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Joshua Baird Clackamas Print

Phi Theta Kappa leaders discuss events and issues for the upcoming year. Meetings are held every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor

Phi Theta Kappa is more than a club; it's a way of life for many. According to Michelle Baker, the faculty adviser for PTK, the club is an "honor society specific to two year colleges with GPA requirements as well as membership requirements."

Built on four hallmarks of leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service, PTK members have a lot to be proud of.

"First of all, it's an academic pat on the back for your academics. (It's about) being in touch with others who have pride for academic work," said Megan Dickson, the club president.

There are a number of benefits that come from being a member of this group; among them are discounts on car insurance through Geico and discounted Dell computers.

Scholarships that are only available to PTK members are also an added bonus. "I would say it's the biggest draw to become a member," said Baker.

"I was invited to join. I'm trying to get scholarships (and) being involved will help me attain scholarships," said Spring Wedlund, who was attending her second meeting and was voted in as the new vice president secretary for Phi Theta Kappa's Clackamas Community College chapter.

Wedlund and two others were selected on Jan. 20 to take new

positions in the club, including Daniel Crooks as the vice president of promotions and Andrea Cox as vice president of fellowship.

Another benefit that may be less known is that as a member if you go into the government sector for a career, you may be able to get a higher pay grade than other entry level positions.

To become a member "at CCC, (you must) be invited, you have to have a 3.5 GPA," said Baker.

However, once you become a member you are allowed to drop down to a 3.25 GPA in case you have a bit of trouble when life comes your way. Over 200 of your classmates are already members of this group, though they are not active as members.

You may be wondering what you do if you are a member of this group. According to Baker, the group does a lot of activities such as collecting food, clothing and toiletries. They also take part in Relay for Life, a summer fundraising event for cancer research, and a weekly event called Potluck in the Park, which provides free hot meals to anyone in need every Sunday at 3 p.m. in downtown Portland.

The fee for joining the club is \$65 and after paying you are a lifetime member. Some of that fee goes to the national, regional and local chapters for scholarships and travel expenses for community service projects and other events.

PTK meets every Thursday at 3:30 in the fireside lounge, stop by and attend a meeting if you are interested in joining. Also don't forget to focus on the grades.

AU PAIR: Life in Switzerland

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Across from the old town is the design shopping area, Rive, just a few streets down from the lake. If you happened to need a baby Armani coat or a Gucci bag, this would be the place to go.

One thing I love about Geneva is how close together everything is. It seems though in 10 minutes I can get from one side of town to the other. This is partially because of the amazing public transport here; the trams and buses go all over and arrive very frequently.

On a nice day, I won't even bother with riding the bus or tram because it is so easy to walk or bike anywhere in Geneva.

Geneva is also the headquarters of EasyJet, a cheap European airline. I was to Rome for my twentieth birthday, a cost \$140 roundtrip.

Seeing the Roman Coliseum at night is something I would recommend to everyone. It is unreal to look at something you have been told about your entire life, something that is nearly 2,000 years old yet is still there in the middle of this bustling city.

Rome was described to me as museum city. This is completely true, as everywhere I looked I was seeing something ancient. Even the street signs looked old; instead of being attached to metal and sticking up from the ground, they are carved into the sides of buildings.

I'm just glad Rome was easy to access on foot and I didn't have to attempt to drive while there!

Another benefit of being here in Geneva is meeting other au pairs from all over Europe and knowing that in 10 years, I want to come back and visit my old friends. I will have a place to stay.

In October I was the American girl who had not left the country, now I have been to Switzerland, Italy, France and Germany and I am planning on going to Norway in July, Greece in August and hopefully Paris soon, considering it is only a three hour train ride.

- If you'd like to contact Abby or you have any questions about her time in Europe, please e-mail her at abbyneer@gmail.com.

New hip hop artist shows up over the next 'Horizon'



By Erik Andersen
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Growing up in South Florida, I was subjected to a myriad of musical styles as rich and diverse as the people that lived there. Of those styles, rap and hip hop have a heavier influence than most other genres on my life. I can remember the streets flooded with the thumps from earth-shaking subwoofers and the lyrical rhythm from such artists as Lupe Fiasco, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and countless others.

Although I find myself submerged in the classic rock era, from time to time I have been known to spit some Lil Wycle "Oxy Cotton" lyrics if the mood is just right. Rap and hip hop,

even if I try to deny it, are deeply rooted in my life and even play a role in my personality.

To me, this relatively young genre of music is just as important to the fans that listen to it as those who listen to, well, anything else. It's a way for those fans to escape for a moment the hell that life has to offer, or at least vent the heat that builds from it.

Music is ever-evolving, at least any good music is. The artist stepping into today's world of music must be aware and prepared to flow with the crowds. One such young, wise hip hop/R&B artist that I had a lengthy conversation with explained that evolution in his music is what drives the creativity within it.

Patrick Lamarr, or "Horizon" as he is known on stage, plans to attend Clackamas Community College to study music theory. Lamarr is a humble, talented artist with grade-A quality music, in my opinion. With his Facebook band page featuring songs titled "Pilots," "Clear Coastin'" and "Check One Two," it was also clear that I myself wasn't the only one who thought Horizon might have something going for him. The combined listens to all three songs were well into the thousands with many downloads and buys.

Horizon and I talked and laughed about the many stereotypes and stigmas that go with the genre and dis-

cussed the many life experiences and people that influence his clear and meaningful lyrical rhymes. When listening to Horizon's music, it's easy to point out that Lupe Fiasco and Ferrell weigh heavy on his style with even some hints of Kid Cudi.

Horizon is fortunate enough to have the ability to record in a studio which gives his music a quality advantage. Because of the pure confidence in his rhyming and dedication much like that of known artists in the medium of visual art, it goes without question that he would still be above many other 20-year-old hip hop grassroots musicians of today.

Now if it's hip hop and R&B that fills that gap in your life, I would strongly suggest opening your ears and listening to Horizon, because turning down the opportunity to vibe out to this young artist is not just a shame but quite possibly a music crime. To hear some of his work, go to facebook.com/horizon or myspace.com/horizonmusic.

- If you or someone you know is in a band or performs any type of music in Clackamas County or at Clackamas Community College, Erik would love to get in touch with you. Feel free to e-mail him at chiefed@clackamas.edu.



Photo Contributed by Patrick Lamarr