College has need for career clothes

By HOWARD BUCK
Columbus Dispatch writer

A beautiful gown worn by a high school graduate can make for a great one-time memory. But some sharp threads for a job interview can pay dividends many times over.

Unfortunately, not every Clark College student has access to professional-looking clothing. Which is why the school's Career Clothing Closet has quietly grown popular in just six years.

On April 12 to 27, Clark will again accept donated "gently used" clothes suitable for job interviews, scholarship interviews and other important settings.

Donors should consider what they would feel comfortable wearing for such an interview. Items for men or women may include suits, pants, dresses, shoes, jewelry and other accessories. Dress socks and new hose also are useful.

Judy Shulman, Service-Learning & Volunteer program manager for Clark, asks that items be in "excellent condition" and freshly cleaned (or dry-cleaned) and ironed.

If the size of the garment is not clear, it should be labeled by the donor. A small slip of paper may be attached with a safety pin.

Spare clothes hangers, in particular those with clips for slacks or skirts, are especially useful.

Hundreds dressed

The Career Clothing Closet has helped nearly 700 students dress for success in the past two years alone.

This year, the Closet will open its doors to students on April 29-30, allowing one free outfit per person.

"Our college community is pretty aware of this," Shulman said. "No student has been turned away empty-handed, unless they didn't find something that fit, really," she said.

Donations are accepted weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Career and Employment Services office, Room 306 of College Hall on the main Clark College campus.

Clark is at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way in Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at http://www.clark.edu/maps.

Donation receipts will be available for donors. To donate clothes or for more information, call 360-992-3802 or send an e-mail to service_learning@clark.edu.

Woodland Tulip Festival

A driver and passenger keep warm and dry as they admire tulips under heavy rain Sunday at the eighth annual Tulip Festival at Holland America Bulb Farms. The festival runs through April. Below: Rain clings to a Vernon flower.

April showers, April flowery

Lovers of fields in bloom appreciate decades of work

By DAVID W. KEIM
Columbus Dispatch writer

Mother Nature offered gray skies, rain and blustery winds, but more than 10,000 visitors took in the multitude of flowers at the Woodland Tulip Festival over the weekend.

This is the 30th anniversary of Holland America Bulb Farms' business in the U.S., and the half-acre display garden recalls important events during those three decades with signs, tulips and other spring flowers, said Nicolete Wenderoth, manager of the gift shop.

She said about a quarter of the tulips were in bloom for the first weekend of the Woodland Tulip Festival. She predicted half will be in bloom next weekend.

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Battle Ground educator's long career

The Battle Ground school district celebrated its centennial this year, and Velda Sutton has been part of several uplifting chapters in district history. … including one chapter that, shall we say, didn't quite get off the ground.

Sutton, a self-described tough, farm-raised girl who in her prime "threw hay bales on that truck as well as any man," had a chance to reminisce about her 30-plus years with the district during its milestone anniversary.

Sutton had several roles in her education career. She started out driving a school bus. The two-year gig helped Sutton raise money so she could go to college — as a 32-year-old freshman — and become a teacher.

By the mid-1970s, Sutton had been principal at two schools before moving to the district's central office.

She was likely Washington State's first female school district athletic director at a time when federal Title IX gender equity reforms were first kicking in.

That meant plenty of state meetings, most near Seattle or nately, an assistant for the long, tedious

But disaster planed trip after the twin-engine plane

Sutton said the idea of a day of meetings was about a napping or

 Feeling ured all

Off Beat

NOT QUITE the NEWS

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