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# THE ADVOCATE

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## Chief operating officer 'no longer with MHCC'

*MHCC President John Sygielski said Michael Wolfe, MHCC's chief operating officer, left Wednesday because of a personnel matter*

RON J. RAMBO JR.  
*The Advocate*

Michael Wolfe is no longer Mt. Hood Community College's Chief Operating Officer effective Wednesday afternoon, MHCC President John Sygielski said Thursday.

Sygielski sent out an all-staff e-mail Thursday at 10:27 a.m. with the following message:

"Effective yesterday, Michael Wolfe no longer serves as chief operating officer and vice president of administrative services at Mt. Hood Community College."

In the e-mail, Sygielski does not specify Wolfe's reason for leaving the college, or whether he resigned or was fired.

"It's a personnel matter, it's confidential," said Sygielski. "We're just looking at the organization with the budget in mind, trying to move forward . . . everything is ultimately financial."

Wolfe was scheduled to present the proposed budget at the budget meeting Wednesday evening with JoAnn Zahn, director of fiscal operations, budget and auxiliary services, and Jennifer DeMent, purchasing, grants and contracts manager, but was not present.

"Yesterday was my last day," Wolfe said Thursday morning. "I absolutely enjoyed my tenure at MHCC. I learned a lot and grew a lot as a person. There are a lot of opportunities available for me now."

Wolfe said he left on good terms, but would not specify his reason for leaving the position.

"That is something you would have to ask Dr. Ski," he said.

Wolfe was hired in 2007 and took over Gary Murph's position when he was selected as interim president. Wolfe was on the administrative bargaining team for faculty contract negotiations until October, when Sygielski removed him.

"I will miss MHCC, certainly," said Wolfe.

Sygielski did not specify a replacement for Wolfe in the e-mail, but said, "Effective today and until further notice, Laurie Miller, confidential executive assistant to the chief operating officer and vice president of administrative services, will report to JoAnn Zahn."



MICHAEL WOLFE

*The ancient Greeks had split beliefs on the powers of the number 'zero.' The Dead Mathematicians Society will discuss its importance Tuesday*

SANNE GODFREY  
*The Advocate*

The MHCC community will have a chance Tuesday to find out why nothing is important.

Nothing . . . as in zero.

Understanding the concept of zero led to invention of a numbering system that works well, according to math instructor Jon Spindor, and that's why it will be the star of the show next week.

"Zero" will be the main focus of a Dead Mathematicians Society event Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. in Room 1710. But it won't be all numbers and formulas and equations.

Spindor will be joined by Andy Gurevich, MHCC philosophy and religions instructor. The first half of the event will be a mathematical view presented by Spindor, while the second half will be a philosophical perspec-

See **ZERO** on page 5

## Budget uncertainties still loom after committee approval

RON J. RAMBO JR.  
*The Advocate*

With Oregon's budget facing massive deficit problems and community college funding continuing to plummet, Joann Zahn, director of fiscal operations, budget and auxiliary services, has created MHCC's 2009-2010 budget on an expected state fund of \$440 million, although that number could drop to as low as \$375 million, according to MHCC President John Sygielski.

"There is a free fall that could happen for community colleges," Sygielski said during Wednesday's budget meeting. "Oregon could be looking at close to a \$5 billion shortfall for its entire state budget. We (the college) have been developing a new three-year plan for community outreach, looking under every rock to determine how to serve communities and students during these tough times."

After the budget meeting, Sygielski said that he was expecting the community college funding to drop from the current \$440 million that is expected, despite State Senator and Board member Rod Monroe's efforts to prevent losses, to somewhere in the \$415 to \$420 million range.

"There are colleges right now that are preparing their budgets based on a really worst-case scenario of \$375 million," said Sygielski. "I think more realistically, we're looking at a loss

*MHCC Budget Committee approved the 2009-10 budget 'without knowing for sure what variances there will be' in terms of state support*

of another \$20 to \$25 million from the state budget."

During the meeting, Monroe, who was present via conference call, told Zahn that

the \$440 million budget was a "sound assumption."

"It's a sound and reasonable assumption," said Monroe. "There has been an unprecedented spike in enrollment state-wide. Winter enrollment is dramatically exceeding fall term, as I've seen increases of between 5 to 30 percent. Oregonians are looking to community colleges to gain more skills; it would be tragic to have to turn these people away. Education must lead the way out of this recession and I'm optimistic that it will."

Zahn said that the budget was built without the collective bargaining figures that are \$1 million to \$2 million, prompting Board Chair Duke Shepard to ask why.

"There are too many questions involved to really include those numbers," said Zahn. "We don't know how big or small the number will be yet. It depends on what happens with faculty."

"It's difficult to build a budget without knowing for sure what variances there will be," said Zahn after the meeting. "The budget will change for sure if there is new information as far as state support - good or bad - or if there's news with collective bargaining. The budget right

See **BUDGET** on page 5

## EDITORIAL

### Helpful tips on how to be eco-friendly this Earth Day

With Earth Day around the corner, the idea of going green is stronger than ever. Everywhere you look it's Earth Day this or Earth Day that, but what does it all mean?

How does someone actually go green without sacrificing his or her entire way of life?

Well, here at The Advocate, we understand your confusion and are here to help. Below are our suggestions on how to go green without going insane.

