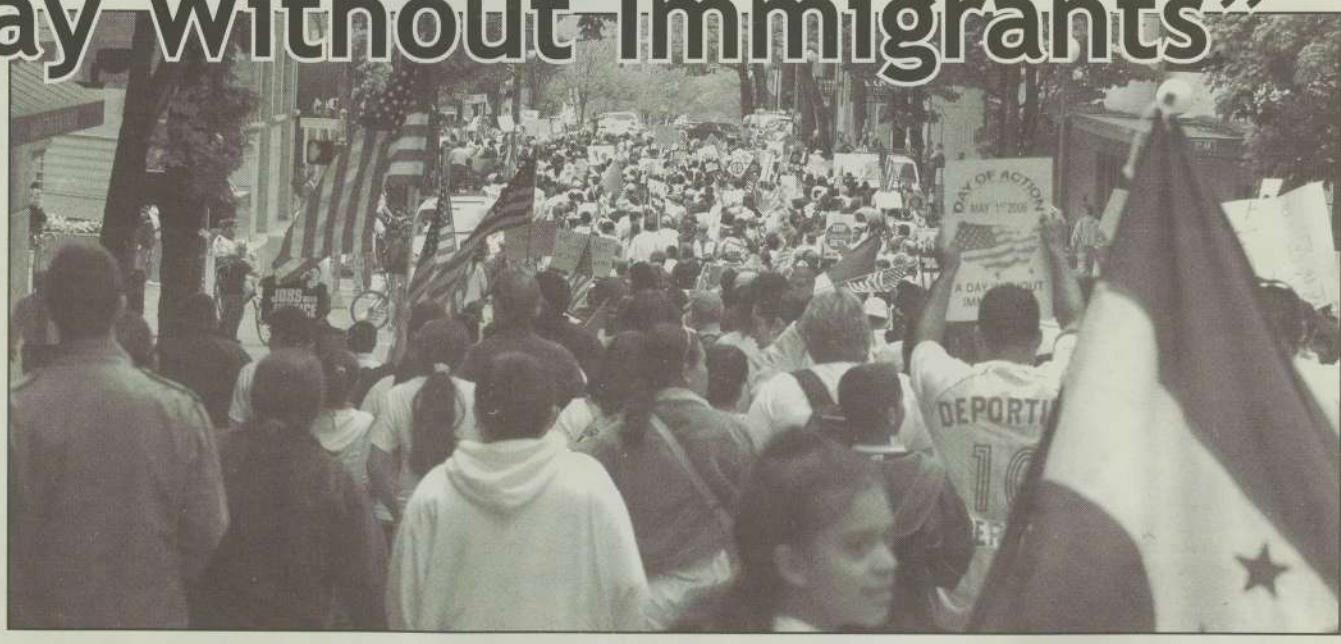


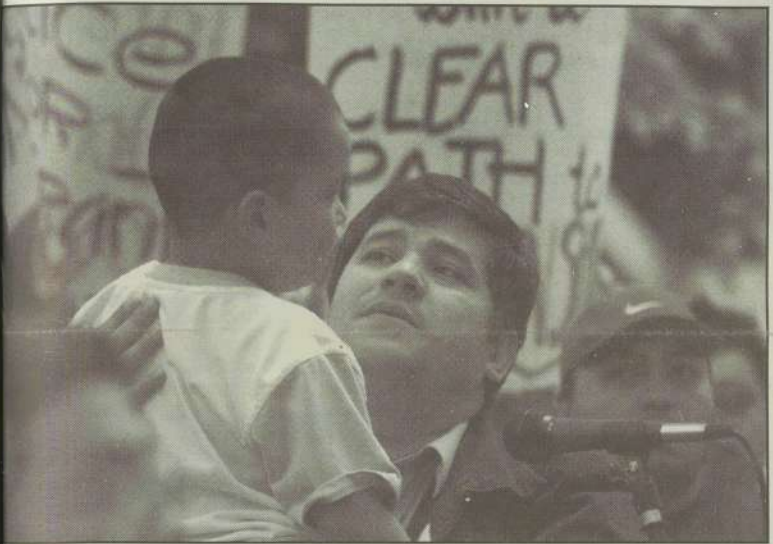
"A Day Without Immigrants"

(Right) Thousands of demonstrators gather by Portland State University for immigration and against new legislation which targets illegal immigrants.



(Below) A demonstrator attempts to reunite a lost child identified as "Oscar" with his family before the march began.

