

Alum's 'Gorge'ous' local calendar

Elizabeth Hitz

The Clackamas Print

Picture hot chicks in leather and motorcycles with custom paint jobs — meet the Rix Chix '08 Columbia Gorge'ous Calendar.

The calendar, which will be available in early January, is special for more than one reason. The models, the featured photographers and the company that produce this eye-catching creation are all local, as evinced by the title.

But really, what makes this calendar, these models, this business any different from the rest is that at least 12 of the 100 models employed by Rix Chix are victims of domestic abuse.

The photographer and heart of Rix Chix is Ric Blair. A former Clackamas student, Blair shot pictures for the calendar on campus in the past. He has a day job at a plumbing company and on the calendar during spare moments, often sleeping only three or four hours a night.

Blair acts as an agent for his models, but also plays the part of brother, uncle and friend to many of them, who he refers to as "his girls."

He involves them in the

business as well. "The girls named the business [Rix Chix], I just changed the spelling," he said.

The group gives generously to various charities, most of which they're not even allowed to list simply because of the nature of the calendar. The charities range from children's hospitals and food banks to organizations that help abused women.

The girls brought up helping battered women," said Blair. "It wasn't my idea."

Blair's merry band appears to be more of a family than a modeling business. Even the limo driver, Chris Miller, who drives them to autograph parties and events free of charge, seems to be

more kissin' kin than a chauffeur.

"Ric's a friend of mine, and this [is] a worthwhile cause," said Miller. "Our company [Silver Limousine Services] is based on ... caring about our clients, and we support our community to the fullest extent."

The models range in age, shape, size, diversity and walk of life.

Blair first met Rix Chix model Meredith Asher in a laundry mat. "I was in between my wedding and my honeymoon, and my dryer broke down," said Asher. "We just started talking. I was just there, and that was that."

Asher recently got back from her honeymoon and modeled for Blair in the April shot for the 2008 calendar. Asher posed hand-on-hip next to a gleaming yellow 2005 Harley Roadglide.

Another remarkable part of the equation is Ludy Mia. Mia has been working with Blair for the last three years. She helps Blair spot locations for shoots, keeps the models loose and comfortable and acts as a general secretary.



Contributed Photo



Elizabeth Hitz Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Blair in action at the '08 Columbia River Gorge'ous photo shoot. RIGHT: The 2008 edition will be the fifth Rix Chix calendar.

"I met Ric through my dad," said Mia, as she grinned mischievously at Blair. "He told him [Blair], 'I have a pretty daughter.' He was afraid he was going to have to let me down, but apparently he thought I was pretty."

"I always tell everyone she's my 'work wife,'" said Blair of Mia. "She goes everywhere with me."

Glamour and reality collide in the Columbia River Gorge'ous.

For information concerning Rix Chix and how to purchase the '08 Columbia Gorge'ous Calendar, contact Blair by e-mail: ric@rixchix.com. The Rix Chix Web site is www.rixchix.com.

Gallery director loves photography, Oregon seasons

Patie Wilson

Editor-in-Chief

On the wall above Terry Chatkupt's office desk, there are photographs of an empty landscape: one that stretches forever over fields and trees and flat, gray hills.

It is a square made up of many small, framed, black and white photographs — Chatkupt's memories of the place where he was born.

"It's the debate relationship I have with Missouri," Chatkupt said.

He added that much of his photographic work centered in the landscape genre. "Memory and creativity," he said, "and growing up in Missouri and the

alienation. I try to find a narrative, if there is a narrative, and do something different from what is usually expected of landscapes."

Chatkupt is the new gallery director for the college, replacing Marlene Bauer, who resigned about this time last year. According to Art Department Secretary Mollie Frey, Bauer was a part-time instructor who helped cover the position of art gallery director. Chatkupt is the very first full-time gallery director.

From Missouri, to the California Institute of the Arts, to Skidmore College in New York, Chatkupt has been around, showing art through diverse mediums, including photography and film.

Now, he's in Oregon,

recently moved from Los Angeles, California.

"After L.A., I enjoy the seasons here," he said.

This isn't the first time Chatkupt has been in charge of a gallery.

"I used to organize and manage a gallery," he said.

He says that the college gallery atmosphere is quite different from what he is used to.

"I don't have to deal with the commercial side, which is not something I enjoy working with

anyway," he said. "The audience is mainly the students and the community."

"I enjoy working with the artists and seeing the process," he added.

He will help to coordinate exhibits in the Alexander Gallery, located in the Niemeyer Center.

"Every space is different," Chatkupt said. "The Alexander Gallery is a good space to work with. It has those really tall ceilings; challenging, but rewarding."

It's not only the art or the process that interests him.

"I like seeing the reaction," he said, "how people respond to the show."

Chatkupt is also teaching a few classes, and is enjoying that as well.

His classes focus primarily on the digital medium.

"I enjoy working with all levels of students," he said. "The technology is changing so rapidly, but is really accessible."



CHATKUPT

It's easier to earn your degree when the school comes to your home.



That's right. You can earn your degree online in Business Management or Accounting right in your own home. Our online and evening bachelor's and certificate programs are designed for busy people seeking a top-notch, affordable business degree to help you accomplish your personal and professional goals. Financial aid available. Call Oregon City Linfield Advisor, Jennifer Hawkins at 503-413-7166 (jhawkins@linfield.edu) or contact us at 1-800-452-4176 (adultdegree.linfield.edu).

Complete your bachelor's degree in:

- Accounting (Post-bacc certificate too!)
- Management
- International Business
- Business Information Systems
- Arts & Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- RN to BSN

Spring semester 2007 classes begin February 17. Get started today!

be. do. have. more.



LINFIELD Adult Degree Program

How to start a club

With the sheer proliferation of clubs on campus, many may wonder what exactly it takes to start one. But, in fact, the process is easier than most would imagine.

1. Go down to the ASG office and pick up a copy of the club start-up information.
 2. Find a faculty adviser to supervise club activities.
 3. Create the seven articles for your club that will outline the club's purpose and activities. The seven necessary articles can be found on the last page of the start-up information packet.
 4. Submit the articles of constitution to ASG, where a five-person committee will review them.
 5. If the Club Constitution Approval Committee approves the club, then an account for the club's funds will be started. If the committee doesn't approve the constitution, then it will be handed back for revision.
- If all of the steps are followed, a new club will be formed at Clackamas.

Compiled by David Stark, The Clackamas Print