- Buy reusable bags for groceries. This doesn't cost a lot of money and certain stores even give you a discount if you bring in your own bags.
- Brush your teeth while you're in the shower. This will not only save water and energy, it will also save time. Who knows, you might even have fun.
- Turn off the lights when you go to sleep. Sure, some of you might be scared, but if someone is going to break into your home, the light isn't going to stop them.
- Walk or bike to work or school. This is not only going to be energy-efficient, but it is also a healthy exercise, which most of us could probably use.
- Re-use your water bottle. Sure, water is healthy but the plastic it comes in is not so much.
- Rent movies and books, or resell your schoolbooks. This too can save money. Plus most movies aren't worth owning and, with services like Netflix, renting movies is easier than ever (and cheaper.)
- Use both sides of paper. Although some instructors might not accept homework turned in this way, it would save paper if preliminary drafts could be printed double-sided.
- Recycle. Used pop cans and water bottles are worth 5 cents and by saving all these products and returning them to the store, you get what you paid for and you help keep our planet greener.
- Get your neighbors involved and combine your shopping trips to save fuel. Also, don't idle the car for longer than a minute to reduce carbon monoxide and other fumes emitted by the vehicle.
- Open windows and close the blinds during the warmest parts of the day to reduce the energy used by air conditioners.

While these may seem simple, implementing these practices into your daily life will make all the difference.

By following these simple ideas and any other you can think of, anyone and everyone can make April 22 an eco-friendly, earth-focused day.



## Playoffs: Here we come



## Blazers better than ever



JON FUCCILLO  
*The Advocate*

Fans better believe it - Rip City is headed back to the promised land for the first time since the 2002-03 season and the Blazers are riding on high energy and even higher expectations.

And what a way to finish the regular season Wednesday night in front of a sold out crowd of 20,652 people at the Rose Garden with an absolute a\*\* whipping 104-76 win over the Northwestern Division Champion Denver Nuggets. (Including six three-pointers from Rudy Fernandez who set a new rookie record of shots made from behind the arc, 159 of 398.)

The Blazers clinched the fourth seed in the West with a 54-28 record and have home-court advantage against the Houston Rockets in the first round of action.

I keep hearing all the fears of Blazer fans saying "we didn't want the Rockets in the first round." To be honest, I am ready to take on anybody with the momentum we have going into the playoffs.

As long as Mr. Roy and his youngsters can keep up the intensity and stay healthy and more physical than ever, this team stands a fighting chance.

The key to beating the Rockets isn't having Brandon Roy hit an amazing half court shot with no time left. You have to get Yao Ming in early foul trouble and get in the heads of Ron Artest and Shane Battier. Plus the Rockets have the curse of T-Mac, although he's injured, and his first-round phobia (can't get past the first round). Even though he isn't playing he is still on the roster. A helpful hint for the Rockets: keep T-Mac away from

the team.

Another key to getting past the Rockets is to get the two-headed monster Joel Przybilla and a semi-healthy Greg Oden involved as much as possible.

Oden, who due to various injuries gathered comparisons to the seven-footer Sam Bowie, the man selected over Michael Jordan in the 1984 draft, is finally coming to life and getting more playing time day in and day out.

Oden was selected over the Oklahoma City Thunders' Kevin Durant who exploded right from the get-go winning Rookie of the Year in 2007-08 and earning all-star honors this season.

I hate to break it to Durant, who probably couldn't agree with me more, but making the playoffs and being in contention for a title is much better than any individual award.

Between the two big guys, they should be able to hold the seven-time all-star Ming to a less forceful presence down low. In three games this season against the Rockets, the Blazers held Ming to 16.3 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game which are both under his season averages of 19.7 ppg and 9.9 rpg.

As a Portland-born child and now at 22 years of age, I have held faith in my Blazers and said right from the get-go that the team would make the postseason this year. I would like nothing more than to get through the first round and prepare for a championship. It sounds like a lot to ask, and it is, but let's bring home a title.

Now is the time to shine more than ever. Forget finishing the season 26 games over .500. Let's focus on the now! Let's get past the jitters and the excitement and start thinking playoff-minded basketball. It's what separates the big guys from the little guys.



## Submissions

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest columns for publication in The Advocate. All submissions must be typed, include the writer's name, phone number, address and major (if applicable). Phone numbers and addresses will not be printed unless requested. Original copies will not be returned to the author. The Advocate will not print any unsigned submissions.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and guest columns should not exceed 600. The decision to publish is at the discretion of the editorial board and on a space-available basis. The Advocate reserves the right to edit for style, punctuation, grammar and length.

Please bring submissions to The Advocate in Room 1369, or e-mail them to [advocatt@mhcc.edu](mailto:advocatt@mhcc.edu). Digital submissions preferred. Submissions must be received by noon Tuesday on the week of publication, in order to be considered.

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## ZERO: A religious and mathematical experience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive offered by Gurevich. "I want to discuss some of the reasons why zero took so long to take hold mathematically and look into why zero wasn't necessary for so long," Spindor said. "It really was a big leap to discover something that represents nothing. Now that we are comfortable with zero, and have really never known life without zero, it's kind of difficult to think of life without it."

Archeologists found proof of the number zero dating from about 700 B.C. Babylonian mathematicians used zero as a symbol to indicate the space between sexagesimal numerals. Sexagesimal is a numeral system with 60 as the base.

"I want to show why zero is so important to our mathematics and how it helps us every day," Spindor said. "There are also some troubling aspects of zero that I would like the audience to play with, such as why can't we divide by zero? What is 0^0 (zero to the zeroth power)? What is 0/0 (zero divided by zero)?"

Ancient Greeks were unsure about the status of zero as a number and by the medieval period, religious arguments about the nature and existence of zero started to develop.

"While I will bring in some topics relating to calculus, most of the math will be very accessible. If someone doesn't understand all of the math, he or she can just tune me out until it's Andy's turn," said Spindor. He said the seminar is designed

for a general audience, not just mathematicians.

