamas Print

Bryan Fuentes, ASG president, posts signs reminding students to vote. Signs about campus clubs have been vandalized.

CCC English instructor's book nominated for Pulitzer Prize

STEVE NIELSEN
News Editor

Storm Riders, a novel written by Clackamas Instructor Craig Lesley, is one of about 25 fiction books nominated for the Pulitzer Prize this year.

Diane Higgins and the editorial staff of Picador Press, Lesley's publisher, nominated the book for the prize last July. In April the Pulitzer Committee will convene and decide which work of fiction will receive the prize for 2000. If *Storm Riders* wins, it will rank with such books as Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*, former Pulitzer

fiction winners.

Lesley has written several other books including *Winterkill*, *River Song* and a few compendiums of Native American literature. One of Lesley's previous books, *The Sky Fisherman*, was also nominated for the Pulitzer.

Lesley is one of three finalists for the 2000 Oregon Book Awards, for *Storm Riders*. The winner of the H.L. Davis Award for Fiction will be announced tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony in Portland.

Storm Riders is a fictional account of college instructor Clark Woods and his troubled Tlinget Indian stepson, Wade. Wade has

fetal alcohol syndrome and a talent for finding the best way to cause the most trouble in any given situation. The book illustrates the plight of many parents in their efforts to raise children with challenging circumstances like fetal alcohol syndrome or autism.

"I think they nominated *Storm Riders* because it's a really well written book, but it also deals with the struggles that people have trying to raise damaged children," said Lesley. "An amazing number of people have talked to me about the struggles that they have, not only with children affected by alcohol or drugs, but with autistic children. A lot of the people have said that Wade really

reminds them of their stepson or stepdaughter."

For much of the book, Lesley is writing from personal experience. Many of the circumstances documented in the book are based on actual situations he experienced with his own stepson.

"I think a lot of people have an uncomfortable time reading the book," said Lesley. "I think that's a testimony, hopefully, to the fact that it's real accurate."

Another reason Lesley thinks the book was nominated for the Pulitzer is that it recounts the story of Angoon, Alaska, an Indian village that was destroyed by the

See Pulitzer, page 3



MIKE POLLOCK/Clackamas Print

Craig Lesley, English Instructor, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for *Storm Riders*.