

# Thaw out while you chill out

By Mandie Gavitt  
The Clackamas Print

With the college's first late start day last week due to bad weather, there is no doubt that winter is here. Even before we had a chance to put our Christmas trees up or even stuff our stockings, the first snow had fallen. Ready or not, winter is here to stay, and it is time for students to find a way to stay warm or turn into a human popsicle.

Staying warm is an entirely new concept for me. Growing up in California, I saw winter as a chance to get away from 80-90 degree weather. We would get a couple of inches in the 60s, maybe 50s at night, a little extra fog and a little bit of rain. It was a welcomed thing, a chance to wear jeans and boots.

Snow was not a concept I understood. In my world, snow was something you saw in the movies or something sadistic parents took their children to, to punish them for all the bad things they did during the year by making them freeze. (In my defense, I had only seen snow twice before moving to Oregon.)

Now I know a handful of Oregonians upon reading this might think, "Well, why don't you just go home?" Yet, I am determined to stay. I am determined to make the full transition from Californian to Oregonian and join with all of you on the cold, rainy side.

I decided there is no better way to figure out how to survive than to ask those who have done it many times before. "Get a fireplace," suggested Austin Hensley, a renewable energy major. Unfortunately, I do not know how my apartment complex would react if I decided to build a fireplace in my apartment.

However, others offered their advice as well. "Wear wool socks and a coat," said Kristin Best, who is majoring in nursing. "Get coffee," offered up Jessica Lindsey who, hasn't yet started on a major. "Or if you are just sitting at home, adult up."

In Portland, the average highest temperature during the month of November is 52.4 degrees while the average low for the month is 42.8. However, starting as early as the 21st, we had lows as dramatic as 20 degrees. There is no doubt bundling up has been important.

Quickly, I had help. Armed with information and two Oregonian native roommates, I set out on a quest to become



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With snow falling before Thanksgiving Day, it is of the utmost importance to prepare yourself for the impending cold weather.

the most genuine Californian-turned-Oregonian there ever was. The first step was to find some clothing that would make bundling up much easier. A coat was the first order of business. Here in Portland, it is important that the coat you purchase is waterproof, but just a simple raincoat probably won't get you warm. It seems the best option you can find in a rain coat is one with a removable fleece. This makes the jacket multifunctional. It keeps you nice and toasty now as temperatures drop to below freezing but also separates into two separate functional coats for when the weather starts warming up in the spring.

The roommates then approached a much more sensitive issue. As everyone had been telling me for weeks, it was time for me to lose my flip-flops and start putting on closed-toed and waterproof shoes. I realized this was the time for me to cut my losses and make the sacrifice of my beloved collection of flip flops to avoid frostbite; I decided to buy boots. When buying boots one must consider the need for comfort and warmth. The boots should fit so that your heel does not move and your toes have enough space. Sounds easy right? Well, not if you are a child's size three.

To cut a long story short, it took two employees at Dick's, my roommates and me two hours to find boots that will fit my feet. Yet we persevered and now my flip-flops reside in the closet while I wear snow boots out in society.

With a coat and boots now in my possession, my roommates and I set out to get additional warm articles of clothing. We purchased hats, scarves, ear muffs, gloves and hand warm-

ing pouches. And though we originally planned to keep the heater off to save on the energy bill (no fireplace, remember) we have since overthrown that idea and rather quickly at that.

The moral of the story is that if you are going to move to Oregon, buy a pair of shoes that are not flip-flops, and if you are struggling to stay warm on this especially cold winter snuggle up with a buddy by a fireplace and drink some coffee. Never underestimate the power of winter coat and a good apartment heater.

Also with temperatures dropping so low this year be sure to keep yourself healthy. The time of year that the flu season usually peaks is around December. Dave Miller, a pharmacist at Fred Meyer, recommends that people make an extra effort to wash their hands frequently during cold and flu season as well as try to keep hands away from their nose, eyes and mouth.

"It's a hard thing to say this time of year, but you should probably avoid large crowds as that's where most viruses are caught. You should also be sure to get your yearly flu shot. There are a lot available this year so there's no excuse not to get one. Fred Meyer is offering them for \$19.99, the cheapest in town," Miller said.

Staying warm and staying healthy are two important components to enjoying your winter vacation. Though for some of us, staying warm is an entirely new concept it is an important one to grasp and grasp quickly as winter has arrived. And for those who are already well adjusted to the idea of winters that are actually cold, tune in next term to see if this Californian survived her first.