"Zero was a long ignored and even (a) shunned idea that finally took hold both mathematically and religiously," he continued.

"While some numbers are extremely important in mathematics (such as one, pi, e and i), I don't think any have the same significance philosophically.

"Something that represents nothing is really kind of a weird thing and it turns out it is a very powerful and important thing. The acceptance of zero really did change the way we view the world," said Spindor.

The concept of zero as a number and not merely a symbol for separation is attributed to India where calculations were carried out using zero.

The event is part of the ongoing Infinite Enrichment series from the Dead Mathematicians' Society.

However, the class event will be different from a math course because the event will be purely for intellectual stimulation. A math course has a set curriculum with goals and outcomes that students must master before going on to the next level, Spindor said.

"This particular even will be unique because it addresses a mathematical topic from both a mathematical and religious perspective," Spindor said. "We all take zero for granted and this will be an opportunity to bring to light a few of its significant aspects."

## BUDGET: Limited funding creates uncertain budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

now is not accounting for layoffs. It's a framework and has significant opportunity for expenditure changes. We as a college have choices to make, and must work collaboratively."

Before voting for adoption of the budget, Shepard said that if he weren't the chair, he would vote no.

"I disagree with not including the contractual numbers into the budget, so I would not vote for a budget that has the opportunity to significantly change," said Shepard.

The budget was approved 5-0, with Brian Freeman and Bob Morris absent from the meeting.

Board member Dave Shields, after voting yes, said, "I don't remember a time when there were so many undecideds. We are obligated to make this budget at this time, but the organization requiring us to do so (the state) is not giving us the information we need to make these decisions. This is an educated guess."

Sygielski said after the meeting that the budget proposal was "closer to concrete than a hypothetical."

"Rod (Monroe) is going to try to get us as much funding as possible, I know that," said Sygielski. "But I still don't know if that's going to be enough. My gut tells me we'll be under \$440 million. Intuitively, I'd expect \$415 to \$420 million is a safer estimate."

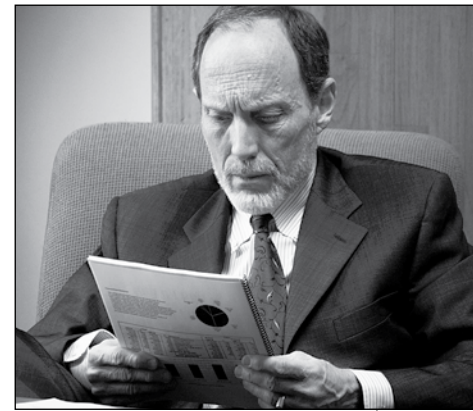
"We'll have a better idea of our funding after a few things happen: the state tells us

how much we're getting, we have new ideas and ways to generate revenue and cut costs, and the constituency groups know what they're going to be doing," said Sygielski. "All of our groups agree that we want to do everything to not harm our students."

Sygielski said that any layoffs or giving back of salary or workdays was up to the constituency groups.

"What we can do to collectively keep the institution as whole as possible would be key."

Sygielski and Zahn both agreed that the budget proposal was the best that could be done with the limited resources available to them. The budget will need to be finalized and balanced, by state law, at the June 10 board meeting.



Brett Stanley/The Advocate

Board member Ralph Yates looks through the budget proposal during Wednesday's budget meeting.

# MHCC Forensics team breaks the competition

SANNE GODFREY  
The Advocate

The Mt. Hood Community College Forensics team had the most event breaks of any Northwest school at the Phi Rho Pi Nationals last weekend in downtown Portland, according to Forensics coach Shannon Valdivia.

An event break is a term used to describe when a competitor advances from prelimi-

nary rounds to elimination rounds, or from one elimination round to the next.

"The highlight was having the three breaks in Oral Interpretation, that's quite an accomplishment as the Northwest's last breaks in Oral Interpretation were about 10 years ago," said Valdivia.

The Forensics team currently has 12 participating students and five competed at the Phi Rho Pi Nationals.

Sam Pagano earned a bronze medal in the Individual Programmed Oral Interpretation and the Extemporaneous Speaking event. Heidi Miller and Genia Findley both earned bronze medals in the Prose Interpretation event.

The team of Badger Moore and Melissa Lucas earned bronze in the Parliamentary Debate.

"We had a young team and they have

performed beyond my expectations," said Valdivia.

The Forensics team earned two bronze sweepstakes awards for medium-sized teams in both individual events and debate.

The team will compete next at the Northwest Forensics Conference Community College Championships at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Wash. on April 24 and 25.

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## Part-time faculty contract negotiations waiting on set dates

CHELSEA VAN BAALEN  
The Advocate

The bargaining teams for the management and part-time faculty are looking for dates to meet to negotiate a new part-time faculty and tutor contract, according to Daryle Broadsword, dean of business, information systems, health and physical education.

"We're trying to set up some dates (so) that we can get moving," Broadsword said.

Broadsword is one of three on the bargaining team for the management. Larkin Franks, interim vice presi-

dent of instruction, and JoAnn Zahn, director of fiscal operations, budget and auxiliary services, are also on the management team.

Representing the part-time instructors and tutors are Marilyn Pitts, part-time faculty and tutor association president and G.E.D. instructor; Sean Wilcox, ESL & ENL instructor; and Lonnie Breninger, psychology instructor.

"We've been carefully reviewing the current PTFA (part-time faculty and tutor) contract, MHCC full-time and classified contracts," Pitts said, "and contracts at

Portland Community College and Clackamas Community College.

"Even though these are exceedingly tough economic times, we're looking forward to the best experience of working with our colleagues to provide the best contract possible for our part-time faculty and tutors," Pitts said.

