

# Rhapsody

Rhapsody was part of *The Clackamas Print* several years ago. It was a place for people associated with the college to see their art, poetry and other short fiction pieces of writing in print as a true representation of excellent amateur literary works. To submit a piece, drop it by room 135 in Roger Rook Hall or e-mail it to [aced@clackamas.edu](mailto:aced@clackamas.edu).

**Voyeur**  
By Ruse Lefebvre

*Heavy-shouldered waves rise and thrust  
themselves upon the sand, thrashing  
as they twist and turn, releasing  
husky sighs from their depths:  
Gulls scream as they witness  
each plunge against  
the supple, moist shore.  
The feral assault ebbs  
as waning waves retreat,  
easing the relentless thrusts.  
The lighthouse aims its watchful eye.*

**Observation**  
By Rose Lefebvre

Shadows and sunlight weave  
lace patterns upon the leaf-shrouded path  
as I stroll, camera tapping rhythm  
upon my chest. Behind the lens I seek  
peace, beauty. Bees plunder  
a patch of wildflowers. Thistle fluff teases  
through the breeze to the pulsing  
buzz of the cicada. Spooked clouds float  
like tattered ghosts across a flawless  
watercolor-blue sky. Wind teasingly nips  
at my face; the shock of a cobalt Stellar Jay splashes  
against miniature flames of autumn leaves.  
A spiders web, trembling in the breeze, shimmers  
as sunlight caresses its silken strands.  
My stroll within this scene is interrupted  
by a young couple, arm in arm, seeing nothing  
but each others eyes.

**Cat~astrophe**  
By Rose Lefebvre

Up you leap  
then, pause and ponder,  
precariously perched  
upon the precipice of the spa.  
Gentle sly glances,  
gold-green eyes gleaming,  
greet my gawking gaze.  
A smile sweetens your silvery face,  
speaking "See me!  
Such superb stability I show!"  
Taunting eyes tense  
as a tremor in tread  
threatens to topple tightening toes.  
Plop! Paws ply at pure air,  
not preventing plunge  
into the tepid pool.  
Wet and waterlogged  
you woefully wander away,  
walking with wounded gait,  
weighty

wet tail  
wilting.

**Feathers**  
By Jess Sheppard

This night is passing  
I hear their voices hiss  
I just want to fade away

Is it your voice that's calling  
Are those your tears  
Why did you pass away

I'm looking for you  
Out beyond the night  
I've sent out my gulls  
Past the searing light

Pluck out my wings  
Feather by feather  
It won't change a thing  
I will still remember  
Your eyes in my dream  
As your life was sewn  
Your dying screams  
They will haunt me forever

I'm letting my time slip  
Until I'm at your side  
I'm shattering from within  
And washing out with tide

The dawn is fast approaching  
On my tears I am crying  
Why won't I cease to

The daybreak's light, shining  
At last I turn to ash  
Is this the end of my

## Gardening releases built-up stress

**Kenton Benfield**  
*The Clackamas Print*

As finals week approaches, the average stress level on campus is sure to rise. A proven relief countermeasure is horticulture, better known as gardening.

Gardening may not hold the interest of very many young people, but according to those who enjoy the art, it is worth it. "I like the type of garden that actually produces something," said student Lindsey Hurlburt, who is a fan of herbal gardening. "It is a product of my work; I plant the seeds, and I can watch them grow. It is rewarding to see what I have created."

For individuals who have never attempted to plant anything, the learning curve may be a challenge. Aside from searching books on particular plants and the seed packet for the necessary information, a way to gain knowledge is to follow the advice of experienced green-thumbs.



Jess Sheppard Clackamas Print

A beautiful trillium, with its leaves outstretched, sits in the sunlight in a student's personal garden.

There are generally three types of gardens to suit one's interest, Hurlburt explained, specifically herb, flower and vegetable gardens. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses as a candidate for a starter garden.

"There's probably a lot of (plants) you should start this time of year," said student Steph Cuvelier-Holenda, "so if somebody is interested in a vegetable garden, which I think is the most beneficial thing to have, then I would imagine that they would want to do research on which vegetables they want to grow and to make sure that they are starting them at the right time."

For many plants, it's time to begin planting seeds, although most vegetables need to be started indoors about six weeks in advance.

An example of a plant variety that should not be planted now is peppers, as they require hotter soil temperature and grow best if planted in May or later.

Transplanting outside should be done after the threat of frost has diminished around early April, but the soil should be prepared around the same time as planting indoors. This requires removing grass and weeds from the final site.

Vegetables, which should be prepared early, need to be set in a raised bed and not stuck into the ground directly.

Beginners should focus on plants that are fairly easy to manage. Cuvelier-Holenda recommends "lettuce, especially in this part of the country," as well as carrots and tomatoes.

However, "you definitely have to do a little work with tomatoes," she noted.

As with anything, gardening is a learning experience, but some mistakes can be avoided by keeping a detailed log of everything from soil composition to date and temperature data in order to track down problems and weed out failed attempts.

"I also think it's important not to become too dependent on any kind of chemicals; none at all preferably," Cuvelier-Holenda said.

"The main thing," she added, "is to learn about what you are doing while you are doing it."

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