

Vale takes first in state competition

Cyndee Mady
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Representatives from 10 high schools throughout the state of Oregon gathered at Clackamas Community College Friday for the annual Ford Motor Company/AAA Skills State Competition, where Vale High School took first place for the seventh consecutive year.

Vale's won it time and time and time ... again," said Vale instructor John Milleson. Milleson added the event to root for his new Tyler Andersen, who plans to go into the automotive industry, teammate Nick Maag, who will be an agricultural engineer.

Vale High School has won this competition 16 times since 1986, including first-place trophies from nationals in '92, '97 and '98. Vale represents Oregon at National Skills in Dearborn, Mich., this June. The day began at 7:00 a.m. with a breakfast for contestants and instructors in the Cougar Café, followed by preliminary activities.

The prefinal contest began at 10 a.m. when the two-member teams to debug one of 10 identical cars with all ailments that would prevent the vehicle from operating properly. Teams had 90 minutes to complete the task. The team that found and fixed the most bugs in the quick-time would win. However, while Vale was of the essence, it was also important to be thorough.

"Perfection will always win over anything no matter what," said Joy Andersen, whose husband Merle is an automotive instructor for Vale High School. "The point of the competition is to get students into the automotive field because there is a shortage."

Event attendee Jeff Munsey



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ABOVE: Two-member teams had 90 minutes to debug their car. RIGHT: (From left) Student Nick Maag, Automotive Instructor Merle Saunders and student Tyler Andersen, of Vale High School, display their first place trophies.

came to support his son Chris, of South Albany High School, saying that a love of motor vehicles runs in the family.

"[Chris] was able to operate his own motor vehicle at age two," said Munsey. "My dad was a car dealer ... our son's grown up around this, so it's pretty hard to avoid." Munsey's wife Debbie was also there to lend support to Chris and his teammate Daren Page.

To qualify for this competition,

students had to take a written exam. The two highest scores from each school were then combined and the 10 schools with the most points were selected to compete in the hands-on event. Ashland, Benson, Capital Center, Estacada, Gresham, Hillsboro, St. Helens, Siuslaw, South Albany and Vale high schools beat out their competition. In addition to first place, Vale took home trophies for best written exams.

The following CCC students



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assisted as line judges and with other duties: Brian Almond, Chad Bowman, Tom Caldwell, Russ Cameron, Rick Ferguson, Lisa Ligatch, Aaron Melfi, Aaron Porter, Kevin Quinn, J.D. Reilly and Erik Shackleford.

The Capital Center High School Technical Institute team of Eric Vidler and Joseph Gambino earned a close second place under the direction of Louise Drow.

"The competition was closer than usual this year," said Ray Conklin, competition manager. "The second place team from Beaverton was only 7 minutes behind the winners from Vale. [Drow] is the first female instructor in an Oregon competition. She has won the state contest in Arizona before. It seems likely that she will be in next year's competition. Maybe [Vale's] record will be broken then. We'll see."

Siuslaw High School out of Florence, Ore., placed third under the direction of Harry Holton.

Q&A offers relief for concerned students



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Karen Hill
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Questions concerning college events and campus worries such as construction, textbook prices and increased security were addressed Wednesday during a Question and Answer session held in the Community Center.

College president Dr. Joe Johnson, ASG vice president Liz Schumacher and bookstore director David Holcomb were available to discuss the concerns of the students present.

One student asked if cafeteria prices were likely to lower. Johnson explained the prices are dependent on the vendor that Clackamas is contracted with. The only ways to lower prices would be to change contracts or rightly limit cafeteria hours of operation.

Schumacher also said that they follow a process when selecting a vendor who will provide quality products and adequate selection at student-friendly prices.

"We looked at several vendors," said Schumacher. "[The current vendor] offered the most for students, selection-wise, and stayed at a low cost."

The question of using a form of payment other than cash to purchase food at the cafeteria was raised, to

which Diane Drebin, registrar, responded that such a decision was left up to the contractor.

She also explained the change in the AAOT degree when a student asked why Clackamas is planning to omit sequences as a requirement.

There are certain guidelines which must be adhered to by all students wishing to obtain an AAOT. Variations of these standards are made by individual colleges. Clackamas has attempted to keep to the basic requirements, adding just a few unique distinctions such as computer literacy courses and sequences.

"Clackamas has been in discussion for about two years about the [AAOT]," Drebin said. Due to their past discussion concerning the degree, the college has decided to revert to a most basic AAOT course structure, which would eliminate sequence requirements. This will go into effect fall 2004.

Holcomb spent a large portion of the session addressing the high textbook costs and the lack of possibility for lower prices in the future. According to Holcomb, prices are set by the publishers and the college has little impact. The instructors at Clackamas, on the other hand, are involved in the process of textbook selection, in which they are given the option of which books to require for their classes.

Schumacher reminded students of the ASG book exchange which is held for two weeks at the beginning and end of every term.

"The students can sell their books for whatever prices they deem," said Schumacher. "The student selling the book can get a little more than they would get returning it to the bookstore and the student purchasing the book can usually get it for less than they would get it in the bookstore."

Johnson expressed a satisfaction in the increased visibility of campus security due to the larger number of cadets patrolling the campus. One student agreed that this was the first time in four years that he'd really ever noticed campus security.

Johnson also commented on the lack of ticketing concerning parking and other campus violations.

"[It's been] our policy to give out as few tickets as possible," said Johnson, who said numerous and strictly enforced laws on campus usually result in a college of angry students.

ASG president Marlies Berney felt the Q&A session was a success. "If you can help a few students and change their perception of how things work and let them know that things are being worked out logically," Berney said, "then the session has been successful."

★ 2004 ASG ★ ELECTIONS

Presidential Candidates:

Rian Murphy



Served as Legislative Senator and Campus Activities Officer during his two years at Clackamas.

Teresa Robertson

Wife and mother with three teenagers. Has returned to Clackamas to finish her Associates in Business.



Vice Presidential Candidate:

Sara Stokes



Served as Child Care Senator as well as Administrative Assistant during her year at Clackamas.

Vote for ASG president and vice president on May 12 and 13 in CC140.

International Day is today, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Community Center