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# ORGANIC LIFESTYLES COME TO CAMPUS IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY

Story and photos by Reed Shackelford

## State-of-the-art Sustainability, Health and Safety program brings green practices to MHCC

While hugging trees, riding bikes, and buying organic products might seem eco-friendly to some people, the students of MHCC's Sustainability, Health and Safety program know the real meaning of being green. And having one of the most unique and diverse sustainability programs west of the Mississippi might be the reason.

"The variety of knowledge that we're getting is amazing," said sophomore George Lee. "There's no other program like it around."

The Sustainability, Health and Safety (SHS) program offers students an in-depth, diverse and interwoven curriculum that sets it apart from any other environmental science program on the west coast. Covering topics like carbon footprints, hazardous materials, sustainable living, the environment, ecology, water treatment, industrial hygiene, natural resources, alternative energy, health, safety, risk management, and environmental engineering, just to name a few.

The curriculum of the program is designed and taught by program director and instructor Javid Mohtasham with a simple philosophy in mind: "Greenness comes by observing all of it, not only one aspect."

"With sustainability, health and safety, you have to do them all at the same time in order to be effective and really green," says Mohtasham. "For example, if your work environment is not healthy or your work environment is not safe, you can't be green, because you're not sustainable."

This merger of philosophies along with the diverse range of subject matter separates Mt. Hood's program from any other environmental science program in the country.

"It's one of a kind," said Mohtasham. "Honestly, what they learn they will not learn at any four-year colleges. The SHS program is the only academic program where graduates qualify to apply for jobs in lots of (different) fields, while this is not the case for any other academic program within any college or university across the Pacific Northwest or even the nation."

Many students acknowledge this fact, based on the variety of applicable on-the-job knowledge and tools they receive.

"He (Mohtasham) really focuses on what he thinks is necessary," said sophomore Tyler Handy. "He's not going to teach a whole bunch of extra stuff, but if we did have questions that we wanted to know more about then he would go more into depth."

"It (the curriculum) is all encompassing for the needs of the field," added Handy about the program. "It's not enough to just study chemistry or just study the environment, but also how it correlates with the safety aspects and the safety regulations along with environmental regulations and how just knowing both and being able to put them together is really beneficial for the student to be an employee in a variety of fields."

But while the program may be strong, Mohtasham admits it's not a golden ticket to employment. "I would not say to a student that when you leave this program the job comes to you on a silver platter, but if you want a job, the job exists. Because at this time and age, with the direction we are going there is no way that any company or organization can claim that they don't care about health, safety, sustainability and environmental issues."

This point is echoed by Eve Tahminciogel, a reporter from MSNBC, that within the next decade there will be over 3 million new "green collar" jobs across the country, with as many as 100,000 in the next several years alone.

A key element of the program's education comes from guest lectures set up by Mohtasham's wide range of contacts in the field. Lecturers ranging from top people from the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), to the head of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), to environmental engineers, all of whom donate their time because of how important and progressive the program is, according to Mohtasham.

"The best thing is, he (Mohtasham) has guest speakers come in from the fields so we get the first-hand knowledge of what is going on out there," said Lee. "It's done a good job of preparing me. I mean, we've had the best people



JAVID MOHTASHAM

from each field come in and teach us."

"My program without the help of professionals," said Mohtasham, "would not be in existence today."

Besides tackling the idea of sustainability in the classroom, Mohtasham and the SHS program are responsible for bringing MHCC to the forefront of hands-on sustainability training with the advent of a biodiesel fuel lab and the sustainability and community garden at MHCC.

The two projects, both envisioned and designed by Mohtasham and his students, are aimed toward helping make MHCC a sustainable campus, as well as make the program "it" in the Pacific Northwest" for sustainability training.

"With my ego, I would like to see the program be like something you would see at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) or Harvard," says Mohtasham.

So far, so good.

"To a degree, we are the first college in the state of Oregon which is going to have a biodiesel training facility on the campus," said Mohtasham.

"I got the idea at a meeting in February, 2006 about the concept of sustainability. I heard from one of the attendees at the event that they were talking about their cafeteria and that they wanted to make it to be completely self-sufficient and become 'green', and all they were concerned with was vegetable oil.

"And then it clicked to me that vegetable oil can be converted into what? Bio-diesel.

"What I did is I took this idea back to my class and I told them 'I need your help to make this dream into a reality.' Then six of my students (James Schutten, Tyler Fisk, Nathan Watson, Chelsea Bartlett, Regalada Lombardi and Frank Hyatt) started to get together with me and we started to come up with a proposal, a design plan," said Mohtasham. "They were really the founding fathers. Without their help, I would not have been able to do what I did."

After just under a year of the then-administration mulling the idea over, Mohtasham got a helping hand from the college's then new Chief Operating Officer Michael Wolfe.

"He was very, very gracious and accommodating. He removed that obstacle that was 'don't do anything, forget it, we don't want to do anything.' He was the one that sat down with me and paved the road and made that project into a reality. If it wasn't for Wolfe, (Director of Facilities Management) Richard Byers, and (Associate Director of Facilities Management) Russell Johnson, none of this would be possible."

And now the dream is a reality.

"Right now everything is ready but we have not produced or made any biodiesel. The plan is to have some sort of collaboration with the cafeteria, as well as (the restaurant) Geno's and all of those other places around campus and collect their oil and then convert it to bio-diesel. The culture behind this, in

specific, is to become some kind of training center for the public.

"We plan to open this with a celebration on May 14," Mohtasham said.

Along with the realization of the plan hatched by former students, current SHS students are working on a sustainability training tool of their own: The sustainability and community gardens.

