

opinion

SWOCC applauds student efforts

Editor's Note: The following editorial is reprinted from the Sept. 22 issue of the Southwester, Southwestern Oregon Community College's newspaper.

Early in August, Clackamas Community College got voter approval of their operational tax levy on the third try.

Before the successful election, John Hakanson, Clackamas' president, had indicated that if the levy was not approved in that election or the following one scheduled in September he would recommend that the school be closed for fall term.

Guest editorial

The weekend before the election I was in Portland attending a meeting of the Community Colleges of Oregon Student Association and Commission (CCOSAC) with other members of SWOCC's student government. One of the things on the CCOSAC agenda for the weekend was to meet at Clackamas to help in a canvassing effort.

When we arrived at the college, members of their student government had prepared literature, organized transportation, and selected the areas where we would go door-to-door urging people to vote. In a short time we were divided into groups and began knocking on doors.

The following Tuesday, voters approved the tax levy by a wide margin.

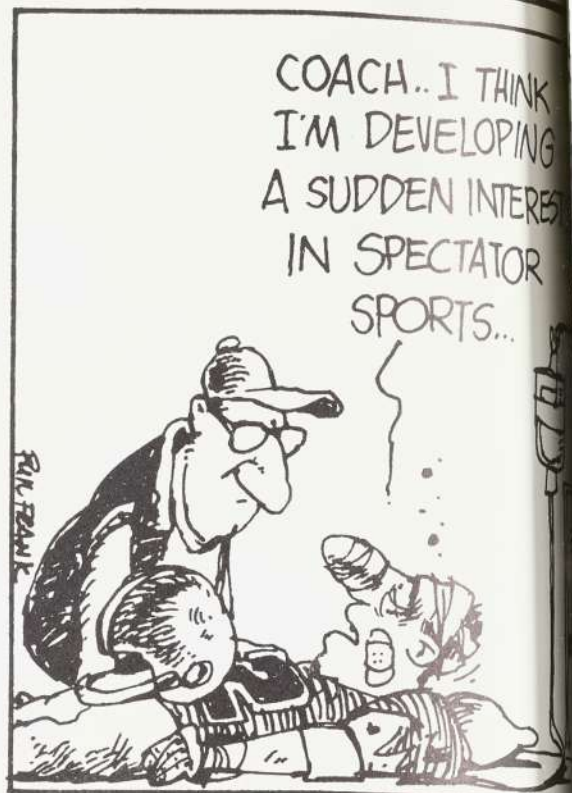
Upon reading the election results it was rather apparent to me that the success of the vote was due largely to the concentrated effort of Clackamas's student government.

What impressed me as much as anything was the fact that all of the people working on the effort to get the budget passed were doing it only because they wanted to, not because they had to. Most of the people I talked to were finding time around jobs and other summer activities.

I think that experience fully opened my eyes to the fact that the community college is a very important part of many people's lives. By that I mean that for many people the community college is not only a place to take a few classes, or to wait out two years and then transfer to a four-year school. It is, for many, a place to get serious about education and the community college as an educational process.

That is what I feel many people who come to SWOCC miss out on. They don't get into the educational process. Decisions are made, committees meet and many other things take place that have a direct impact on the community college student. But, students are often content to let those processes go on without the benefit of their voice being heard.

I think all of us can really be proud of the community college we attend when we know that students attending a school not unlike ours care enough to make sure their school will stay open. Let us all care enough this year, and the year can't be anything but fantastic.



feedback

No rate increase

To the Editor:

As you probably know, a petition is being circulated to refer to people the issue of whether or not utility companies can charge ratepayers for building being done that will not provide service until sometime later.

Called "Construction Work in Progress," there are elderly people who are paying for service they may never receive. For this reason both the Gray Panthers and Senior Coalition have endorsed a referendum which will be on the November, 1978 ballot if 46,000 signatures are obtained.

Oregon is the only State in the west that permits this unfair practice. Thirty-four states forbid this financial maneuvering, including Missouri which recently passed a similar measure by 63 per cent.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this effort write to OURE (Oregonians for Utility Reform), Box 12763, Salem, Or. 97309.

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