

House passes WSU Vancouver bill calling for four-year institution

Freshmen and sophomore college students could be admitted to Washington State University Vancouver as early as 2006 as a result of House Bill 1974, which was passed by a whopping 80-14 vote today.

Co-sponsor of the legislation, **Jim Moeller** (D-49th), says, "This legislation presents a very efficient, cost-effective strategy to make higher education available to [southern Washington] students who, for one reason or another, simply cannot relocate to a different part of the state to attend an existing four-year university."

The state senate has a similar bill under consideration.

WSU Vancouver Chancellor **Hal Dengerink** said today the language in both bills contains the right kind of philosophy to get the process toward making WSU Vancouver a four-year institution underway.

Other branch campuses across the state are also seeking the opportunity to become four-year schools, but none are on the 2006 horizon that has been accorded WSU Vancouver.

Homeless to be counted

A year ago this month there were 1,431 homeless people in Clark County, the Council for the Homeless determined following a one-day count. That count will be repeated Tuesday, March 15, according to council executive director **Kim Conner**.

Of the 1,431, all but 409 were sheltered in some sort of living accommodations, mostly those provided through the homeless council and other agencies locally.

Of the 409 unsheltered, 55 were youths, Conner said. She added that about one-third of all the homeless in Clark County are children.

Next Tuesday, volunteers from local organizations will conduct the count by visiting food banks, outdoor encampments and other locations where homeless find shelter.

"Changing definitions and perceptions of homelessness are requiring us to take a different approach to determining exactly who is homeless in Clark County," Conner says. "Previously it was only thought that that people who slept in shelters, cars, doorways and in other outdoor locations were homeless. However, we've come to realize that not everyone falls into those specific categories. There are plenty of people who stay with friends, family or acquaintances because they have nowhere else to go and no place that they can call home."

Portland Guitar Duo Saturday concert at Clark College is free

The Portland Guitar Duo concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the Decker Theatre on the Clark College campus is another in a recent series of free concerts presented by the community college.

The two guitarists are **Foti Lycouridis**, Portland, and **James Manuel**, Clark College instructor.

The repertoire of baroque, classical, romantic and 20th century pieces will be augmented by a composition by Vancouver composer **Matt Doran**, "Suite for 2 Guitars," and an untitled piece for two guitars written by University of Oregon composer **Rebecca Oswald**.

People

Allen Weimer, who went to work for C-TRAN as a bus driver 30 years ago last week was recognized by the transit agency for never having had an accident while driving. A trophy, fashioned from the steering wheel of a retired commuter bus, was presented to Weimer.

News briefs

One-act comedies, *Pair of Lunatics*, *Mystery of Theresa* and *Sit Down to Supper*, are being presented by the Vancouver Community Theater at 7 p.m. this evening and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the Fisher's Grange, 814 NE 162nd Avenue. Ticket prices are \$5 and \$7. 🗳️ Clark College president **Wayne Branch** will read excerpts from Abraham Lincoln's speeches and writings during a presentation of Aaron Copland's "Lincoln's Portrait" at the free Clark College choir and band concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Royal Durst Theater in the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main Street. 🗳️ The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's annual gala benefit, "Carnivale of Rio," begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in Royal Oaks Country Club. Tickets range from \$125 to \$175. For further information, call **735-7278**.

Friday headlines from at home and around the world:

[U.S. backs Europeans on Iran--Washington Post, **Robin Wright** and **Peter Baker**](#)

[Underground aquifers mean Clark County less at peril from lack of rain--Columbian](#)

[U.S. House bill puts \\$6 billion into northwest roads, includes \\$2 million for the Confluence land bridge across Highway 14--Columbian](#)

[Curtain going up on downtown Vancouver theater project--Columbian, **Brett Oppegaard** and **Jonathan Nelson**](#)

[Portland street car now extends to River Place--KGW-TV, **Antonia Giedwojn**](#)

[Columbian's best entertainment bets](#)

[Washington House approves some Sunday liquor sales--KGW-TV, AP](#)

[U.S. trade deficit hits \\$58.3 billion as Chinese imports surge--New York Times, **Elizabeth Becker**](#)

Friday on the air

Clark College Winter Concert—3:30 p.m. CVTV

Marshall Youth Leadership Awards Ceremony—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Arizona vs. Oregon State (live)—6 p.m. FSN, KEX

Washington vs. Stanford (live)—8:30 p.m. FSN

Town Tabloids and the weather

Margaret Pollard and **Mary McDonnell** holding down different shifts in ticket sales. 🗳️ **Tom Mielke** making a move. 🗳️ **Don Carlson** relaxed but ready. 🗳️ **Marc Boldt** running practiced gavel swiftly. 🗳️ **Julie Zola** correcting numbers. 🗳️ **Hooja Kim**, **Sondra Powell** and **Florence Wager** counting the house. 🗳️ **Friday**, more sunshine, 72. **Saturday**, sunshine continues, 69. **Sunday**, cooler sunshine, 64.