"Several of my students are heavily involved in that project. Tyler Handy, George Lee, Susan Baker, and Dave Morgan, and these people are helping me out with the design and the clean up and all of this," said Mohtasham.

On site with the bio-diesel fuel lab, located next to the horticulture and fisheries building, the garden takes up the lot behind the green houses and half of the main green house.

"I thought, why not take over those two spaces, the green house and land behind it, and turn it into the community or sustainability garden. And it could become some kind of a training garden for students," said Mohtasham.

Lee said the program was originally a task overseen by the Green Team, but after a year or two of no progress, the college turned the project over to Mohtasham and his students.

"The college gave Dr. J (Mohtasham) this project to see if students in his program wanted to take on designing and choosing where the garden would be. So we did that as kind of a final project," said Handy about how the task came to them.

The group of students was given the task of designing the garden and a proposal to show the administration in the fall of 2008.

"I thought it went well, everybody seemed interested in it," said Lee about the meeting. "We got the go ahead, now we're just waiting on the weather."

Mohtasham said, "we are working right now with Facilities, and Facilities is accommodating us to be able to work and make the whole thing ready."

The goal is to make the project 100 percent sustainable, involving green practices and the school's programs.

"We are hoping that we would be able to drag the cafeteria into this scene as well. And then the cafeteria could use that piece of land to plant different kinds of vegetation that they would be able to use in the cafeteria for the food services. Instead of going outside (of MHCC) they could use that facility," said Mohtasham. "And as well we can use that facility for the little kids in the new day care facility the school is planning to build."

This type of multipurpose approach is what highlights the project and program itself.

"The kind of wish list that I have for the sustainability gardens in a realistic world is too expensive, and we decided that if we want to wait for that wish list to become reality it may take another couple years," said Mohtasham. "We are hoping that we can start at least some of the planting this coming spring to show some kind of activities going on over there, and then each term we can do some upgrades and then within the next one or two years hopefully it becomes the jewel that we are hoping for it to be."

Once the "jewel" is completed, the community garden project, along with the bio-diesel fuel lab will work together to be the trademark of the SHS program, and a clear step toward making the campus a sustainable entity.

"I think that it (the program) might really be on the school's interest to appear as a green college or environmentally concerned college campus," said Handy. A concern that might take more weight with the changing world.

"Javid (Mohtasham) has done a great job with the program," said former MHCC student and environmental engineer Steve Wesley. "I graduated before he came, but I come back to do guest lectures, and it's obvious that his students are well-educated. The program covers so much more than when I was here."

For more information on Sustainability, Health and Safety, contact Dr. Javid Mohtasham at 503-491-7440.

### EARTH DAY... A LOOK BACK

-Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year to mark the anniversary of the environmental movement of 1970.

-Earth Day was founded by Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, who proposed the first nationwide environmental protest.

-On April 22 in 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. This led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.

-The United Nations celebrates an International Earth Day each year on the March equinox, a tradition that was founded by peace activist John McConnell in 1969.



Part of the biodiesel fuel lab located next to the community garden site near Fisheries. The educational training site will open May 14 for converting vegetable oil into biodiesel fuel.

### CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mt. Hood Community College is celebrating with a few activities to help kick off earth week on campus.

On Tuesday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be several booths with environmental information set up in the Main Mall on campus. The booths will include information about alternative energy, natural home gardening, composting, organic food and more.

On Friday, April 24, from noon to 1 p.m., you can watch the television special "Earth in the Hot Seat," about the implications of climate change and its effects on the Earth. Also available to view is the Disney movie "Walle" on Friday night from 7 to 9 p.m. Both films are free and open to the public and will be shown in the Visual Arts Theater.

On Saturday, April 25, from 9 to 11 a.m., you can join other community members in cleaning up the college campus in keeping with the theme of the week. The group will meet at the corner of Stark and Troutdale Road in Gresham.

The sustainability and community garden site, located next to the horticulture and fisheries building. Planting will begin sometime in late Spring.



DESIGN BY JAKE FRAY

## Antigone set design takes a page out of Greek theater playbook

CHELSEA VAN BAALEN  
*The Advocate*

When designing the set for the spring production of "Antigone," Daryl Harrison-Carson, theater technical director, found it was more about what she didn't want the set to convey.

"The set can't convey too much or it'll get in the way," Harrison-Carson said of the play set to open April 29 at 8 p.m.

Harrison-Carson focused on creating "an open place that can be anywhere. There's no time period. We didn't set it in ancient Greece."

The set is centered on a platform, taking inspiration from MH-CC's Main Mall.

"It was a discussion Rick (Zimmer, theater director) and I had last spring," Harrison-Carson said.

Zimmer said of the Main Mall, "I saw the circles surrounded by the light posts and thought immediately of Greek theater."

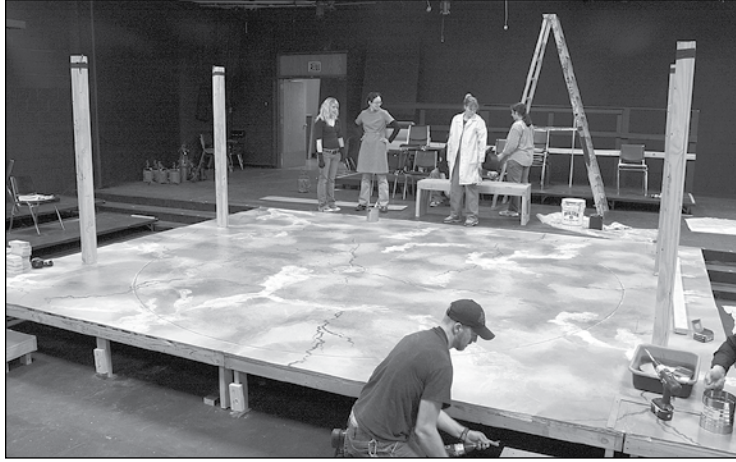
Zimmer also said he thought about moving the production outside, but said he chose a different route because the actors would have been forced to use microphones.

