

Student speaks on '04 Barcelona

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

"I love Spanish and traveling ... so it seemed like it would be a really great experience," said Nick Verducci, officer of campus activities for the Associated Student Government.

He was talking about the Intensive Spanish Course in Barcelona, Spain, which is offered every summer to students, faculty and community members at Clackamas.

It took 11 hours for him and seven other Clackamas students to fly from Portland, through Canada, over Greenland and Holland, into Frankfurt, Germany, and finally to Barcelona, Spain.

"It seemed long [in the plane], but once I got off [the plane] it didn't seem so bad," said Verducci. "I had jet-lag for about two days and then I was fine."

He stayed in an apartment with a family consisting of a mother and her daughter.

"They were really nice ... I'd want to stay with them if I ever went back again," he said.

Verducci could either walk to the school from the apartment—this took around 15 minutes—or he could take the metro, which was only a five-minute ride. It didn't really matter which way he used as long as he got to class on time.

"It's a great opportunity to experience the language and the culture."

Nick Verducci
ASG Officer of
Campus Activities

"It was great being in the classroom," he said. "The students weren't just English-speakers, they're from all over the world: Switzerland, Australia, Germany ..."

Verducci had many varied experiences from visiting the Picasso and Dali museum, seeing first-hand the cathedral (Sagrada Familia) and other buildings created by the Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí, to encountering thieves on the beach.

"It was night and half of us were sitting on towels, and the other half were taking showers because they'd been swimming in the ocean," said Verducci.

A man approached them and began talking back and forth with them in Spanish. He knew they were tourists and all the students were quite focused on him, concentrating on trying out the language with a native speaker.

"And then I turned around," said Verducci, "and saw this other guy reaching for one girl's purse and I yelled at him to stop."

The thief merely got up calmly and walked away.

"You have to watch your things," said Verducci. "I kept my wallet in my front pocket. And if I was in crowds, you know, I'd keep my arm down [near my pocket]."

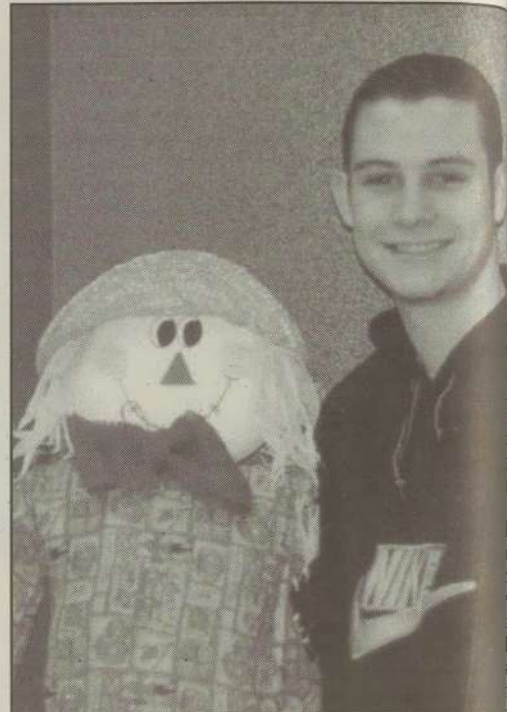
But Barcelona isn't just full of pickpockets by any means.

"There's some people that don't like American tourists ... and they can be really rude, but basically everyone is nice," said Verducci. "If you're going for the language or the travel, either way it's a great experience."

Students going for travel will have a chance to meet people from various cultural and geographical backgrounds.

"I got information from a lot of people and they told me if I ever want to come to their country to look them up," said Verducci.

"If you're going for the language," he said, "the school is great. You're around Spanish



VERDUCCI

speakers and it's a great opportunity to experience the language and the culture."

For many students the cost could be daunting.

"One thing that stops people is

Katie Wilson then added, "but it's money. If you have money from your family to spend that decision now."

Campus Christian clubs worship, volunteer, socialize

Millie Wallace
Contributing Writer

Members of the Christian clubs on campus don't spend all their time reading the Bible; they do service projects and have fun socializing with like-minded students.

Baptist Christian Ministries (BCM) meets every Wednesday at noon in M257 of McLoughlin Hall, led by volunteer divinity students Beth England and Matt Munger.

"We have once a month movie night, a quarterly retreat, conferences and game days such as broom hockey at Lloyd Center ice arena," said England. England can be reached for more information

about the club at bsmbeth@net-boise.com.

"I like the informal discussions of BCM, where we can really dig into the meaning of a scripture," said Cory Westerman, a drafting student.

Campus Crusade for Christ is a local chapter of a national organization, run by campus students. They meet Thursdays at noon in the Community Center, and can be reached at clackcc4c7@hotmail.com.

On the college web site its stated purpose is "To be a spiritual resource to individuals in the college and community by providing investigative Bible studies, retreats, prayer, discipleship and fellowship activities."

"We have snacks at our meetings so you can feed body and spirit at one time and place," said Jon Beckner, a computer science student.

Those with an interest in sports would find the Fellowship of Christian Athletes right up their alley.

"We spend a third of the time playing games and the rest in discussion and prayer time," said Kathie Woods, PE instructor and club advisor. "Sometimes we have guest speakers."

Outside of their Thursday meetings at noon in R12 of Randall Hall, they get together for bowling, movies, eating out, beach trips and community service.

"Everyone is accepted and

loved," Woods said. Contact Woods at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2418 for more information.

Latter Day Saints Students Associations (LDSSA) begin their noon meeting with a song and a prayer in M253 of McLoughlin Hall, Tuesdays and Thursdays, followed by a discussion led by Group Leader Gordon Henderson. For more information contact Henderson at (503) 557-5862.

"Our purpose is to encourage members to become an influence for good by service to the community, and to strengthen our testimonies by studying the scriptures

of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ," said Henderson.

Socializing takes the form of parties, picnics and Friday nights at dinner around the area. Henderson led a group on a church history tour of York, Illinois, Miss.

These clubs are for anyone who shares a belief or thinks they might be. "If you fit that profile, just show up at noon to meet friends you know you had."

ASG greets students in a new location

Karlin Johnson
Feature Editor

Associated Student Government has finally settled into their new, more usable home.

The new office was formerly the Skylight Dining Room, and is much larger and more organized than the old office.

"[The old office] was really crowded," said Krista Moore, ASG

senator for community relations, who now enjoys the new office.

"It is definitely a big change at first but it's nice to have my own office, rather than a cubicle," said Sara Stokes, ASG vice president.

There is also much more space for other members of ASG.

"There's a lot more individual space for people," said Moore. "We all have our own cubicles, so that really helps."

The front lobby in the new

office is much more open and welcoming with a large front counter where students can come to get information.

"We have our new counter and we can fit a lot of students in [the lobby]," said Officer of Campus Activities Nick Verducci.

Members of ASG also have new equipment this year, including more computers.

"We're looking into getting more computers, so maybe sometime in the future we'll have our own computer," said Verducci.

The only drawback to the new office is that not many students know where to find it.

"The students who probably don't go in the cafeteria don't know about [our new office], but other than that I think it's a good location," said Moore.

The new ASG office can be found in the Community Center, just inside the Cougar Café.

"If you have any questions, we're a really good resource and we offer a lot of different things for students," said Verducci.

There are always reasons to come in and talk to ASG.

"[We want students to] know we always have events going on," said Moore. "It would be cool if students could come check it out."



Michaele Cooper Clackamas Print

ASG Vice President Sara Stokes finds the new ASG office to be much more organized than the old office.

