

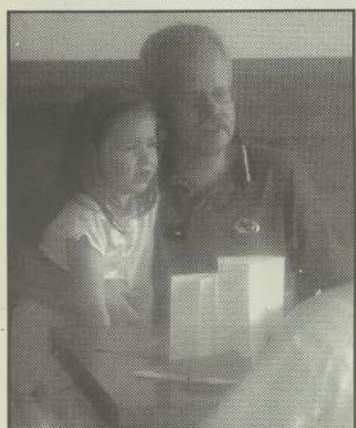
Erdman hopes for bright future in California

Dean of Campus Services accepts position at Shasta CC

Cyndee Mady
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After having served Clackamas Community College since December of 2001, Dean of Campus Services Al Erdman has recently accepted a position in Redding, Calif., as Vice President of Finance and Administration at Shasta Community College.

Erdman's leadership at Clackamas has been instrumental in



EMMA AND AL ERDMAN

the construction of the six new buildings here on campus.

"My role was to direct the project and make sure it reflected campus needs [from the standpoints of staff, students and faculty] and to make sure as much as possible the buildings came in on time—at or under budget," said Erdman.

Shasta CC approached Erdman with plans for a similar undertaking, seeking someone with extensive knowledge in construction. After a short interview process, the position was offered to Erdman and he accepted.

"At CCC—literally within 10 or 11 months—we designed, bid and broke ground on five buildings, which is nothing short of a major miracle. At Shasta, they want to build seven new buildings over five years," said Erdman. "It is an opportunity to move to another institution that is doing a lot of construction ... I enjoy the construction end of my job probably more than anything else I do."

Erdman's construction background dates back to childhood.

"When I was growing up, my folks used to buy and redevelop houses; this was in the mid-seventies when you could buy a house for \$10,000," he said. "They would completely gut it, remodel it—then



Cyndee Mady CLACKAMAS PRINT

Al Erdman's daughter, 6, Emma examines a gift presented to her father at his send-off party Friday at Jimmy O's Pizzeria. The gift? An umbrella fit for California—filled with holes.

rent it out. I was fortunate to be able to work with my dad and learn how to do a lot of these things. It seems like I'm always building something."

As a single father, Erdman is responsible for the welfare of his six-year-old daughter, Emma, and feels she will adjust quickly to their new home.

"I took her down [to Redding] ... and showed her there is a McDonald's, there is a Chuck E. Cheese, so life doesn't end just because we're moving," Erdman said.

What will Erdman miss most about Clackamas?

"I'll miss the people; this is a fab-

ulous place to be," he said. "I'm happy with what I'm doing, but it's with mixed emotions."

Erdman admires the administration's focus on students at CCC, stating that every meeting he attends centers on the welfare of students.

"It amazes me ... there are a lot of colleges that talk the talk, but there are not a lot of colleges out there who really walk the walk," Erdman said. "[CCC's] dedication to students is an incredible statement and I see that similar dedication at Shasta. I hope I can [be a part of] continuing that dedication there."

CCC President Joe Johnson appreciates the value of Erdman's contributions to Clackamas.

"His legacy will always be [remembered]—all these beautiful new buildings as you look around the campus ... He'll be able to carry the experience he's had here right to Shasta College, hit the deck running and do as good a job for them as he did for us," said Johnson.

A going-away party was held Friday at Jimmy O's Pizzeria when Erdman expressed these parting words:

"Without a doubt this is the best place I've ever worked."

Erdman will assume his new position at Shasta Community College on April 30.

Students hit the road for spring break Canada-style

Trip to Vancouver, B.C. filled with (mis)adventure

Angela Gerhart
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

There is a wonderful vacation destination to be found just about six hours north of Portland on the I-5 freeway—in fact, it's a completely different country, and several Clackamas students discovered its vacationing merits when they loaded up their Blazer and headed up to Vancouver, Canada, during spring break.

These students had never been to Canada and were amazed at the difference between U.S. and Canadian standpoints on certain issues, despite their proximity.

"They hate our government and really oppose the war," said student Nikki Miller, adding that she was glad they didn't have any pro-war stickers on their car. Aside from despising the U.S. government, though, Miller said the Canadians they befriended were

very helpful.

One of the highlights of the trip for student Josh Swift was having lunch at the top of the Harbour Centre Tower. The area where they ate made a 360-degree rotation every hour.

"The view was amazing, though we all felt a little sick after a while," said Swift.

The students did a lot of sightseeing, too. Walking downtown, they were bombarded by drug dealers, which isn't an unusual occurrence for that part of town. They also visited Stanley Park.

The students said their favorite tourist attraction was Granville Island, which reminded them of Portland's Saturday Market.

The most

memorable times, though, were at the pubs—which had been part of their reason for visiting Canada in the first place. Although at 19 the students are minors in Oregon, they are of legal age to drink in Canada.

"I bought my first bottle of rum, legally," said student John Hiestand.

The group stayed in

Vancouver for a total of five days, spending the first part at one hotel, then moving to another hotel downtown.

"For anyone who wants to stay in Vancouver, make sure you get reservations at the right Ramada; there is more than one. [For] the first three nights, we were completely surrounded by Chinese-speaking people," said Miller.