Instead, the set was moved to the Studio Theater, still with its Main Mall-inspiration, with the platform resembling marble. Aside from the historical context, Harrison-Carson said the marble represents more than architecture.

Harrison-Carson compared the set to Antigone herself, saying, "(It's) this really solid thing that should be permanent, but it's cracked and bleeding."

"She was doomed from the beginning," Harrison-Carson said.

Another aspect of the set is that



Photos by Chelsea Van Baalen/The Advocate  
Above: Daryl Harrison-Carson (white coat) works with students on the theater-in-the-round style stage.

Right: Ian Countryman and Beverly Burris paint the set of Antigone.

audience seating will surround the platform, a technique called theater-in-the-round.

"We haven't run into any trouble," Harrison-Carson said of constructing the set, adding that the "main limitation is time. We have to work very quickly," but that "everyone's working diligently."

"The set has to be configured so that you can aim light at the people (on stage) without blinding the audience," Harrison-Carson said. Jamie Bradley, the electrician for the production, added, "We run out of lights really quickly. There's not a lot of room for anything special."

According to Zimmer, the traditional blocking styles also were modified to accompany the arena-style seating.

"The very first thing is the actors writing down movements," Zimmer said. In traditional blocking,



there is upstage and downstage; however, "In-the-round it's all 360 degrees." Zimmer had the actors establish their blocking "based on where in the clock dial they were."

"We actually did it once before with Company of Wayward Saints," Harrison-Carson said. She added that the comedy is much different from "Antigone." The set consisted of a wagon that came apart and was

## Genesis keeps the beat



Photos by Valerie Johnson/The Advocate  
Genesis performs at a concert in the Visual Arts Theater with over 10 other Northwest universities and community colleges.



"an engineering feat," according to Harrison-Carson.

She said construction for "Antigone" was going smoothly. "I'd like to see the rest of it completed by the middle of next week, by April 22." She said she would still "knock on wood."

Until then, Harrison-Carson focuses on constructing a set that

doesn't give way to any specific place or time.

"With Greek theater, you can decide it doesn't relate to you because it took place so long ago," Harrison-Carson said. "The audience can focus more on the relationships of the characters instead of focusing on where they are and what time period they are in."

- For a comprehensive review of the new theatrical release "State of Play," starring Russell Crowe and Rachel McAdams, check out [advocate-online.net](http://advocate-online.net)!

## This Weekend in Entertainment

- Lez Zeppelin, a female Led Zeppelin cover band, is performing at the Aladdin Theater tonight. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$15.

- Greensky Bluegrass is performing tonight at McMenamins Bagdad Theater. The show starts at 9:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$12. The show is 21 and older.

- Spinal Tap, "Unwiggled and Unplugged," is performing at the Keller Auditorium Sunday. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$45 to \$55. The trio will be performing songs from "This is Spinal Tap" and "A Mighty Wind," both mockumentaries starring the group as two different bands.

- Queensryche is performing at the Roseland Theater Saturday. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$37-\$50. The band is on their "American Soldier Tour" in support of their new album by the same name, however the group will also be performing extended "suites" from their albums "Empire" and "Rage For Order."

- Comedian Joel McHale is performing at the Arlene Schmitzer Concert Hall tonight. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$41.50.

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# Saints win easy in 'slug fest' over Titans

JON FUCCILLO  
The Advocate

The Saints baseball team is riding a 10-game winning streak and improved to 12-1 in conference play after beating the Titans of Lane Community College in a doubleheader on Tuesday at Oslund Field.

The bats got going right out of the gate and the Saints picked up 22 runs on 27 hits against the Tritons in the two games. Head coach Bryan Donohue feels that his team has been playing amazing and are headed in the right direction for NWAACCs.

"Offensively, we have been picking teams apart," he said. "When one guy is struggling at the plate someone else gets on fire. Day in and day out our bats are getting better. We have the confidence to put up runs."

Donohue continued by giving praise to his pitching staff, along with his team's batting. "It's been really good," he said of his team's starting rotation. "You have to have five quality starters. Technically speaking, we only need four. That's been the struggle in years past, keeping our starters sharp. I've been really impressed so far."

Sophomore Nick Opitz improved to 5-0 on the mound in the 13-3 victory in game one. Opitz became the second pitcher in the starting rotation with five victories along with fellow freshman Nick Struck.

The Saints piled on 13 hits, including four home runs off the bats of Dylan Jones, Grant Glover, Taylor Ard and a grand slam by Cory Davis.

The bats didn't cool down in the second game against the Titans when the Saints won easily 9-1 on 14 hits. Sophomore pitcher Jay Newton picked up his first victory of the season and struck out three batters in the winning effort.

Donohue felt as if the team was playing in a statement series since the team's only loss came to the Titans back on March 28 in Eugene, when the team fell 9-8 against former Saints pitcher Chris Vitus.

"They can't hang with us," said Donohue. "We let one slip away. We owed them a little bit of pay back."



Contributed photo/Mick Eagleson

Sophomore Dylan Jones (21) is congratulated by teammates Nick Struck (left) and Corey Davis after hitting a deep home run in the bottom of the fifth inning against the Titans of Lane Community College. The Saints won 13-3 in game one and 7-2 in game two.

