

# Controversy continues over CCC landscape



Photo by Brian...

By Scott Starnes  
of the Print

The poet's corner, located between the Community Center and Barlow Hall, is an example of the landscaping at Clackamas Community College that has brought controversy over the landscape upkeep.

Controversy over the College's landscaping has been going on for several years. According to the horticulture and grounds maintenance departments, there is ongoing debate concerning past, present and future plans for grounds development.

"We are working dollar for dollar with the same amount of funds received three years ago," he said.

Various forces are responsible for restricting further landscaping development of the campus, according to several knowledgeable sources.

However, the horticulture and agriculture departments at the College don't agree that the grounds have been maintained properly even considering the funds available.

The College cannot adequately finance the grounds department because of the current tax base, according to Alf Lair, Director of Planning and Operations. The grounds department is allotted a certain percentage of funds to continue maintenance on a subsistence level, Lair said.

"It appears that certain areas around the campus have been improperly maintained," said Dave Myers, department chairman of agriculture. It is not the responsibility of the agriculture department to tend to the landscape problems of the campus, he said.

Proposed construction of future educational facilities within the next ten years are being negotiated, Lair said. Therefore, it would be impractical as well as a waste of funds to direct attention to development of the landscape.

"However, we will gladly offer any advice concerning the use of pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and other related procedures, to benefit the existing condition of the campus," Myers said.

"I would like to see the funds allotted for landscaping to be spent for educational purposes because emphasis should be placed upon the priority of education first," Lair said.

"Our main objective," said Myers, "is to oversee the Douglas Loop and the immediate grounds surrounding Clairmont Hall. Our students enrolled in the agricultural field are here to experience a variety of learning techniques, and are not here to labor on the entire campus on a routine basis," Myers said.

Don Fisher, Facilities Development and Planning Officer, agreed that the campus is being neglected in a few areas, but said the College is unable to afford additional groundsmen to administer to the entire campus. "The groundsmen's first priority is to concentrate on maintenance of the Hub, or the grounds surrounding McLoughlin, Randall and Barlow Halls," Fisher said.

Andy Rice, professional Portland landscape architect, has been involved with the development of the existing landscape since mid-1976.

Ed Hartman, Grounds Supervisor, said that he is content with his position but said that he has received pressure from both students and administration concerning maintenance and improvement of the campus.

"When I began working here at the College, I noticed that the existing maintenance lacked direction which the original architects failed to provide in terms of leadership," Rice said.

"The grounds crew is responsible for maintenance alone, any further improvement to the campus will be done by professional landscapers," Hartman said.

Hartman said that the Hub is the grounds crew's first priority. "We were pressured by the administration to maintain the planters around the buildings. We are not physically able to maintain other areas demanding equal attention," he said.

The grounds department is under jurisdiction of the administration concerning any maintenance-related activity of the campus, Hartman said.


Rice said that a partner and himself constructed a maintenance outline which will be a guideline for the groundsmen to follow on a seasonal basis.

"I feel that a sense of direction will be once the proposed maintenance outline takes effect," Rice said.

Rice said that once the outline has been established and has had time to adjust, there will be legitimate grounds for criticism as well as praise concerning the development of the landscape.

Phil Evans, horticulture instructor, is willing to wait before making further complaints about landscaping.

"We've made our complaints before professionally and nothing was done. It's time for the public and the students to step in and say what they think," he said.



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