

Learning through educating others

udent returns to the world of foreign language in a French class tutor

Elizabeth Tobey
Clackamas Print

always had a love for languages," said French tutor Susan Witherspoon. She first began studying French 20 years ago at Lane Community College in Eugene. "I really loved it," she said. "It is such a beautiful language to see and hear, even ugly words sound beautiful in French." However, she ended up getting her Bachelor of Arts in human resource management. And after college, Witherspoon said, "life got in the way; I got married, kids, job ... I decided life wouldn't get in the way this time though," she said. "I had to act on this passion for languages." And she did. A Clackamas student herself, Witherspoon is studying French, Russian and sign language. Last year she completed the two-year program that CCC offers. "Knowing she wasn't done at Clackamas, Witherspoon found herself looking for a way to continue



Angela Gerhart Clackamas Print

(From left) French tutor Susan Witherspoon works closely with French students Vonna Witham and Cassie Bow. Witherspoon is also currently studying Spanish, Russian and sign language.

French without having to attend another college. She found out about the tutoring program from another French tutor and spoke with French instructor Heidi Cropsey, about

becoming a tutor. "Heidi does have high standards. She told me she only accepted 'A' students to be tutors for her classes," said Witherspoon. Aside from that, the program was

easy to get into. Her responsibilities as a tutor include attending class frequently and working with students to review material or help with homework assignments. Witherspoon also meets frequently with Cropsey.

"I let her know where students seem to be having trouble," Witherspoon said, "and she gives me clear instructions as to what she wants students to learn."

Witherspoon has found that she benefits from going through the material again and explaining things to students.

"I'm continuing to learn from it," she said. "Sometimes there are things I missed the first time around, or I'll understand something in a different way."

"Also, for me tutoring is a way to serve," she said. "I love to help people, and I want to help people appreciate the language the way I do."

Right now Witherspoon is very involved in helping the French class prepare for International Students Day.

"I can't wait for it," she said. The students are preparing a variety show with the atmosphere of a French cabaret. Entertainment will include dancing, singing and a puppet show. The French club will also be selling refreshments.

"We're famous for our crepes," said Witherspoon, laughing.

All in all, Witherspoon really appreciates the language department at Clackamas and everything it has to offer.

"It's affordable, it's accessible, and we have some phenomenal teachers," she said.

Gender benders: info to know in post car-crash situations

Joe Plazzisi
Clackamas Print

Accidents happen every day. Usually you see them on the side of the road and you drive right by the spot wondering what happened. However, we always think, "It will never happen to me." We know it happens, so what if it happens to you? Do you know what you should do? First off, there are two different types of accidents. Of course there are accidents you see all the time—someone hits someone else. There is also the, "Oops, I hit a curb/tree," accident, where you damage your car with no one else involved. If you get into an accident with

someone else, you want to make sure to get all of his or her information.

You want the driver's name, driver's license number, insurance information and license plate number. You also want to make a note of any visible damage that was caused by the accident to both vehicles. This way the other person can't claim other damage to their vehicle against you.

It would also be in your best interest to take down the plate number of a car that you think may have seen the accident or get the name and contact information of someone that saw the accident. You want to do this in case there is a difference in stories of what happened so you can call on a witness.

If you are in an accident by your-

self, you want to check your car and the item you hit for damage. If it were a curb, I wouldn't worry about it too much. If it were someone's mail box, at the very least stand it back up. It would be best if you inform the owner of what happened. In most cases there is minor damage to the vehicle. At this point it is your choice if you want it fixed or not.

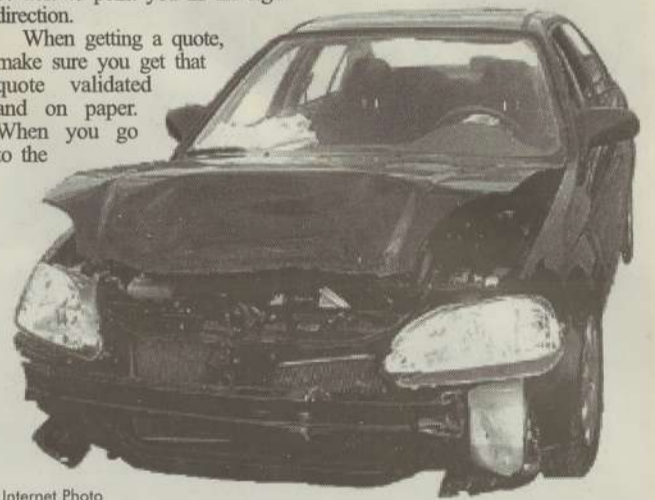
When you are going to get your vehicle fixed, always get multiple quotes on the cost. You may find that there are huge differences in price from one body shop to the next. If you are going through your insurance company to fix your vehicle, they will give you the name or a list of shops to go to. You need to understand that these are recommended shops because