(Bottom) Several anarchist groups march to show solidarity with immigrant workers.



Thousands march for workers' rights, immigrant solidarity

C.J. Ciaramella
The Clackamas Print

Continuous chants off "Si, se puede!" echoed off of the buildings of Portland yesterday as conflicting reports estimated 8,000 to 20,000 people, largely Latino, taking to the streets in support of immigration and labor rights.

The impact was felt at Clackamas, where the ESL Department reported a heavy drop in attendance on Monday.

"About 50 percent of my class yesterday was absent," said ESL Instructor Suzanne Munro. "A few had essays due, and they delivered them before class."

ESL department secretary Irene Carrillo said that one class, besides two Russian students, was empty.

The march started at noon from the South Park Blocks by Portland State University. Following an opening rally, protesters weaved through downtown, bearing signs such as "No human being is illegal" and "My parents are Latino, not criminals." After making its way to the Pearl District, the march looped back to the PSU campus for a follow-up rally.

The rally and march were part of a larger, national demonstration billed as "A Day Without Immigrants." Event organizers urged immigrants, legal and illegal alike, to attend the rallies and not show up to work or school.

The protests were largely in response to a federal bill, H.R. 4337, currently making its way through the houses of congress. If passed, H.R. 4337, "The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005," would make all illegal immigrants in the U.S. felons.

Thousands of people in the march waved American and Mexican flags, as well as carried signs displaying their opposition to the bill.

"It's kind of like Nazism, you know?" said

protester Juan Mayoral about H.R. 4337. "It's just racism — a bad piece of legislation."

Juan Antonio Xiapa said he just wanted the "freedom to live here and work. We're not criminals."

Others, such as Benjamin Josue, echoed similar sentiments.

"My dad, he's been here for 20 years," said Josue. "People like that, hardworking people like my dad, deserve their papers."

Besides the dominant Latino element, many local groups and unions, such as the International Workers of the World, Portland Jobs with Justice and the Freedom Socialist Party, marched as well.

"The big thing right now is we're out in support of immigrant workers," said demonstrator Matt Wilson. "We're all workers. We're all in the same boat. We all support one another."

The event coincided with the traditional holiday of May Day, which celebrates the victories of the labor movement. This year, however, the labor groups involved agreed the most pressing issue was the plight of the migrant workers and immigrants.

"They do jobs that nobody else wants," said local activist Sarah Hopper. "They do a lot of work, and get a lot of disrespect. That's not right."

For many, though, there were more personal reasons for attending.

"I'm here because my best friend is here, and he's an immigrant from Mexico," said Clackamas student Mitchell Hayes. "I'm here to support him."

An estimated 1.1 million people marched in other cities across the U.S., shutting down many companies that depend on migrant labor.

"This is a group of people who traditionally haven't been able to speak," said Betsy Kraft, an ESL instructor at Canby High School. "It was pretty amazing to see non-violent protests all across the country. Last night, when I got home, I felt proud to be American."



Photos by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Students, staff dress for diversity in drag pageant

Katie Wilson
News Editor

Clackamas will experience a bit of glamour next Tuesday. The Rainbow Club is putting together a drag pageant in the Community Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. "It's just for fun and community involvement," said club member Dusty Magdale. "The students really wanted some-

thing that would make people talk," said Club Advisor and English Instructor Carol Burnell. "Also, it's a diversity issue."

Last term the Rainbow Club had problems with their signs being torn down. One sign was even torn from Burnell's office door.

"Not everyone would like to welcome the Rainbow Club to the campus," said Burnell.

According to Burnell, the drag pageant has been orchestrated entirely by the members of the club.

"They're really the ones behind it," she said. "I can't take any credit ... they've been doing all the work."

Students who sign up will be competing for a variety of prizes. The first place prize is a weekend at Seaside.

The show will be set up cabaret style. Local professional drag queen Darcelle and his troupe will be joining the students, first putting on an act themselves and then voting on the student acts.

Besides just being a fun time, the show will also work as a fundraiser. According to Burnell, several faculty

members have given pledges. Students will be asked to vote for which faculty member they would like to see in drag. The one with the most votes will perform. All votes must be cast by noon next Monday.

Burnell encourages anyone who is interested to sign up, but she wants them to understand that they will have to perform: lip-sync or comedy routine, etc.

For more information or to sign up, call Burnell at 502-657-6958 ext. 5188, or e-mail her at carolb@clackamas.edu.