

synesthesia earns national recognition

MAGGIE JIRASEK

Editor-in-Chief

synesthesia, Clackamas' literary arts magazine, won a first-place award in the American Scholastic Press Association's annual magazine competition for being an outstanding overall example of a scholastic publication in format, content and presentation.

The journal competed with other publications nationwide and according to the ASPA, "it shows a great deal of time, energy and talent by the writers, artists, editors, photographers, layout designers and advisor."

The first time *synesthesia* entered the annual magazine competition, in 1998, it won a second-place award.

synesthesia started out as a way to publish the winners of Clackamas' writers contest about ten years ago but soon developed into a course where students would be in charge of layout, design and choosing



SALENA DE LA CRUZ / Clackamas Print

Amanda Coffey, advisor to *synesthesia*, wallows happily in copies of the college's award-winning literary journal.

specific poems, stories, plays and art work for their publication.

"The class and the journal go together," explained Amanda Coffey, English instructor and advisor. "We focus on editing and publishing in the literary world and we look at different literary journals. Students are responsible for the whole thing, from the beginning to the end. They do everything from the actual selection to design and software on the computer."

Students who are interested in literary journals, layout and production should sign up for WR 246, which will be offered in the spring term. They should have taken at least one creative writing class before, either in fiction, playwriting, poetry or screenwriting. For those who want to submit a story, poem, drama, essay or artwork for consideration for the next issue of *synesthesia*, contact Coffey at ext. 2829.

Unemployment rate rises, hopes fall

NICK BARRON

Business Manager

The unemployment rate for the state of Oregon rose in the month of December to 7.5 percent, the highest rate of any state in the nation, leaving 129,500 Oregonians searching for a steady source of income.

Oregon has experienced a steady increase in unemployment since December 2000, when the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. Since then, the state's number of unemployed people has skyrocketed by 58,400, while the number of employed people has dropped by 63,700.

Manufacturing has cut the most jobs, letting go of 3,100 people, mostly in the lumber and wood-products industry, which lost 900 jobs. Another reason

behind Oregon's sky-high unemployment rate is the impact that high-tech manufacturing has on the state's economy, an industry that dropped 600 jobs.

"Two friends of ours got laid off from Freightliner. They had a shortage of trucks to be built," said Cassandra Hall, a CCC student.

In the construction industry, the number of unemployed rose more drastically than the normal seasonal decline, as 2,500 jobs were eliminated in December. The number of employed people in December was 75,600, the lowest seasonal number since December 1995.

An industry that usually grows from September to December is that of retail, which in 2000 hired 12,300 people during that period. 2001's holiday hiring, though, fell short of that total with just 11,300 jobs added to accommodate holiday shoppers.

Tyler VanOsdol, student, was a car salesman for a local retailer, but noticed his paychecks were getting slim as the economy slowed down. "I quit my job because of the economy; no one was buying cars."

Clackamas student Scott Vondrachek's father and father-in-law lost their employment. "My dad lost his job two months ago at Qwest. My father-in-law lost his job last month because

the company was going under."

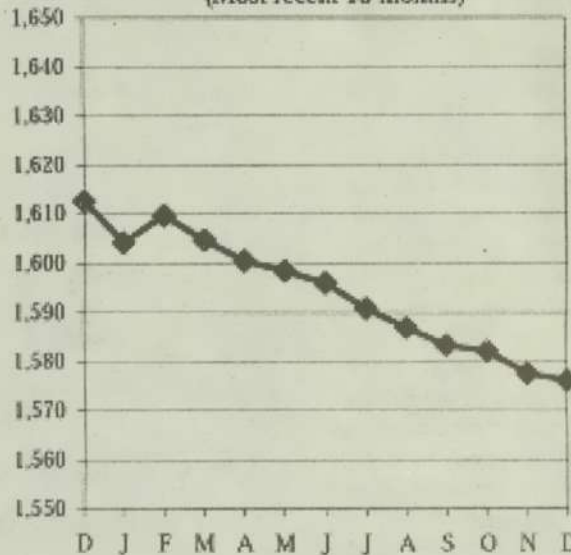
There are some industries in Oregon which have not been affected as severely by the economic downturn as other industries. For example, the health services industry which includes nurses, pharmacists and lab technicians, added 900 jobs in December and has expanded by 4,800 jobs since 2001. Social services has added jobs, mostly due to the expanding population.

Other industries that have been less affected by the recession are those that provide people with local entertainment. In the economic aftermath of Sept. 11, the majority of Americans are opting not to travel but to spend time and money close to their homes. This trend led to an increase of 500 jobs in December for the motion-picture and amusement industry. Included in this industry are movie theaters, ski resorts, fitness clubs and video-rental stores.

In November, the Portland-Vancouver metro area lost 700 jobs, bucking the trend of gaining several thousand as it has done in recent years. The metro area, which features Clackamas County, has 22,500 fewer jobs than a year ago.

"I hear a lot of places are taking the lowest bidders for jobs. It doesn't matter how good you are, just how cheap you are," stated Bryan Casey, whose uncle

Seasonally Adjusted Total Employment (Most recent 13 months)



lost his position at an area print shop.

Lance Gardner of Adams Temporaries in Clackamas, says that there has "definitely been an increase" in the number of people looking for temporary employment. Of those individuals, most seem to be non-college graduates. Gardner stated that at this stage, a college graduate is still "in a better position to find them (jobs)."

One potential employer for college students in the area has been the Clackamas County Parks Department. Every summer an average of 25 to 30 people, gen-

erally ranging in age from 18 to 24, are hired. This year, however, may be quite different, according to Mike McLees, parks supervisor for Clackamas County. McLees believes that his department will be forced to make some adjustments this year, as the state's budget problems trickle down to the local level.

Clackamas County parks may open for the season later than the usual April 1. Another change could be allowing camping just on the weekends. Both measures would mean less hours seasonal employees or less employees needed.

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