it helps your insurance company. You are not required to go to those shops to have your insurance pay.

The best way to find a good shop is to shop around. When it comes to an auto shop, word of mouth goes a long way. Ask around; ask your friends and co-workers what they think of different places. They should be able to point you in the right direction.

When getting a quote, make sure you get that quote validated and on paper. When you go to the

next shop to get a quote, don't let them know that you already got a quote from somewhere else. Not saying it happens all the time, but shop employees like to talk down other shops to make themselves look better. Find a shop that you feel comfortable with and if the price is right, get your car fixed.



Internet Photo

Hablando nuestro idioma

A weekly Spanish-language column

'Inmigrante no significa Terrorista'

Norma Martinez
Clackamas Print

La inmigración es uno de los aspectos en los que este país lucha a diario, tratando de mantener a todo terrorista fuera de este lugar. Se ha incrementado la seguridad en las fronteras, y han hecho muchos cambios para dar un alto a esta situación, pero a pesar de todo, cientos de inmigrantes de muchos países especialmente hispanos continúan arriesgando su vida por cruzar y así poder lograr una mejor situación económica no para venir a ser terroristas. Cada uno de ellos tiene un buen motivo diferente por el cual está aquí, pero todos el mismo ideal, "Salir Adelante".

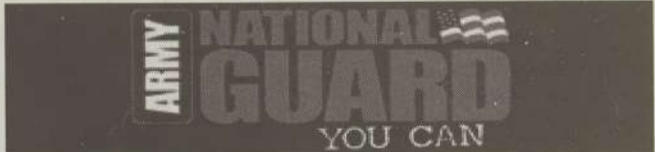
Se han hecho famosos por todos esos sobrenombres que se les dan como "los mojados, ilegales, indocumentados" y muchos otros más que algunas veces denigran su imagen. Pero esa gente que los cataloga así nunca se imaginaría por

lo que ellos pasaron para estar aquí. Todo empieza una noche cuando un grupo de hombres, mujeres y niños caminan durante horas sin tomar agua o haber comido antes, cuidándose para que no los vean las patrullas fronterizas, en el desierto o entre la sierra, cansados y en la obscuridad, expuestos al peligro de ser atacados por algún animal en medio de la noche, escondiéndose entre los arbustos o las piedras, comparten el miedo de ser descubiertos, hambrientos y esperanzados de que todo ese calvario pueda terminar, muchos de ellos quisieran se conosen, pero al final el recuerdo de lo que pasaron juntos nunca lo podrán olvidar ni tampoco sus rostros. Mucha de esa gente algunas veces no llega a su destino por muchas razones y una de ellas es la muerte.

En el trayecto de esos días deben mostrar fortaleza por que solo los mas fuertes, arriesgados y audaces pueden cruzar sin ser descubiertos o simplemente los

que llamamos "suertudos." Son experiencias que cada quien puede interpretar de la forma en la que las vivió, y una ves al llegar aquí es donde apenas empieza la lucha, por que hay que trabajar duro por la familia y por lograr a lo que se viene. Muchos llegan a empezar una vida, no tienen casa, familia, niquiera conosen a nadie, pero entre hispanos hay quienes nos "hechamos la mano", nos cuidamos y formamos nuestro propio país, aquí en cada casa.

No traeremos equipaje, ni nuestros papeles de identificación, pero traemos nuestras costumbres e identidad, cargamos hasta nuestra religión, en medallas o estampitas pero ahí siempre está. Formamos núcleos donde convivimos para recordar de donde venimos, hacemos nuestra comida, cantamos nuestras cansiones, reímos, lloramos, pero juntos siempre juntos y así no nos sentiremos tan solos, en nuestra estancia aquí, en ésta "Tierra American."



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