Struck cruised past the Roadrunners of Linn-Benton Community College 7-0 in game one of a doubleheader on Saturday. Struck picked up where he left off in his last start - a tear. Struck has given up four hits in his last two shutout starts.

Struck pulled out all of his tools, dominating the Roadrunners from the start with the help of the Saint's offense. Struck improved his earned run average (ERA) to 1.61 with 28 strikeouts in 28 innings.

Donohue expected big things right from the start out of his starter Struck (5-0), who was the Oregon high school 6A player of the year last season at Tigard High School. "He's been really, really good and sometimes he's been average. The best thing about him, he finds a way to win."

Jones (4-1) led the way on the mound in the second game 7-2 and the Saints picked up nine more hits including a 4 for 4 performance by Ard at the plate. Ard leads the team and NWAACCs with a .554 batting average. "He's worked so hard to become a better hitter," said Donohue. "Pitchers are already making adjustments." Donohue explained that Ard has become a much more disciplined batter since the fall, where he struggled with the adjustment from high school to college baseball.

"He came in and everyone knew he hit a million home runs in high school," said Donohue. "He's not just a one-dimensional hitter. He's going to take what pitchers give him."

This has been the best start since the 2007 season, when the Saints went 27-3 in Southern Region action. Donohue feels that his team has the right pieces of the puzzle to perform at the same level as the 2007 team.

"At this point we're on pace," he said on his team's chances. "I want to beat that record and I feel that we have the team to do it."

The Saints travel to Salem on Saturday to play the Chemeketa Storm in a double-header at 1 p.m. On March 31, the Saints beat the Storm in a double-header 10-5 and 3-0. Jones will start in game one on the mound and Struck in game two.

# Track and field team stays 'strong' in Oregon City

CHRISTINA HAMMETT  
The Advocate

Men and women stomp back and forth across the red turf, raising their knees as they move along. They joke and laugh as they lift their legs like an army marching, touching their toes with each thrust.

As the bass reverberates across the metal bleachers Tuesday, the track and field athletes finish warm-ups and gather in a circle to chat.

It is this type of camaraderie that has played a hand in their success over the last few weeks, both as a team and as individuals.

On April 10, the Saints traveled to Oregon City to face the Clacka-

mas, Southwestern Oregon, Central Oregon and a group of four-year colleges and universities.

This meet coincided with sophomore Terra Schumacher being named NWAACC Field Athlete of the Week. She was honored following her success at the J.D. Shotwell Invite where she broke the MHCC school record in the women's pole vault with a mark of 11 feet, 9.75 inches. Schumacher also excelled in the 100-meter hurdles, the 4x100-meter relay, and the 4x400-meter relay.

In Oregon City, she continued her success with a first place finish in the 100-meter hurdles, improv-

ing her mark from the prior invite by more than six-tenths of a second and finishing with a time of 15.14 seconds. She also took first place in the 4x100-meter relay and 800-meter sprint medley alongside fellow teammates Stephany Pitts, Crystal Sims, and Catherine Sims. She also took second place in the pole vault, improving her mark by an additional two-and-a-quarter inches and ending with a vault of 12 feet.

"Terra did good this weekend," said fellow Saint, freshman Micah Strong. "She was killing it."

With the women's team finishing in first place and the men coming in second at the relay meet, the

athletes experienced various successes on the track and in the field at Oregon City High School.

For the women, Catherine Sims took first place in the 200-meter dash in 26.07 seconds and Crystal Sims followed in third with a time of 26.54 seconds. Hannah Gustafson, Amanda Baker, Pitts, and Whitney Payment took second in the women's distance medley, Pitts finished second in the high jump at 4 feet, 9.75 inches, Kelsey Strot finished second in the shot put with a throw measuring 40 feet, 10.5 inches and Chelsey Ramos followed in fourth with a throw of 37 feet, 6.75 inches. Lacy Kennedy also solidified a first place finish in the javelin throw, topping her nearest competitor by more than 15 feet with a throw of 141 feet, .08 inches.

The men's team also basked in their own success with top finishes by Brian Howelton, who captured the second place spot in the 110-meter hurdles just one-hundredth of a second shy of the first place sprinter; and a second place showing by the 4x100-meter relay team consisting of Saints Brandon Faber, Strong, Travis Lindstrom, and Nathan Hope. The same group of runners also took first place in the 800-meter sprint medley with a time of 1 minute, 33.68 seconds. In the field, KC Vaughn managed to snag a first place tie in the pole vault, launching himself 14 feet above the ground.

Other successes included a third place finish in the triple jump by Howelton and a second place showing in the shot put by Jr. Velasquez.

Stacy Bird, who finished tenth in the women's triple jump, reached a season personal record at the meet. The sophomore Saint believes the team is capable of excelling in everything at the moment. "We're

pretty strong," Bird said. "We're lacking number-wise, but we're pretty strong as a team."

Following the relay meet, the men and women encountered a heptathlon and decathlon meet at home Monday and Tuesday.

Playing host to Clark College, the Oregon Institute of Technology and Warner Pacific University, the Saints once again claimed top spots at the Mt. Hood Multi Meet.

Crystal and Catherine Sims finished in the top two spots in the women's heptathlon with 3755 and 3619 points. Crystal Sims' highlights included a second place finish in the 100-meter hurdles, a first place showing in the shot put, a second place ranking in the 200-meter dash, a first place mark in the javelin throw, and a second place finish in the 800-meter run.

Catherine Sims finished with first place in the 100-meter hurdles, the 200-meter dash, the long jump and the 800-meter run.

Howelton, who competed for the men, took home third place honors with top showings in the long jump (second), the shot put (first), the 400-meter dash (first), and the 110-meter hurdles (first).

