

The Clackamas Print

Independent, student-run newspaper since 1966
Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Volume 42, Issue 22

'Dude looks like a lady'



Gay-Straight Alliance get students to strut their stuff See Page 5

John Petty Clackamas Print

Classes die early as students sign up late

John Hurlburt
Editor

Classes being cancelled due to low enrollment have become a necessary annoyance at the beginning of every term, but what if the class really need to be cancelled? On the first day of spring break, March 23, students who signed up for James Bryant-Terise's Shakespearian Lit class and Amanda Coffey's U.S. Latino Lit were sent e-mails saying the classes were cancelled. However, instead of immediately being taken out of the system, students were able to still register for the classes over the next couple of days due to a delay in processing the defunct classes.

Bryant-Terise and Coffey met over the next couple of days, although some of the classes that were signed up had already started the class, others were still waiting to start.

number for whether or not to keep a class is around 14 and that is the number many instructors strive to meet.

According to Bill Briare, dean of arts, humanities and social studies, the assumption that a class will run because it has 14 bodies in it is not necessarily correct.

"Students aren't alerted that they have to sign up before a certain time or their class may get cancelled."

Amanda Coffey
Instructor

"Fourteen is commonly thought to be the golden number but that's not always the case," Briare explained adding, "We've cancelled classes with 20 students."

He also said that they have kept classes with much fewer than 14 students in situations where the students needed the class to graduate.

According to Kate Gray, English department chair, the classes were cancelled a week early in order to give students time to react.

"A big part of my decision was to make sure students had time

to get into other classes," Gray said as to why she and Briare decided to cancel the classes a week early.

One major contributing factor this term as to why the numbers spiked in these classes after they were cancelled was, according to Gray, because many students signed up late.

"This quarter the game completely changed," Gray said elaborating. "More students signed up late."

Coffey noticed the trend that students were signing up late and believes one problem that led to her class being cancelled was ill-informed students.

"Students aren't alerted that they have to sign up before a certain time or their class may get cancelled," Coffey said. "These are courses that could fill."

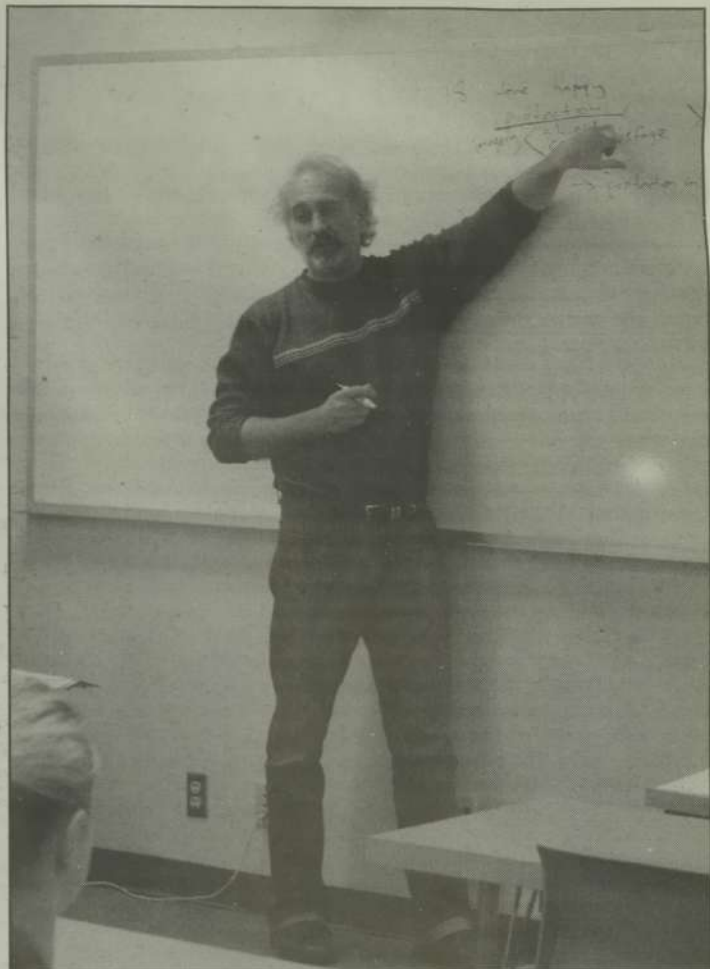
Coffey admitted that waiting for the term to start before cancelling the class might be one way to ensure classes could fill properly but also understands that there are a myriad of problems that would come with that.

"I understand why the class was cut when it was cut," Coffey said. "The way it played out this time was just very unfortunate."

Bryant-Terise understands why his Shakespearian Lit course was cut as well and knows it was a hard decision for his dean to make.

"I think Bill treasures things like this. I know he does," Bryant-Terise acknowledged. "I know he winces when he makes that decision."

What hurts Bryant-Terise isn't



Lisa Sellars Clackamas Print

Instructor James Bryant-Terise teaches his Bible as Literature class last week. Although he would have had two lit classes this term, Bryant-Terise says he is fortunate sometimes to even get one.

that his class was cancelled because it had too few people and therefore it wasn't worth enough to keep, but the fact that not enough people cared to

take it. "The budget reflects people's values and people don't understand the value of humanities," Bryant-Terise said sadly.