

Save your green by going green



Andrea Simpson Clackamas Print

Instructor Kate Gray rides away from Roger Rook Hall on her recumbent-style bicycle. Gray bikes from her Sellwood home, which is approximately 12 miles from the college.

With gas prices hitting record highs at almost \$4 per gallon, alternative transportation is becoming more appealing to the masses

Andrea Simpson
Sports Editor

As the weather turns warmer and pants are traded for shorts, people start to pull their bicycles and skateboards from storage, using them as a substitute for driving in the glorious weather.

Here on campus is a little-known community of bicyclists and skateboarders who have many different reasons for employing alternative means of commuting.

For English Instructor Kate Gray, it's a matter of less pollution.

"I am trying to lessen the carbon footprint I leave," Gray said.

Gray, who rides her recumbent-style bike once every couple of weeks, says that even though it takes five times longer for her to bike to Clackamas than it does to drive, her efforts are well worth it.

"It's great exercise," she said. "I'm not hardcore about it. I don't bike in nasty weather or anything. I started riding as a training athlete. Now, I'm trying to do more environmental stuff."

Gray bikes from her home in Sellwood, a distance she estimates to be about 12 miles.

Student Jaynee Lindquist agrees that alternative transportation can have multiple benefits.

Lindquist is part of a small group of people who longboard on campus. She began longboarding in November of last year, when her boyfriend and his friends took up the hobby.

Lindquist, who bought her longboard from

the local shop Daddy's, located on Sandy Boulevard, says that the activity plays a role in maintaining her physical health.

"A lot of people wouldn't think that you get a lot of exercise from it, but when you are using your legs to push yourself, they get pretty strong," she said.

She frequently boards from her place of work, Coastal Farm and Ranch, in the Oregon City Shopping Center, to the Oregon City campus.

Biking and other less-conventional modes of transportation are indeed environment-friendly. And with global warming becoming a hot topic in politics, the public is beginning to question what they can do to slow the inevitable monstrosity.

According to the League of American Bicyclists' Web site, bikeleague.org, 60 percent of the pollution generated by automobile emissions is released within the first few minutes of functioning, before the emission control devices have a chance to work. This means that short trips to places only a few miles away emit more pollution per mile than longer outings.

The TriMet bus system has long been viewed as a positive replacement for driving. Some students use a combination of longboarding and riding the bus to get to the college.

Gray says that alternative transport, however, does have its pitfalls.

"I bike along (Highway) 213, and that scares me to

death," she said. "Drivers are so reckless.

"It's funny when I see my students while I'm biking. One time a student stopped next to me near Home Depot, and he told me I looked so scared he decided not to honk and say hello."

So before you fire up the engine to run to the store, think about saving gas and the environment by utilizing the earth-loving methods of transportation.

"I am trying to lessen the carbon footprint I leave."

Kate Gray
English Instructor

Softball looks to improve record in time for NWAACC

Megan Koler
Editor in Chief

With an even win-loss record, Cougar softball aims to improve.

Clackamas lost this past weekend's first doubleheader against Chemeketa Community College 2-7 and 8-10, and tied its doubleheader with Southwestern Community College 5-4 and 0-2.

"We didn't perform offensively like we should have," said Softball Coach Jessica Buel. "We're in third place, so we're only going to improve from where we're at."

One of the players in the process of improving freshman Mallory Callahan, who led the team with a two-run home run in last weekend's doubleheader. "I was kind of in a hitting slump for a while, but I felt good to get out of it," Callahan said.

Despite a less-than-stellar offense, Clackamas won one of its strongest defensive games, with only two errors made the whole weekend.

The team is now third in the NWAACC (Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges) standings, below Mt. Hood Community College in first and Lower Columbia Community College in second. Only the top four teams will be invited to compete in this year's NWAACC championships.

"It's scary because we want to make NWAACC so bad," said freshman Kayla Vedaa. "It's a reputation we want to withhold here at the school."

The Cougars' next game is at home this Friday against Mt. Hood at 3 p.m. on the softball field. "The pressure is on," Vedaa said. "Hopefully we'll get things to come together."

Games This Week

BASEBALL

April 29 – Lane CC (DH) 1 p.m. at HOME
May 3 – Mt. Hood CC (DH) 1 p.m. at Gresham
May 6 – Chemeketa CC (DH) 1 p.m. at HOME

SOFTBALL

April 29 – Lower Columbia College 3 p.m. Longview, Wash.
May 2 – Mt. Hood CC 3 p.m. at HOME
May 3 – Chemeketa CC 1 p.m. at HOME
May 6 – SW Oregon CC 2 p.m. at Coos Bay

TRACK AND FIELD

May 2 – Pacific Twilight at Pacific University

Sports Scores

Baseball

April 26, 2008 – Clackamas 10, SW Oregon
April 26, 2008 – Clackamas 3, SW Oregon
April 27, 2008 – Clackamas 4, Concordia U

Softball

April 26, 2008 – Clackamas 2, Chemeketa CC
April 27, 2008 – Clackamas 5, SW Oregon
April 27, 2008 – Clackamas 0, SW Oregon