

# FAFSA form fears demystified

**C.J. Ciaramella**

Feature Editor

For most people a new year means a fresh start, new beginning and resolutions, but for students, a new year can only mean one thing - time to fill out the FAFSA.

The FAFSA, which stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is the standard application for anyone who wishes to receive grant money for college from the gov-

ernment. Filling it out is also considered a perennial nightmare by many students.

However, for those having trouble with their FAFSA, all is not lost. Kara Vavrosky, who works in the Financial Aid Department at Clackamas, said the staff at the department is always willing to field questions.

"[The FAFSA] is hard, to tell the truth, but if you walk in here we won't treat you like an idiot," she said. "People come in and say, 'Oh, sorry to bug you,' but that's what we're here for."

For those who haven't, the time to fill out the FAFSA for the 2006 - 2007 school year is now.

"The sooner the better," said Vavrosky, "because [when tuition has to be paid]

everyone gets so mad, going 'Where's my money? Where's my money?'"

Students have two options to apply for "the money:" they can either fill out their application over the internet or send in a paper copy.

"If you do it on paper, it takes about three weeks to get to us," said Vavrosky, "but if you do it online it only takes about one week. It cuts time off our process here."

However, when filling out their application over the internet, students must electronically sign the form before they submit it - a step that, according to Vavrosky, many "just don't do."

In addition, Vavrosky and her co-workers added that many students fail to put down their correct social security

information. Also, men that have failed to sign their selective service cards are ineligible for federal aid.

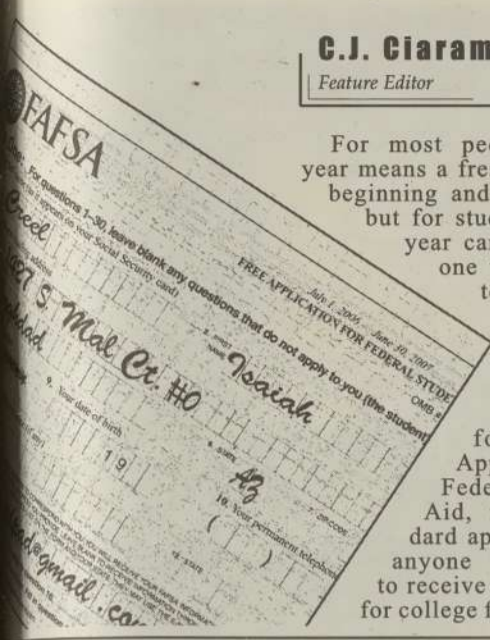
Overall, though, Vavrosky attributed the majority of mistakes on student's FAFSA forms to the fact that "people do not read."

"That's the biggest thing," she said. "Read!"

Co-worker Maria Linderman chimed in as well.

"The key to financial aid, honestly, is for students to stay educated," she said. "[They] need to ask questions."

FAFSA applications can be found in a variety of places on the campus, such as the lobby of Roger Rook Hall, and the financial aid office is located in room 110 of Roger Rook.



## Stop, collaborate and listen: Improv class on brand new mission

**Elizabeth Hitz**

Clackamas Print

Improv is one of the more obscure courses on the Clackamas Community College theater class list. According to John Renner, the instructor, the class "teaches students improvisational acting skills [while] emphasizing comedy-improv form [techniques]."

The coach briskly clapped his hands, he hollered, "Let's go!" His team assembled in a semi circle. The experienced group began warm-ups with an energized game of "Speaking in Unison."

As the exercise went on, joking comments flew at the team from the peanut gallery of two in the auditorium seats. The team took the distractions in stride, and even threw back a few of their own one-liners.

Everyone knows comedians are notorious for their one-liners, especially in an improv comedy class.

At the end of the term, the students will perform along with the one acts in several performances. The show runs March 7 - 9, with performances at noon and again at 7 p.m. Until then, practice is name of the game.

Practice comes in the form of forms. These exercises are not only used to teach students acting skills, but also as team building exercises for the entire group.

For example, in the game, "There and Back Again," one

person enters the stage and starts acting out a scene until one of group yells "freeze." The individual then joins the first person on the stage and changes what is happening in the scene. More people are added until no one is left on the sideline. Then the last person to join must find a legitimate reason to leave. When he does that, the situation reverts to the previous scene. This continues until the stage is once again echoingly empty. The game not only requires the actors to come up with scene ideas on the spot and carry on a scene unrehearsed, but it also requires everyone to work together.

Other games include such peculiar titles as "Go," "Party Quirks" and "Interview."

On the whole, the class has a strong structure and a lighthearted atmosphere that would make anyone want to stay all day.

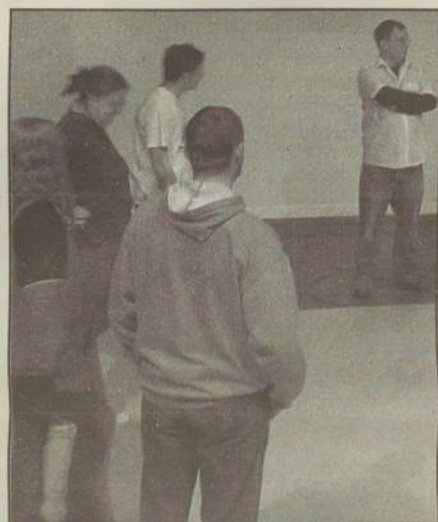
So what is the best thing about improv comedy?

"[It's when] people start laughing not because you did something stupid but because you did something funny,"

said student Mike Ryan.

One of the cardinal rules of improv is this, "It's ok to die as long as you die big." So next time one takes a nose-dive, take a moment and consider this one-liner from actor Edmund Gwenn, "Dying is easy. Comedy is difficult."

Improv Class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 2 - 3 p.m. in the Niemeyer Theatre. There are no auditions for this class. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Theater Department.



Jake Dannen Clackamas Print

The Improv Comedy class stretches their minds in preparation for their upcoming shows, March 7 - 9.

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## Retired teacher dies

Richard Ramsperger, retired Social Sciences instructor, died Dec. 18 of complications from a stroke. He was an anthropology instructor at CCC for 27 years. He was 74.

- Contributed by F.Y.I.

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