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A piece of China in Portland

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Clackamas Community College

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Black History Month

Remembering Black American contributions

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Copy Editor

February is Black History Month, which has ignited sudden bursts of African film festivals, soul food luncheons and African American dance and music celebrations; but there's more meaning intended in Black History Month than just the song, food and dance.

Although no activities are scheduled at Clackamas, Black History Month is celebrated throughout the Portland area, and has an interesting history of its own.

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week to bring national attention to contributions that black people made in American history. He was born to parents who were former slaves and worked as a child in Kentucky coalmines. He was finally able to go back to school at age 20 and graduated when he was 22. Woodson went on to earn his Ph.D. at Harvard, and being disturbed by the lack of references to Black American accomplishments in the history books, went on to write about their contributions in American history and soon turned Negro History Week into Black History Month.

February was the month chosen because of the birthdays of two people, Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, who impacted black history. Douglass, a former slave, writer and freedom activist made the mid 1800 society aware of

the effects of slavery.

"I often found myself regretting my own existence and wishing myself dead," he said. "And but for the hope of being free, I have no doubt I should have killed myself."

February became a month for many black historical events, including the passing of the 15th Amendment granting blacks voting rights in 1870 and the founding of the NAACP in 1960.

Black history is ingrained in major US cities. A few of them are: Atlanta, home of the original KKK headquarters, established in 1915, also housed the 1960's civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Detroit became the foundation of Motown Record Corporation and Montgomery, Alabama was where the historical Rosa Parks' arrest sparked the civil rights movement.

America's history of abuse towards blacks continues to emerge, even today. Former President Bill Clinton issued an apology in 1997 to Black Americans.

"The United States Government did something that was wrong — deeply, profoundly, morally wrong," he said concerning the Tuskegee syphilis experiment from 1932-1972, when 399 black men were deliberately left to die from syphilis so data could be collected from the autopsies. "It was an outrage to our commitment to integrity and equality for all our citizens...clearly racist."

Though America's past is stained with slavery, segregation and violence towards blacks, it is also enriched with

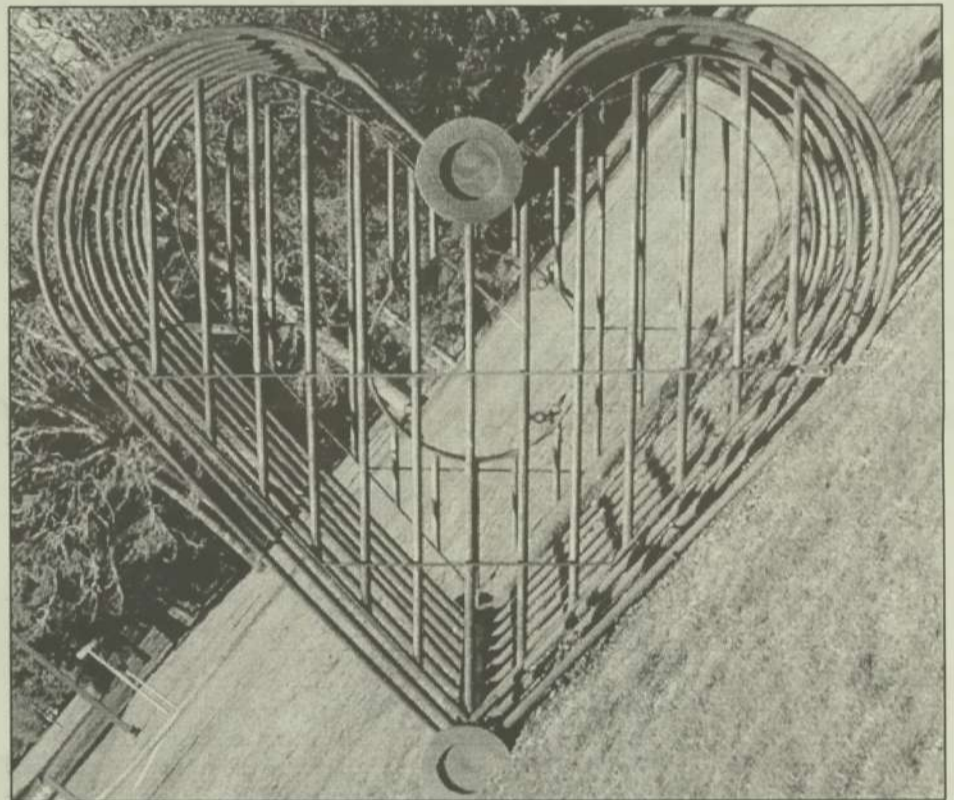
contributions made by them. In honor of Black History Month, contemplate this small sampling of the many inventions made by Black Americans: Sarah Boone, the ironing board; A.B. Blackburn, Railway signal; J.A. Burr,

