



'American dream... In Cash We Trust' by Derrick Bogue is one of the Student Art Show works on display at Clackamas Community College.

## Student Art Show

An artists' reception will open a Student Art Show at Clackamas Community College on Thursday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Alexander Gallery in the Niemeyer Center on the school's Oregon City campus.

Showcasing the finest work by students who have taken art courses at the college over the last

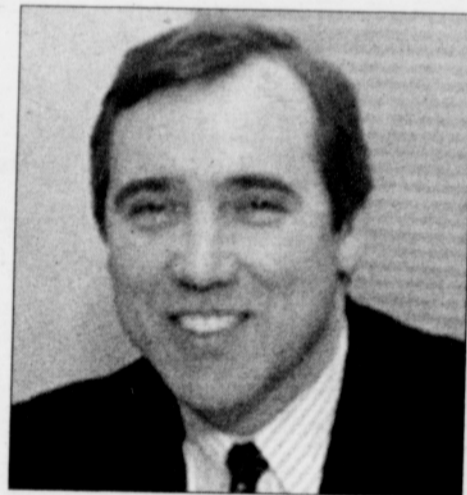
year, the exhibition which runs through June 6 will include a variety of disciplines including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry, print making, design and digital media.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibitions are open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

## Addressing the Student Debt Crisis Bill would reduce burden for borrowers

Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley teamed up with Senator Elizabeth Warren last week to introduce legislation which would allow students paying high interest rates on student loans to refinance both public and private federal loans at a fixed, lower interest rate.

"In this country, if you work hard, there should be a path to a better future,"



Jeff Merkley

Merkley said. "As the first in my family to attend college, I'm well aware of the financial challenges but also of the tremendous pay-offs of higher education. Making college affordable is essential to creating a stronger middle class. We cannot let college become a luxury. We cannot let fear of debt hold back our kids from pursuing their dreams."

The legislation builds on Merkley's past efforts to promote college affordability and to reduce student debt. The lawmaker is the

lead sponsor of the Pay It Forward Guaranteed College Affordability Act, which would explore the model developed by Oregon students to replace loans with "Pay It Forward" grants in exchange for a commitment to pay a small percentage of future income back into a fund for the next generation.

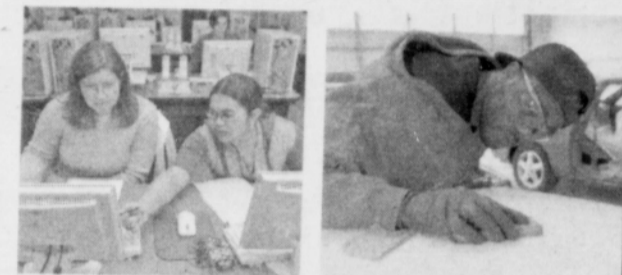
Student loan debt has nearly tripled since 2004, with the overall student debt held by Americans topping \$1 trillion and the average Oregon graduate with loans facing more than \$24,000 in debt upon graduation.

The Bank on Students Emergency Loans Refinancing Act would permit eligible student borrowers to refinance their loans this year at a rate of 3.86 percent, a rate approved by both Republicans and Democrats last summer under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act.



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