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Volleyball captain named Southern Region Player of the Week

By Pamela Hollis
The Clackamas Print

Last week Rachel Strong, captain of the Clackamas Community College women's volleyball team, was awarded West Athletic Association Community College's award Southern Region Player of the Week, because of her hard work and perseverance on and off the field.

"It's nice to be appreciated," said Rachel Woods, head coach of the women's team, said that Rachel really stepped up into the leadership position last week."

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the leadership
position last week.

Kathie Woods
head coach of women's
team

Rachel, who plays defense on the team, was born in Oregon City. With three older brothers, she has always been very competitive. Renae, Rachel's mother, tells Rachel that she is the one who pushes her to be the best. "She is a tomboy, but

she still wants to be treated like a girl," she said.

Rachel's competitive edge started back the first grade when she wrestled against boys while attending St. John the Apostle Catholic School. Her parents call these her "generic years," as she played often with the boys.

While in the first grade Rachel started playing T-ball on the boys' team. She started at third base but when the catcher went turkey hunting with his dad, she took over his position.

This started a small feud between her and the boys, but in the end, she won.

There was a time one of the boys pestered her too much and wouldn't stop. Strong talked to her dad and he told her that if the boy didn't stop, she could punch him. He didn't stop, so she followed through and punched him. The coaches and parents all saw what had been happening and no consequences were given to her, and she ended up with the nickname "Sweet Cheeks."

Competing with boys and having three older brothers, Rachel had to be strong.

In the fourth grade Rachel started playing volleyball, "and I've played ever since," she said. In fifth grade she played club volleyball as well and went on to play at Oregon City High School. Playing sports made the transition from a small private school to Oregon City High School a much easier process.

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Work-Study woes



John Petty Clackamas Print

Kari Tate, a Work-Study recipient, tends to the plants in the Clairmont greenhouses as part of her campus job. She is one of the 103 students who could receive Work-Study this year.

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

In these economically challenging times students of all ages are looking to get any financial aid available to them, but surprisingly this term there has been a perplexingly low amount of Work-Study students.

"When the economy is like this, (Work-Study students are) usually coming out of the woodwork," said Katie Hovanic, circulation coordinator for the Clackamas Community College Library. But surprisingly, at this late date in the fall term only about a quarter of eligible students have gotten jobs.

In interviews with Hovanic, Teacher's Aid Secretary Barbara Simington and Director of CCC Athletics Jim Martineau, each agreed that the lack of Work-Study students this fall term is unprecedented. In each of their departments the numbers of Work-Study students that they usually hire ranges from five to eight to 14, respectively, and at the time of the interview each had exactly zero work studies.

"It's the first ... (it's) never happened before," Simington said.

The supervisors directly involved with the hiring of Work-Study students expressed frustration with the

fact that none could be found. In fact, many suggested that they had students that really wanted positions but couldn't get them because the students were on the waitlist.

"It just seems odd that there are people who want to work here, but they can't get at it," Hovanic said.

Martineau commented on how his department had actively searched for eligible students to work, but couldn't find any. The CCC website dedicated to listing Work-Study positions clearly shows that for fall term there are lots of openings, and the supervisors appear to be only too willing to hire people on.

"We pretty much take everybody; it's not like we turn people away," said Hovanic.

To become eligible a student first must apply for Work-Study on his or her FAFSA. Only then will Work-Study be a financial aid option on a student's award letter. According to Financial Aid, the maximum amount a student can receive this year is \$2,400, which is set aside for them once they accept it on the award letter.

Tawnia Stauffer, CCC's Work-Study coordinator said that 103 students have money set aside for them for this year and only 27 of those students had jobs at the time of the interview. This means that Financial Aid has funding, but only about one

quarter of eligible students have jobs to earn it.

The problem isn't with lack of funding, but rather with poor communication. "We think the student should know the process like we do, and they don't ... it's kind of confusing. Sometimes some of the language we use ... doesn't get the message across," said Martineau.

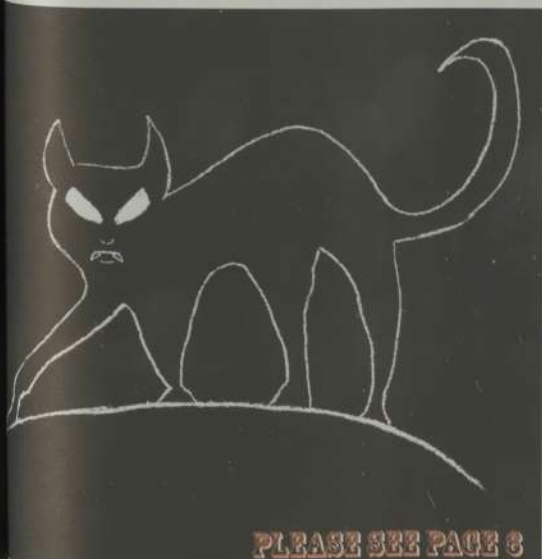
Stauffer agreed that the way the Work-Study process is communicated could always be improved upon. A big part of how the process is explained is through mandatory Work-Study orientations. Students are notified about these events by e-mail through their MyClackamas accounts. Stauffer said that there had been seven mandatory orientations this year starting in late June, and further said that "80 to 90 percent" of all eligible students had attended at least one orientation.

Limited to only eligible students who have actually been granted jobs, it is difficult to get a comprehensive understanding of their experience with the process. But generally the reports were positive.

Kim Miller, a Work-Study student in the Community Center, said, "It was very easy. (My supervisors) were very flexible with my schedule ... and made it work for me."

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WINTER HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST



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Illustration by Jaime Dunkle Clackamas Print