

BASEBALL ON
THE DOWNFALL
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JUICY
IDEAS
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Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Volume 44, Issue 20

The Clackamas Print

First copy FREE; additional copies 1¢

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International week

spices up student life

Wednesday, May 4

- 11:40 Art Exhibit
- 12:05 - 12:05 CCC Chamber Choir
- 12:45 - 12:45 Massana Kanneh Songs from Liberia and all African countries

Thursday, May 5

- 11:25 Rafaela de Yasmin PSU Instructor Flamenco Dance
- 11:55 - 11:55 Aztec Dancers
- 12:20 - 12:20 Dr. Andrés Berger-Kiss Bilingual Poetry Reading
- 12:50 - 12:50 ESL and International Students Presentation



Jane Rickenbaugh teaches dances of universal peace to Clackamas Community College students in the Bill Brod Community Center on Tuesday as a part of International Week.

Nathan Sturgess Clackamas Print

structor triggers state investigation of the college

By Brian Baldwin
News Editor

The state is investigating possible election law violations by Clackamas Community College instructor filed a complaint on April 11, the Secretary of State's Elections Division received a letter from Dean Darris, a full-time science instructor here at Clackamas. In the letter, Darris requested the state investigate whether Clackamas violated election laws regarding the college's bond measure on the May 17 ballot. Oregon law does not allow public employees to promote or protest during their work.

Darris submitted his complaint letter on April 11, according to Carla Corbin of the Secretary of State's office. Corbin is the compliance specialist in charge of the inquiry requested against Clackamas from the state's election division. "I submitted a complaint as an expert of public law," said Darris. "It is my considered opinion that the college has made a mockery of the difference between factual information and information that is of an advocacy nature. The law requires that whenever you present under public dollars and public facilities that the overall content of the information must be neutral and not appear in any way as advocacy or in any way influential." When presented with the comment that the college made a mock-

ery of the difference, CCC President Joanne Truesdell said, "People are entitled to their opinions." The college has attempted to prevent advocacy during the months leading up to the election, even having Truesdell explain the "dos and don'ts" of wearing the college's bond measure buttons at a College Council meeting. Darris highlighted several sections of the CCC bond website that he believed were in violation of this statute. "I believe that the entire web page (of the) Frequently Asked Questions violates that neutrality clause," said Darris. "(They) have a 'yes' letter on the website that they have since taken down. If you go into other news you'll see a series of advocacy pieces. The law is very

strict but this is why you turn it in to the proper authorities." Truesdell commented that the "yes" letter in question was a letter to the editor that was automatically posted to the bond website from a news feed the college has set up for articles about the college. The letter to the editor was posted and was brought to Truesdell's attention a few days later. The college took down the letter days before the college received the request for information from the Secretary of State's office. According to Corbin, the Secretary of State investigates each complaint that it receives from citizens. As they investigate the documents provided, Corbin will write a letter of determination and the college will either be found not in

violation of the election or will be fined. "There is a... penalty of \$75 for the first (offense) with a maximum of \$250," said Corbin. Truesdell commented that she felt that the inquiry into the college's informational packets is a good process. "I think that is why the Secretary of State's office exists, to respond to people's concerns. We haven't been aware of them prior to the Secretary of State's office providing us with that information. That's why these things exist, in case someone has a question about it," said Truesdell. According to Corbin, the inquiry will take about a week and after she writes her letter of determination she will consult Oregon's attorney general.