

Classified staff honored, recognized

JOEY M. HARP

Contributing Writer

In honor of the classified staff, approximately 200 people attended the thirteenth annual Classified Recognition Day, held Nov 15 in the Gregory Forum.

Who is the classified staff? They are pretty much anyone who is not a student, teacher or administrator—our custodians, the people who work in the cafeteria, the bookstore and the business department. Quite often they are people behind the scenes, and receive little recognition.

The large room was packed, with nearly every seat filled. The feeling in the room seemed to be one of appreciation. Many took advantage of refreshments while waiting for the

speakers.

Several speakers came to show their support and appreciation for the classified staff and the jobs they perform. Speakers included Classified Association President Linda Graf; Karen Stone, of the Exempt Association; Faculty Association President David Campbell; Part Time Faculty Association President Maggie Pedersen; Associated Student Government President Bryan Fuentes; and College President John Keyser.

Each of the speakers expressed a deep appreciation for the hard work provided by the classified staff. Keyser summed it up during his talk thanking the honorees for all their work and pointing out particularly their help with the bond measure that won voter approval

on Nov. 7.

"Thank you for your help with the bond measure," said Keyser. "Many of us won't be here when the new buildings are put up over the next five years, but what a legacy."

Keyser also related a story about a camping trip that he and his family went on. They had taken his mother—who had some health problems, and he noticed her sitting and relaxing on one occasion.

"Mom, what are you doing?" he asked her.

"I'm just sitting here filling myself with happiness," she said.

"I hope we can all take the time to fill ourselves with happiness," concluded Keyser.

After the speakers' remarks, prizes were awarded to 41 people. Prizes included 32 \$25 cash

awards, three \$15 gift certificates from the horticulture department, two sweatshirts from the bookstore, a sword fern from the Environmental Learning Center; and three lucky

people won lunches with Keyser. Dianna Fine, administrative secretary for Customized Training, was



PHOTO COURTESY OF Tamara Barry

President John Keyser and Executive Assistant Suzy Alexander distribute prizes to members of the classified staff Nov. 15.

one of many recognized for her work. "It makes you feel like you're not forgotten," she remarked.

RU486 now a legal, available method of abortion

AMANDA GOSSER

Staff Writer

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the so-called "abortion pill," RU 486, for legal use in the United States. RU 486 is a steroid hormone similar to women's natural hormone, progesterone, and has been used legally throughout the world to induce abortion of a pregnancy.

According to Childbirth by Choice Trust, an organization that produced the website www.ru486.com RU 486 must be administered in a doctor's office in the company of a nurse and/or doctor. A woman must first visit an approved clinic for a pregnancy test and physical examination. Many things are taken into consideration before administering the drug.

"You must be 18 or older, in good

health and no more than nine weeks pregnant," according to the website. Candidates must also be willing to have blood drawn and a vaginal ultrasound and must agree to surgical abortion if needed.

Childbirth by Choice Trust also states on the RU486 website that a patient's medical history will be checked to make sure it is safe and appropriate for her to take the pill. If the patient's state of residence requires a waiting period, then she must abide by that law.

After all this consideration and investigation, the actual abortion may proceed. The website explains the patient will first receive RU486 in tablet form, usually as three pills, to be swallowed at the clinic in the presence of the attending nurse or doctor.

The woman must return to the clinic after 48 hours to receive a second drug, prostaglandin, to in-

duce the abortion; then remain at the clinic four to six hours, during which the abortion usually occurs.

Several days later, the patient must return to the clinic once again, for a physical examination to determine the abortion is complete and if it has caused any side effects.

Childbirth by Choice Trust explains that RU486 acts immediately in most cases. The pill blocks the action of the natural hormone progesterone, thus causing the lining in the uterus to break and shed, as in a menstrual cycle. The pill opens up the cervix, causing contractions, which will expel the embryo. RU486 will work only during the first nine weeks of pregnancy, or up to 63 days from the start of the last menstrual cycle.

"RU 486, in conjunction with a prostaglandin, is 95.5% effective in inducing abortion during the

first 7 weeks of pregnancy. It has close to the same level of effectiveness as surgical abortion performed during the early weeks," states Childbirth by Choice Trust.

"(Like) every drug, there are side effects which could occur, such as bleeding, cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea."

According to Judith Anderson, nursing instructor at Clackamas, RU486 will not be discussed in depth in the classroom, but will be studied as one abortion procedure in the nursing program.

"If the topic is covered and anyone is having problems dealing with it...the nursing department does have counselors...they would refer that person to, (to) better help them deal with their situation," Anderson remarked.

The Downtown Women's Center in Portland says they do have RU486 available, but it is still in

the study mode. They do not know when it will be available or how much it will cost yet, but they should know soon.

The Internet offers numerous websites to contact with questions about the "abortion pill," including the following: The National Abortion Federation at www.prochoice.org; Childbirth by Choice Trust at www.ru486.com; www.lifeissues.org; and www.mayohealth.org.

There are also some local clinics that have knowledge of this pill. Downtown Women's Center (503) 224-3435; All Women's Center (503) 233-0808; and Planned Parenthood, southeast (503) 775-0861, northeast (503) 288-8826, Beaverton (503) 646-8222, Gresham (503) 666-6680, and Vancouver, WA (360) 694-1188.

Clackamas revises Problem Resolution form

STEVE NIELSEN

News Editor

Since winter quarter last year, the Incident Resolution form and process at Clackamas have been discussed and studied by an administrative committee who created the revised draft that appears in this year's Student Handbook.

Last winter, a group of full-time faculty and administrators addressed the President's Council with concerns about the existing Incident Resolution form.

One member of that group, Dr. Jackie Flowers, social science instructor, said she was concerned that a student reading the form could mistake the endpoint of the informal process as a for-

mal hearing.

The President's Council formed a committee made up of the presidents of the associations of the President's Council, headed by Dian Connett, dean of instructional/ student services. The committee devised a three-part process for studying and revising the Incident Resolution form and processes. After each step of the process they communicated their findings back to President's Council.

"We clarified the form and made it clear that [the form] had to do with the informal process," said committee member Maggie Pederson.

The basic procedure of the informal and informal processes was not changed much. Most of

the additions were made to clarify the form and make it easier to understand and use.

"It was meant to be a problem-solving form [and process]," said Connett. "We had to look at the process and ask is this what we want."

The form was renamed the Problem Resolution Form and additions included more separation between the formal and informal processes, more emphasis on confidentiality of records, and staff training on the form and process.

The committee has now received feedback from the associations of the President's Council, and will meet Dec. 8 to incorporate that feedback before they make their final recommendation to the College Council on Jan. 19.

Writers' Club Contest

Deadline: Friday, March 2

You may submit up to 3 poems, 1 essay, 1 piece of fiction, and 1 one-act play. Submit 4 copies of each entry. Include 1 cover page for each set of entries.

On each entry, include the title and your social security number. The cover page for each entry should include the title and category, your name, social security number, address, and phone number. Include an IBM-compatible 3.5" disk with your work on it.

All entries will be considered for the literary magazine *Synesthesia*.

Return entries to Allen Widerburg, S124, ext. 2359.



19600 S. Multnomah Ave. Oregon City, Oregon 97045
(503) 657-6958 ext. 2109
ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

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