As for the driving portion of the trip, the students said it wasn't that bad, though customs was a little scary, especially when the agent thought they had contraband in the spare tire.

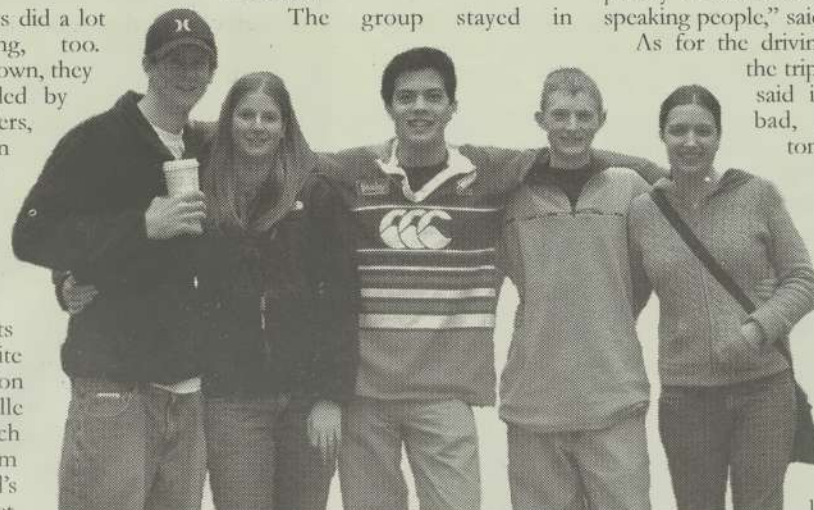
The students returned home with lots of pictures and memories.

The funniest segment of the whole trip, they said, had to be the ride home, down the Washington portion of the I-5 freeway. They were pulled over for speeding but didn't get a ticket. Then, their right side windshield wiper broke off flying into the traffic during a downpour. To add to their frustration, they stopped in Tacoma at Hooters to eat and weren't happy with the way they were treated.

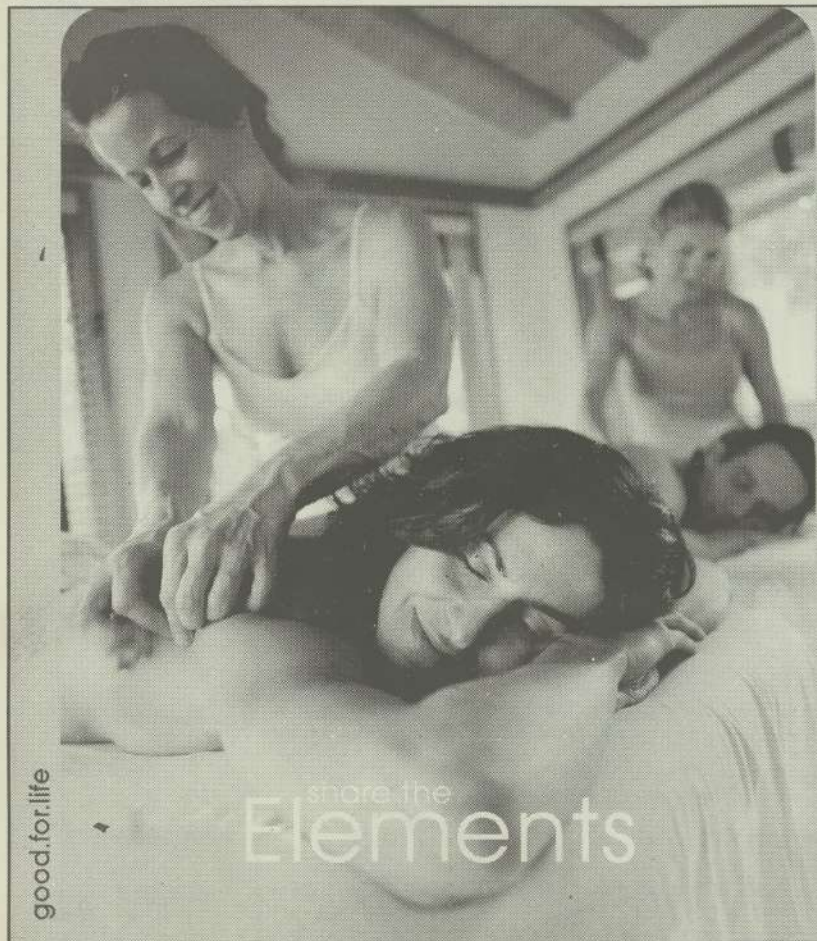
"If you're not a 40-year-old nasty old man tipping the girls, you won't get any service," said Nikki Miller.

Just when they thought things couldn't get worse, the students returned to the car, at about 4:30 p.m., to find that it would barely run. Knowing that it would be a disaster, Hiestand took charge and headed straight to a Chevy dealership where the group was subjected to a three-hour wait to get a valve replaced—using Daddy's credit card.

Even with the few mishaps, the students are planning a return trip to Canada during the summer—hopefully with a different car.



Hiestand, Gerhart, "Canada Zach," Swift, Miller



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