

Clackamas Print

independent, student-run newspaper since 1966

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008

Volume 42, Issue 4

Guts and glory get carved away

John Hurlburt

Associate News Editor

Carving away at heads and tearing guts is always fun – and it's even fun when you don't get arrested. This is an opportunity that many students were able to take advantage of last Friday on Halloween at Chartwells' pumpkin carving

contest.

The event was a product of Jen Borowczak's love of the holiday.

"I just really like Halloween," said Borowczak. "We make no money off of it."

This is the third year, non-consecutively, that Borowczak has been able to organize the contest, and she hopes to have it again.

"(We'll have it) as long as I work here," said Borowczak. "I'm the geek who likes holidays."

The contest was very casual; students who had signed up in advance would just walk in, ask for their pumpkin and start the gruesome and messy process of reconstructing their pumpkins into works of art.

Many students involved jumped at the opportunity to carry out their sadomasochistic fantasies and came ready on Friday.

One student, Jordan Householder, came equipped with his "pumpkin carving bandana," which was possibly the piece of equipment that helped him and his team win the grand prize, a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

"(We're here) to prove we are the best pumpkin carvers in the school," said Householder.

A whole variety of people came out to participate in the event. A group of 5-year-

olds came early in the morning to try their hands at the event, while later on throughout the day, more people trickled in – including a few students who were experiencing All Hallows' Eve for the first time.

Lilly Cerdasleyva, a student from Costa Rica, seemed to have fallen in love with the spirit of the holiday.

"I love the colors ... the food, the costumes; this doesn't happen in my country," Cerdasleyva exclaimed with exuberance.

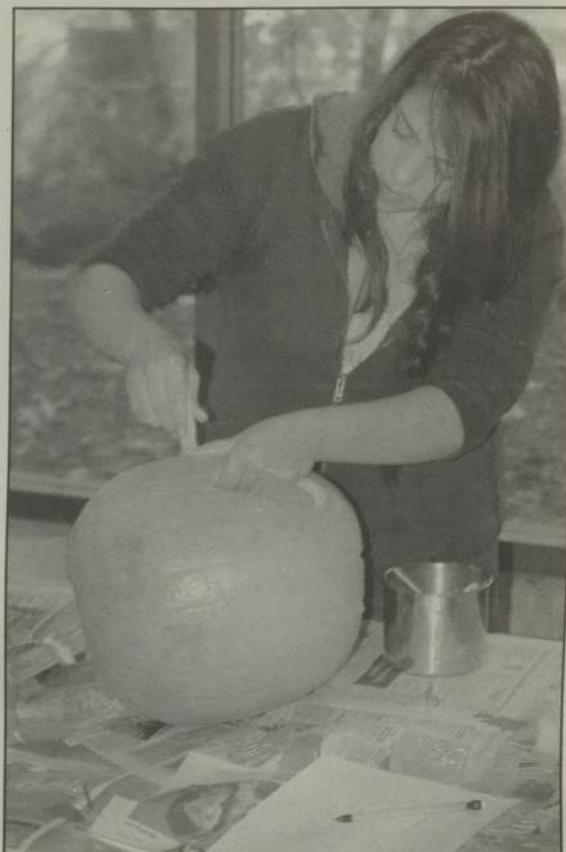
She expressed her newfound taste for the holiday by wearing a purple, veiled witch's hat and carrying a purple pumpkin.

"I love these," said Cerdasleyva.

Carina Deoliveira, a tutor for the school's international program, sees events such as this as important.

"This is their first Halloween; I wanted it to be an experience," said Deoliveira.

The contest would not have even been able to leave the planning stages if it were not for a sponsor and a donation of all the pumpkins needed by Fir Point Farms, a family-owned



Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Tiayana Casey tears into her pumpkin, transforming it into a work of art at Chartwells' third pumpkin carving contest.

35-acre farm in Aurora.

Although many entered, only one could win the grand prize, and ultimate victory fell into the hands of Householder and friend Nic Houston, making them Clackamas' new pumpkin carving champions.

The winning hollowed-out shell of squash was a depiction of a man holding up a gun resembling an AK – almost demanding Householder's claim of his team being best carvers in the school be recognized.



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winning pumpkin, which is a depiction of Jordan Householder and Nic Houston.

Financial aid flies through system while students see more green

John Hurlburt

Associate News Editor

The average college student is \$7,700 in debt, according to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, and now that amount is going up at an average of three percent a year.

The financial aid department was able to cut the time it takes to process the paperwork for financial aid from six weeks down to an average of four weeks.

Griffiths, director of Financial Services, says the reduction in the time it takes to process students' applications is essential.

"We're about supporting the success of education, not subsidizing it from it," said Griffiths. "Students get financial aid on time so they can get their books on time so they can make better choices about the classes they're going to take."

The reduction in time was possible by hiring more staff and training current staff to use the data system, also taking an audit to learn what things could run more efficiently.

found the process involved in getting financial aid befuddling, yet quick.

"There's a laundry list of steps; if you don't know what you're doing, get some help," said Hill. "Once I handed in my notice to get (financial aid), I had it within a week."

This is quite contrary to the experience Amanda Stutz went through the previous summer when she applied for financial aid.

"It took a couple months or so. I was in panic mode when it didn't arrive," said Stutz.

The period of time it took – although inconvenient – did not leave a bad taste in Stutz's mouth.

"They're really helpful," said Stutz, in reference to the financial aid department.

The new reduction in processing time brings Clackamas ahead of other local community colleges, such as Mt. Hood Community College, which averages between an estimated five to six weeks, and Portland Community College, which averages an estimated four to six weeks processing time, according to the two college's financial aid departments.

The next step Griffiths wants to take is to start communication with students through e-mail instead of mail, in order to be able



Megan Shaw Clackamas Print

April Smith, enrollment specialist, helps Jeremy Young at the registration and information desk in Roger Rook Hall. The decrease in financial aid processing time has helped ease strain on the department as more students are enrolling.

to cut down on the time it takes for students to respond.

"Our goal is to get funds to students as fast as we can," said Griffiths.

This is a good year overall for the financial aid department,

which has seen record amounts of money available through grants and scholarships.

One major application for financial aid is the Oregon State Scholarship Commission, which has 140 different scholarships list-

ed and is currently available in the financial aid department.

"Students are really encouraged to apply (for financial aid), because there is more money this year than ever in the history of Clackamas," said Griffiths.