

# Clark College conference looks at women's beauty, body image

*The Columbian*

For the first time, Clark College will devote its largest academic event to discussions about female beauty and body image.

Speakers at the 10th annual Clark College Women's Conference will address topics such as perceptions of female beauty, how mothers pass along body image to their daughters and how immigration affects Mexican women's sexuality.

"We're living in a time with media sort of everywhere we turn," said Nell Gladson, who is in charge of publicity for the conference. "Images of women, there's more of it than ever before."

The conference is aimed at helping explain why the perception and reality of women's sexuality and body image are different.

The pop culture influence is not to be ignored: The title of the conference is "From Little

Princess to Desperate Housewife: Confronting Images of Women." Participants choose two of 17 sessions to attend, most of which are taught by Clark faculty or professors from other regional colleges and universities.

The event starts with a speech from Debbie Wooten, a Tacoma-based comedian and activist. She uses comedy to show others how to overcome adversity and build self-esteem.

The final speaker is artist Larry Kirkwood of Kansas City, Mo., who created an art project of average men and women's bodies to debunk the idea of the perfect figure.

Organizers expect up to 300 attendees, including students, faculty and community members.

Registration is open to anyone, but the deadline to register is Wednesday. Late registrants may not be able to receive lunch.

## If you go

■ **What:** "From Little Princess to Desperate Housewife: Confronting Images of Women."

■ **When:** 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

■ **Where:** Gaiser Hall, Clark College, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd.

■ **Cost:** \$15 for general public; \$10 for students and seniors; includes breakfast and lunch.

■ **Information:** Call 360-992-2905 or visit [www.clark.edu/womensconf](http://www.clark.edu/womensconf) to download a registration form and brochure. Registration deadline is Wednesday.