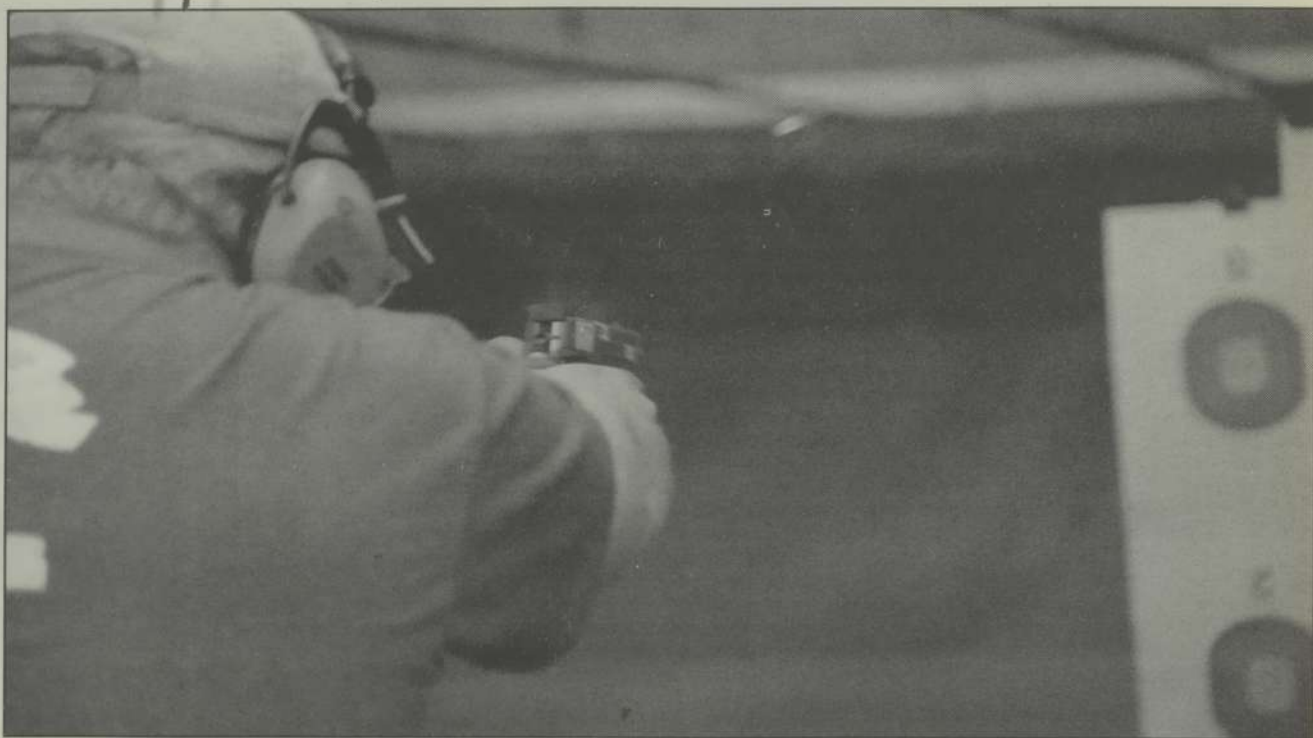


Event fires up justice club



Michael Bonn Clackamas Print

Girard Morlan, member of Clackamas Community College ETA club, fires rounds in preparation for the American Criminal Justice Association National Conference. The conference is being held in Portland March 14 through 19.

By Joshua Baird
The Clackamas Print

Spent ammunition shells litter the floor, a woman stands clutching a .38 Special in her hands as a man behind her, urges her to squeeze off a few more rounds.

This may sound like a climax of a 1990s revenge thriller; however, it's just another weekend for Clackamas Community College's Criminal Justice Club's Alice Cruikshank, the club's secretary treasurer and her instructor Greg Willis.

The two of them were working on Cruikshank's accuracy at the Public Safety Training Center in anticipation of the upcoming American Criminal Justice Association National

Conference. This conference is being hosted in the City of Roses next month, running March 14 through 19.

According to Ryan Hansen, the club's vice president, "It's a lot of work," although he feels the work will be worth it when the convention starts. "It will be a weeklong adventure."

Epsilon Tau Alpha, or ETA, is the local chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association. They are responsible for planning this event. This year's theme is "Port security, water and air," said Hansen.

The annual conference is a combination of physical competition and mental preparedness.

A firearm test will be assessed at the PSTC in a

"Police Pistol Combat" competition. The test is a series of distance and time challenges, as well as tests given using both the dominant hand and the weaker hand. Several of the contests of skill will be in a team participation format.

"Maybe even an all women's team," said Cruikshank enthusiastically.

An agility test will be administered at the Oregon Institute of Technology's gym blocks away from the firing range. This year the test given will be the Oregon Physical Abilities Test, or ORPAT, a test that all Oregon law enforcement personnel are required to pass.

The mental aspect of the conference is five tests - general knowledge, corrections, juvenile justice, police proce-

dures and law tests.

The conference will act as a job fair as well, allowing students from across the country to meet and create contacts with professionals at the event.

Estimated attendance will be anywhere from 500 to 1,000 students, instructors and speakers at the downtown Marriott Hotel.

Those in attendance will be given a walking map with local restaurants that are friendly to a student's budget. One such destination that both Cruikshank and Hansen mentioned is Voodoo Doughnut.

As far as organizing the conference, Hansen said of the whole club's desire to make this happen, "[It was] very, very impressive; we just take care of business."

Potential quake shakes up local Oregonians

By Erik Andersen
Associate News Editor

The buildings are falling all around and the ground shakes violently beneath you. Portland is completely devastated, and people are panicking. Sound like a movie? Think again; what was described was a very real earthquake that has happened in the past and will again in the future.

Roughly 320 years ago, the first European Americans in this region experienced a very violent earthquake. The quake felt by the early settlers came from what is now known as the Cascadian Subduction Zone, which sits just offshore of the Oregon Coast.

At that time, there were no instruments around to document the quake. So how do we know it happened? The natives weren't writing anything down. The knowledge of this massive earthquake was actually discovered in Japan where their early ancestors were writing history as it took place. Japan documented a huge tsunami of water that flooded many islands and towns on the Eastern coast roughly 320 years ago.

Since this discovery, scientists have been looking into the ground beneath the Cascadian Subduction Zone to figure out how often this type of quake occurs. The results have been with startled reactions as scientists discovered that this subduction zone tends to snap every 300 to 350 years.

Every town in any area prone to earthquakes must by law build structures that can withhold some earthquake damage but the older buildings did not go by this code and hardly any even today can hold up in a strong quake like an 8.5 on the Richter scale.

The size earthquake that is being predicted is anywhere between an 8.5 to a 9.5," said Sara Hoover, a geology instructor at Clackamas Community College. Hoover explained that we are trying to make preparations for a geological catastrophe by building our buildings and creating plans for such an event.

The coastal areas could be devastated. There is very little that coastal towns can do except evacuation plans and making sure people know what to do in the event of a large earthquake, although it isn't the quake that threatens the Coast.

Knowing the quake will be followed by a tsunami that will slosh out of coastal towns for miles, destroying everything that isn't built to withstand such an event.

One of the wake-up calls for the Pacific Northwest was the earthquake in Indonesia because it was basically the model we use. Look at the type of shaking, the type of earthquake, the plate boundaries that caused that earthquake, we're basically looking at the same scenario here in the Northwest," Hoover said.

Although a bit scary, it's important to realize that harm from earthquakes can be avoided simply taking precautions and knowing what to do in the event an earthquake does happen.

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