

School more than games for student

Political science major balances school, friends and religion

By **Yo Stalnaker**

Clackamas Print

During his six terms at the college, 20-year-old Matthew Ostergren has found a nice balance between studying and playing.

"I enjoy [Clackamas] quite a bit. The classes and most of the instructors are great. There's a lot of good people here," Ostergren said.

Ostergren can often be found at the Community Center, playing table-top games with friends.

"We play 'Risk,' 'Risk: Pirates of the Spanish Sea,' 'Axis & Allies,' 'Magic: The Gathering,' 'Yu-Gi-Oh' and just about anything someone brings in," he said.

"I play for the social aspect of the games. Plus, they keep us entertained."

When he's not conquering the world nations, Ostergren spends a lot of his time working on his double-major in political science and philosophy.

"Eventually I'll get a doc-

torate in political theory, and possibly be part of a political think tank that studies and evaluates various political movements," he said. "Or I'll just be a college professor."

On top of all that tough school work, he is also the vice president of the Writer's Club. Apparently, things are going very well with the club this term.

"There are about 20 to 25 members, and about 15 show up on average a week," he said. "We meet from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays in room 220 in Roger Rook. Anyone can be a part; we're very accepting of all people."

Ostergren has been keeping tabs on the current election, and has an interesting take on what's been happening.

"I consider [this election] to be trash," he said. "The primaries are a joke, and the candidates are all the same anyway."

Ostergren has ill feelings about the two major political parties that run the United States.

"When it comes to Democrats and Republicans, I hate both criminal organizations equally," he said.

Because of this, he has

found himself to have more respect for various third-parties.

"I'm into the Green Party, the Socialist Party and the Libertarian Party," he said.

working at Baskin Robbins, in Oregon City, or is at home studying.

"I study philosophy, physics, political science and economics," he said. "I do quite a

voice his opinions on a global scale.

"I really don't watch TV anymore; I just blog," he said.

For those who don't know, a blog (short for Web-log) is essentially a journal that one writes on the Internet. Ostergren has been blogging for a while now, mostly about philosophy, religion and politics.

As far as religion is concerned, Ostergren has found peace in a faith that was more common during the early days of America than it is now.

"I'm a Quaker," he said. "I wasn't raised as one, but I became one a year ago. I appreciate its emphasis on kindness, pacifism and respecting all people - regardless of who, or what, they are."

As a veteran student at Clackamas, Ostergren has a few class suggestions for new students.

"I would recommend any [political science] class taught by Dean Darris, he said. "Also, the philosophy department is good here."

He also has some advice for new students:

"Do your homework and go to class," he said. "Talk to your professors and let them know that you do care about the class."



Photo by Megan Koler Clackamas Print

Matt Ostergren spends some time with friends playing "Magic the Gathering" between classes. Ostergren also enjoys blogging and Political Science Instructor Dean Darris' classes.

"They're all consistent and don't pander."

After a long day of classes, studying and socializing with his friends, Ostergren is either

bit of reading."

Being an opinionated college student, and well-read in current events, Ostergren has been using the Internet to

Chinese class gains interest with students and teachers

New class offers to teach Mandarin, but also gives a cultural look into China

By **Sheppard**

Clackamas Print

Surprisingly enough, Chinese is not so different from English.

"Chinese [is] much easier to learn than French or German," said instructor Xiaou Wang, who teaches Chinese 100, a course at Clackamas.

According to Wang, she has no problem with pronunciation and reading quickly.

"Also, Chinese are not as shy as they are in English. Chinese are probably far from having gendered single words which is why when Spanish and they are difficult and the greatest difficulty for people is vocal inflection.

"I can't wrap my head around it," said Chinese instructor Tai Chi Wayne Keller.

The word can be spelled with separate tones, and the tone that determines the meaning of the word. The tones, coupled with a strong accent and a pattern, makes it

apparent why some beginners may find the language intimidating.

Wang encourages her students not to try to learn or unlearn an accent.

"If you can understand my teaching, that's enough," she said. "When you learn something, you just do it."

The class is still in the experimental stage. This term, the focus is on speaking rather than vocabulary. During spring term, Wang will cover simplified characters along with pronunciation and advanced vocabulary.

Wang teaches her class in three parts. The first hour is dedicated to speaking and review of the previous session.

The second part is spent explaining the cultural significance and history of Chinese. The last part of the class is a video tour of various parts of China.

In the course Wang teaches Mandarin, the official language of China. Cantonese and Mandarin, she says, are actually two separate languages.

"Cantonese people can understand me, but I can't understand them," she said.

Wang is from Beijing. She came to America to earn her masters in linguistics and literature at Portland State University. While here she married her husband, whom she met in China when the two of them applied to the University of Tulsa, in Oklahoma.

"I like the simple life here

- less people," Wang said. "Here [there is] much more time to spend with family. In China, everyone [is] busy all the time. Here [life is] very relaxing."

Another aspect of living in the United States that Wang enjoys is American movies.

Now that Wang has achieved her masters, she is pursuing her doctorate. She has approximately two and a half years of study left.

It may be too late to take the class this term, but Chinese 101 will still be offered in the spring, and maybe again next year.



Photos by Elizabeth Hitz Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Chinese Instructor Xiaou Wang teaches her students Mandarin, the official language of China, which has more native speakers than any other language on Earth.

