

# Annual celebration honors the dead

**Isaiah Creel**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

This celebration coincides with the Christian holy days of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, but was celebrated in Mexico before the Spaniards invaded. After the conquest of Mexico, priests from Spain tried to Christianize the holiday, since it couldn't be abolished outright.

The celebration itself is centered around the cyclic nature of life and death, and the inescapable end all must face one day. This is a time to fondly remember the lives of parents, grandparents, children, loved ones and even celebrities. An altar is made with a picture of the

deceased, flowers, cherished possessions and traditional foods like *pan de muerte*, the bread of the dead.

During the celebration, families clean up relatives' graves and adorn them with flowers. People parade through the streets dressed as skeletons and rejoice in the fact

that they are, for the moment, alive.

There is still the respect for the dead and death, but rather than being frightened of death and trying vainly to avoid it, the Mexican culture accepts it as a friend, a brother and a fact of life. This celebration gives joy to the living and honor to the dead.



PHOTOS BY CORY PRICE CLACKAMAS PRINT

*Los Dias de los Muertos*, the Spanish name for the Day of the Dead, is a time to honor those who have passed. Families lay out deceased loved ones' favorite foods and flowers, accompanied by their pictures. Altars are also adorned with candles and colorful blankets.

## German students exchange thoughts on culture diversities

For the past three weeks, CCC has been hosting 16 foreign exchange students from Stadthagen in Western Germany. These stories reflect their experiences in the U.S.

**Elena, Bjoern, Sascha and Serkan**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Comparing Germany with the United States of America, we find many differences between both cultures. The biggest difference is the way people act and communicate with each other. It appears that they are much friendlier and more open-minded in the USA.

It is not difficult to make new contacts. However, there are stricter laws in many areas, such as in parts of the environment, protection of young people and everyone's health, for example.

For us, this system seems to be inconsistent. Nevertheless it is possible for most people to be integrated in this system.

**Nina, Vivien, Neri and Fabian**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The task of both is the preparation of the pupils for their coming job.

The first difference is the system of the school. At our BBS, we have a dual-system that means the German students only attend school one or two times a week. On the other days, they are in the company they work for and get their practical experience.

Many students at CCC aren't working for a company like the students of the BBS School. So they have to look for classes for having enough practical experience.

Also, we think the buildings here at CCC are looking really friendly in comparison to ours. It's because of the students being at CCC almost the whole day. Here, there are more rooms where you can be alone and the campus is bigger too. Our school isn't as large and there aren't the possibilities to stay in the building after ending your lessons.

**Lena, Katharina, Silke and Oliver**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

First of all, we were astonished that the Americans are so friendly and helpful. For example, we stayed at downtown Portland and did not know the way. Suddenly an American asked us if we needed some help.

Secondly, there are people, like in the supermarket, who put the food and other things in bags. This job could not exist in Germany, because it is too expensive for these companies.

Furthermore, we realized the following differences: big cars, much junk food, no sales tax, unordered households, and drinking alcohol at 21 years of age, but driving at only 16.

We can come to the conclusion that it was very beautiful to be here in the U.S. and we hope that some of the Americans will come to Germany in the next year. Then we can show them the advantages of living in Germany (like drinking beer at 16!!!)



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Exchange Students Ramona Funke and Nina Tegtmeier enjoy the student lounge in Barlow Hall with instructors Lars Fiechel and Sandra Kuehnast. The teachers accompanied the students on their trip to the United States.

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