Overall, the women took first place at the meet and the men finished third.

Strong, who did not compete at the multi meet due to course confliction said of the showings, "It just goes to show all of the hard work we've put into it. I'm excited to see what we can do at the end of the year."

Today, the Saints head to Lewis and Clark College for the Pioneer Open. Following this weekend's meet, the team will prepare for their next home meet of the season, the Saints/Cavaliers Open, where they will play host to Concordia University at Earl Klapstein Stadium.

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# SPRING'S PETALS SPRINKLE ACROSS MHCC

The second level walkway through campus, along parking lots E through H, was sprinkled with cherry blossom petals Tuesday afternoon as students and staff walked through the corridor.

Ron J. Rambo Jr./The Advocate

## Question of the Issue:

*In what ways have you gone "green" this year?*

• "I HAVE TWO (LAUNDRY BASKETS) BY MY FRONT DOOR, ONE FOR THE CARDBOARD AND ONE FOR THE PLASTICS AND I RECYCLE THEM ONCE A WEEK. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RIDE THE BUS MORE RATHER THAN DRIVING MY CAR, TOO."

• MICHELLE FRANK  
• Hospitality and Tourism major

• "I PLANTED A GARDEN AT MY HOUSE."

• OLEG BEREZANSKIY  
• Personal Training major

• "(I) RECYCLED PLASTIC, PAPER, AND METAL."

• CORT KENT  
• Environmental science major

• "I SHUT OFF ALL THE LIGHTS. AND I TURN OFF THE WATER WHEN I'M BRUSHING MY TEETH. I ALSO SAVE PLASTIC BAGS. I'M ALSO GOING TO TURN OFF ALL OF MY ELECTRICITY ON EARTH DAY FOR A MINUTE."

• JOSH CARTER  
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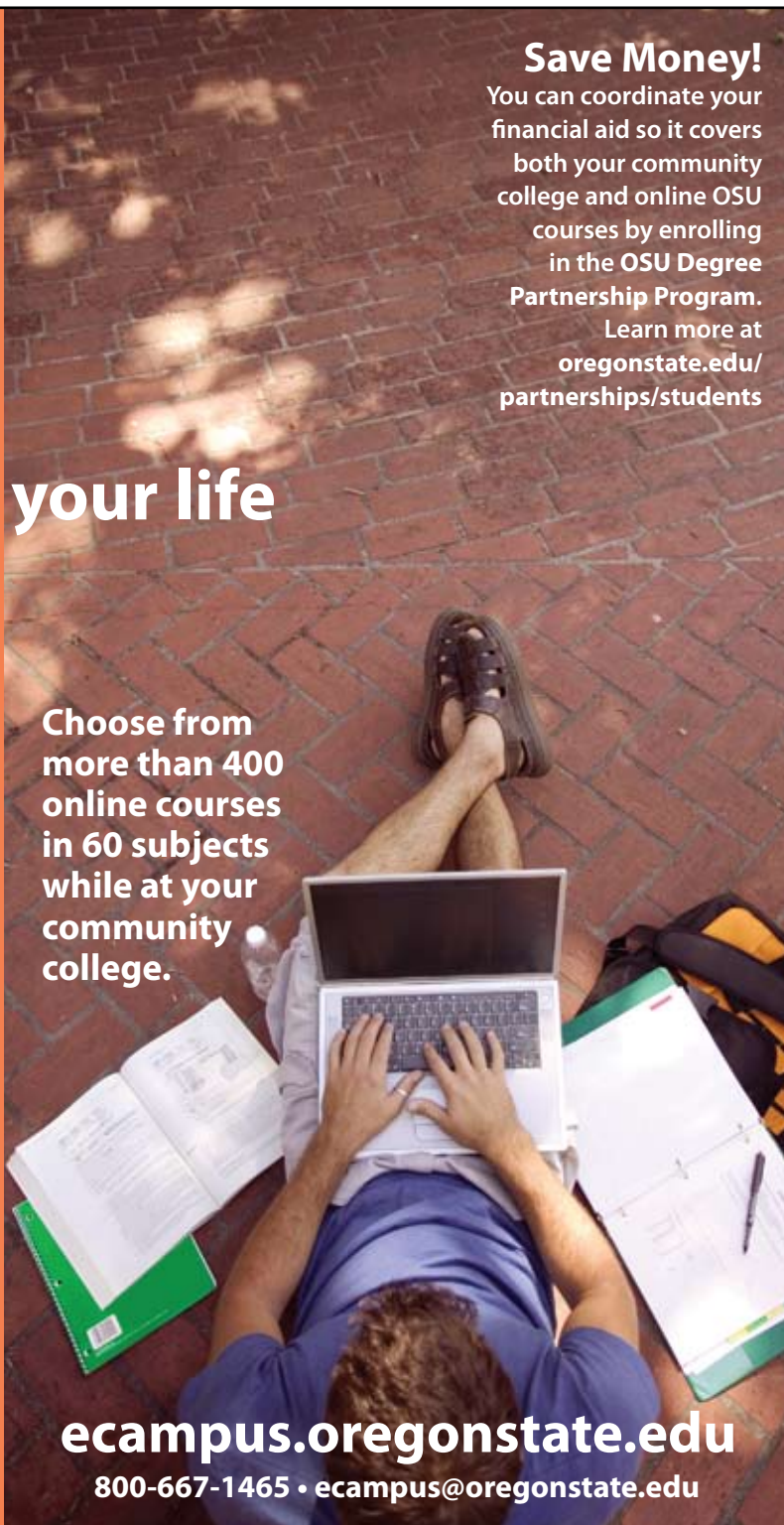
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