## Students remain active indoors

By Max Dorsey  
The Clackamas Print

Oregon weather seems to be bipolar. One day it's been icy and rainy. The other might have you locked in your car, cup of Joe in your hands, trying to keep warm. What's a student to do when they're stuck inside the Bill Community Center on a school day as it pours cats and dogs outside? Some like elephants and hippos?

Red Casison was seen reading a book, and James Petruska was caught reading his computer on his head to avoid boredom. Both are Clackamas Community College students.

"I like to) drink coffee, hang out and watch people teach each other while they're learning in their classes," said Arius Andino.

Maana Franklin, gets on her computer and "talks to friends."

Several people have even been seen playing games in the community center. Some go online, read or use the computer lab.

When students work on their homework until they get home, they snack on the cafeteria's food at circular café tables. This atmosphere can happen on any day, but the weather is forcing them to be

inside, the students of Clackamas are finding other ways to keep themselves busy.

Some crowds of people come inside to do other things. Even on a nice day, a crowd of "Magic: The Gathering" players sit in random places with their cards. They play all day until they have class. Some of the "Magic" players are students, but a few aren't. They come from their homes to play on campus. Eric Parin likes to play with his cards "All day, everyday."

"(I like to) play 'Magic,' or sit around and talk with friends," said Zach Cooper, a CCC student.

One group of students sets up a circle and jokes and talks about the issues of school and in their lives. Students often talk about registering for classes together.

If you're not one to sit all day, you could go to the Randall gym and pump up. If you seek culture, you could stay in Niemeyer Hall and check out the latest installation of art in the Alexander Gallery. You can check out a book in the library or study there. You can study in Streeter Hall, the math department building. You can hang out in the community center, the couches in Pauling and also in the Literary Arts Center in Roger Rook.

You can also have a laugh with the good-natured smokers; they're outside, rain or shine.

## SHOPPERS: Long lines faced

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No matter the reason, Black Friday never fails to draw a crowd. This year my roommates and I were in that crowd. My roommate's father offered to give us his old washer and dryer if we waited in line to buy him a new one, but Sears only had four available and offered no rain checks. Knowing that competition would be fierce we began camping out in front of Sears at 3 p.m., managing to be first in line.

With hot coffee and board games, the 13 hours went by surprisingly fast. When we got sick of waiting in line, we forced my roommate's husband to wait for us and we raced each other in the elevators of the parking structure. This resulted in security being called on me, but it was still worth it. We also watched a group of teenagers push a shopping cart up to the top of the parking structure and proceed ride it down, also resulting in security being called. There was obviously no shortage of entertainment.

The people in line were very friendly, so we spent a lot of time talking with the other shoppers. Of course, with talk comes rumors. Rumors circulated around the lines about a shooting at Target as well as a man running around hitting people in line with a baseball bat at Toys "R" Us. Though neither of these rumors has been confirmed, Black Friday is known not only for its deals but also its violence.

In 2008, a Walmart employee was trampled to death as crowds rushed into store in New

York. In the same event, a pregnant woman was badly injured. Also in 2008, two men shot each other in a Toys "R" Us. In 2006, a Circuit City store in Virginia had to call the police to calm the crowd that arrived to wait outside of the store. This resulted in two pepper spray balls being thrown into the crowd.

With cold temperatures, long hours and the possibility of violence, it is important to be prepared for Black Friday. Extra layers of warm clothing are important as are things that will keep you entertained. It's also important to scope out the area you will be camping out in beforehand to be sure that it is safe and well lit. Furthermore, make sure you go in a group.

My roommates and I had a relatively calm night despite the chaos that often occurs around Black Friday. We were able to get the things we needed and felt that the wait in line was worth it, even if that meant waiting in the cold and leaving on Thanksgiving dinner early.

Only one question remains: has Black Friday become more important to us than Thanksgiving Day itself? With so many people willing to give up their Thanksgiving so they can get the best deal I am curious if in a few years Thanksgiving itself will cease to exist and simply be known as Black Friday Eve.

Only time will tell which America values more: turkey or sales. It is possible that when the economy begins to go back up and fewer families are struggling Black Friday will lose its importance. Nevertheless, sometimes the deals are just too hard to pass up, and I did get my washer and dryer after all.