

Automotive department keeps your car rollin'

MAGGIE JIRASEK
Feature Editor

To fund student scholarships as well as purchase new equipment, the automotive department at Clackamas has established a program where donated vehicles are being repaired and sold while giving automotive students work experience.

Ever since the car donation program started five years ago, people have donated vehicles primarily as tax deductions. After inspecting a donated vehicle, a decision has to be made whether the car is worth being fixed. A careful inspection is necessary. "We take the vehicles that

are decent enough and do any minor or sometimes major repairs, whatever is necessary, and then sell the vehicle," said Ray Conklin, automotive department chairman. "We get more cars than we can accept. People often times want to give us vehicles that would cost more in repairs than they are worth, then we have to say no."



Sometimes they don't always know the extent of a car's needed repairs. "Really old cars with low value don't even come here. Occasionally, we make a mis-

take in accepting a car," said Conklin. "We had two cars where we discovered that we couldn't really do anything with them and they have been sitting around for awhile. Sometimes we scrap the cars ourselves and use some of the parts for our training program," he said.

When a vehicle is sold, a majority of the money goes into a scholarship account, and some is used to buy new equipment. Donated vehicles are not only used for the purpose of being repaired and sold, but occasionally for training as well.

"Once in a while, we use a donated car for training. Most of

the time they are not applicable. We try to keep our training vehicles as new as possible," said Conklin.

Besides working with donated cars, the automotive department runs their shop just like a regular auto repair outlet.

"People call us all the time because they are having trouble with their vehicles. We don't charge for labor," explained Conklin. According to him, only parts are being charged for.

Being involved in the automotive program requires a sense of responsibility and a good working at-

itude. "The first day of class, we tell our students that this isn't so much a class but rather a job. We make the assumption that the students are here because they want to become employable as technicians," said Conklin.

"It's a pass-fail class and we're very strict about it. In order to pass the class, you have to have at least 80 percent attendance, and you can't be late for class more than four times," he said.

Anyone interested in donating a car or buying a used one can call Ray Conklin at x2320.



Heimowitz serves as ELC's new education coordinator



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print
Alison Heimowitz is the new education coordinator at the Environmental Learning Center.

CORINNE RUPP
Opinion Editor

Since the beginning of the winter semester, Alison Heimowitz has taken the reins of the Environmental Learning Center's education programs as its new education coordinator.

It has been a smooth transition for Heimowitz, who came to CCC after 2 1/2 years as a coordinator at OMSI.

"I have a good foundation to build on," she said.

Native to Arizona, Heimowitz came to Oregon with her husband to attend University of Oregon

where she received her second bachelor's degree in science education.

"I've gone from being a desert rat to being a duck with wet feet," joked Heimowitz.

While her sense of humor hasn't been dimmed by the wet weather in the Pacific Northwest, she does take her job very seriously. While studying for her first bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona, Heimowitz had an epiphany.

"Somewhere around my junior/senior year, the light bulb went off and I thought, you know, to really make a difference in terms of conservation it comes back to education. You have to teach people why

the environment is so important."

Science education is not new for Heimowitz. After receiving her teaching certificate, she moved to Washington and taught eighth grade science before moving back to Oregon with her husband and children. A resident of Oregon City, Heimowitz is thrilled to be working in her own neighborhood.

"I wanted to work in the community that I lived in," she said.

The opportunity to work locally will be even more present after spring break, when she will begin coordinating student

volunteers from the education and science departments to work with school kids in the Oregon City School District. The district received a 21st Century Grant from the government to expand science education. Heimowitz will be training volunteers to go out to the schools and educate kids in various environmental science fields.

"It's a great opportunity. The more experience they can get, the better," she said of the student volunteers.

This work study program is in its fourth year here at CCC.

"It is an incredible resource for the students and the college," she said.

Letter to the Editor

I don't agree!

As soon as I saw the first sign, I knew it was something to do with religion. After a bit of investigating, I found that it was a marketing ploy by the Campus Crusade 4 Christ. The signs occur on other local campuses as well but they 'agree' with 'Mike' or some other name. It's not that I disagree with the underlying religious message that Paul (a group member) espouses. It's just that the cryptic message that you've plastered all over campus is a bit trivial in relationship to the REAL MES-

SAGE. I'm not sure what the criteria is for allowing posters on campus but if the message were "I agree with Buddha" would they be allowed? Would we think the campus was being defaced if the signs agreed with Shiva? Well, the campaign worked, we're all talking about it. Only problem is, the REAL MESSAGE got lost in the quirky ad campaign and Paul...that is a crying shame.

Bill Briare, Religion Instructor

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.

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

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

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