lawn mower; G.F. Grant, golf tee; J.L. Love, pencil sharpener; Garrett A. Morgan, traffic signal; T.J. Marshall, fire extinguisher; F. Flemings Jr., guitar (variation); and George Washington Carver, inventor of bleach, buttermilk,

wood stain, worcestershire sauce, dyes, shampoo, instant coffee, and much more. This is Black History Month, a time created by Woodson to remember Black American's contributions towards a better America.

Black History Month commemorates the birthdays of two people: Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Red warms hearts



GILBERT BARRETT / Clackamas Print

"Red," the heart shaped sculpture at the Barlow Hall parking lot entrance, was created by Dennis Petersen, co-owner of a heavy construction company who made the shapes by rolling over heavy pipes with a tractor. CCC Instructor Rick True organized an outdoor sculpture show at PCC where Petersen's piece was first displayed. PCC declined the offer to keep "Red" so Petersen gave it to Bob Dozono, a friend of True. Bob loaned it to CCC and helped True move and assemble the sculpture on our campus in 1995. The sculpture had to be dismantled into four sections, and according to True, was very difficult to assemble. Although no one knows for sure if "Red" symbolizes a deeper meaning, True offers his own idea: "I can't address the meaning except to perhaps the industrial coldness of the size and materials to its resemblance to the warmth and life of a heart shape."

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Misley discusses Galapagos at social science colloquium



Biology Instructor Bob Misley points to the Galapagos Islands on the map Thursday at the second Social Science Colloquium this year. Misley discussed the oil spill that has just occurred there.

CORINNE RUPP

Opinion Editor

The second social science colloquium this year was held Thursday afternoon in Pauling Center, 101.

Biology Instructor Bob Misley spoke to a large group on the biogeography of the Galapagos and how the recent oil spill could impact the unusual species found in the region.

"When something like this does happen, we do not totally know what its impact is," said Misley, in reference to the tanker that broke apart off the coast of San Cristobal, one of the southeastern islands in the archipelago.

The Galapagos Islands sit on the equator, 600 miles off the coast of South America. Three major cur-

rents collide in the area around the islands. Misley compared the currents to a washing machine. When the ship wrecked off the coast of San Cristobal, Misley was concerned with what the currents would do to the crude oil floating on the surface.

"My first reaction when I heard this was, are we on the rinse cycle or the spin cycle?" he said.

These islands are home for many species found nowhere else on earth, like giant sea tortoises and kelp-eating sea iguanas. The fear was that the oil would flow back into the archipelago and onto the other islands. Instead, the bulk of the oil moved north and east, away from land.

"It did not move where we originally feared it would. It did not go off and impact other islands like we feared it would. It went up and away from the islands into open ocean."

The bulk of the lecture consisted of slides of the islands, including the flora and fauna as well as maps of the area. One slide showed the process of the voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle, the trip the young Charles Darwin took on his way across the globe. It is assumed that the five weeks he spent in the Galapagos was a founding block of his theories on evolution.

The colloquium lasted about an hour. A question and answer period wrapped up the lecture.