

# Get pumped

We would like to commend the student body for their exceptional turnout during last week's ASG elections. The fact that 386 out of a total of 6,773 registered students voted, may not seem like a lot, until one remembers that last year Mike McCarty was elected by 75 votes and he was the only candidate for president.

This upsurge in interest could not be attributed to several things, but we like Dave Riggs' suggestion.

During our recent interviews with him, Riggs, ASG vice president-elect, said that he felt there was really no such thing as student apathy and that students didn't get involved because people kept telling them that they wouldn't.

As those of you who have taken Speech III may remember, that is what is called a self-fulfilling prophecy. By telling students that they are not going to be involved often enough, pretty soon they come to believe that non-involvement is the accepted student behavior.

Well, we're ready to try anything and if we can have a 300 percent increase in student participation each year, student apathy will be a thing of the past.

In order to do this, starting now, we will no longer tell students they're apathetic. Students, you are involved.

# opinion



# feedback

## Rumors fly

To the Editor:

It might come to one's attention that rumors have been flying every-which-way concerning the campaign for the student body president. At least, the wisest way to end such rumors is to take the rumors to the source(s).

Such rumors one might hear are that one candidate, Richard Weiss, has made such promises as ASG sponsoring three keggers a year if he is elected president, and that if he is not elected president the CCC game room will be shut down! When the first two or three recollections of such "rumors" were reported to me I paid no heed. But, after having a dozen more, I became alarmed. Such things, under the present standards, could not come true!

As for ASG sponsoring three keggers a year, ASG cannot sponsor any keggers, be they on or off the campus. ASG funds cannot be used to buy or sell alcohol. So, if such promises have been made, they literally cannot come true under the present standards!

The game room is in no danger of being shut down if Mr. Weiss is not elected president. This is because:

- 1) the game room is ASG's

only constant "money maker". Throwing out the game room would be throwing out one of ASG's few sources of income.

2) The other candidate for president, Mike McCarty, is quoted as saying, "I have never had any plans to 'do-away' with the game room, it makes money for ASG and provides recreation for the students."

So, what I'm saying is, if one has heard any such rumors, that one might check them out. If they're coming from the "horses mouth" it might be wise to think twice about gambling one's vote on such a horse!

Julia Chitty,  
Assistant to the ASG president

## Thank you

To the Editor:

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you who made it possible for me to succeed in attaining the position of ASG Business Manager. There were so many of you, whom made it possible that I cannot name you individually. But you know who you are, and to YOU, a very warm THANK-YOU!

Sherrie Montgomery  
Your new business manager

# weather station

By Jim McCaffrey  
Of The Print

Dear teacher,

This is a note to let you know why I haven't been to any classes in about three weeks. You see, teach, the thing is that I'm just too tired-too tired and too mad.

This is not my first experience with the so-called higher educational system. I have dropped out of some of the best schools in the state. My reasons were about the same always, so please, teacher, don't think that I'm talking about you, specifically because my experience proves to me that it is the system that is making me mad and not your methods.

My experience is that this school is no better than any others in many ways and better than some in others. The situations causing my discontent I have found to be true at all levels of education. The system is infested with bugs and these bugs are destroying the foundations of the house of academia. Let me be specific.

Teacher, I am tired of the lack of respect shown for academic capabilities. Not that I, myself, am Albert Einstein, Jr., but I know that I am not stupid.

Why, then, am I forced to sit in tension-filled class rooms, you angry at the lazy kids who refuse to read assignments and us hostile because we realize that it doesn't matter because even when we do read the material you insist on spoon feeding it back to us word for word from the book any way.

How can this situation be good for learning? Why do many of us students feel that if, given the text three weeks before the course starts, that we, too, could spend the term spoon feeding this mush to a room full of ugly kids.

Often as not, you will come into the classroom having not even reviewed the material yourself, so when somehow, a kid manages to pull a plum from this intellectual pudding and asks a question, you give some

vague answer dimly recalled from some much earlier reading or have to refer to some hopelessly lost paragraph for an answer that is really hardly worth the effort of looking for it.

Ideally, the classroom should be used to go beyond outlines given in a text. Yet how often is it used to truly challenge students and expand on materials that can help a student increase his ability to learn and go beyond the limits of a mere text? Sorry teacher, but there's much more. I am tired of the meaningless B.S. busy work that is assigned so that you can justify giving a grade to some student who you do not really know and in whom you have failed in your role as teacher.

Some times I am sure that there is a universal system of term paper grading where papers are rarely judged for content or relevancy, but rather are judged on length and appearance.

It's pretty standard that 15 to 25 pages is an A, 10 to 15 pages is a B, 7 to 10 pages is C work and all others fail. Never mind if the A student got his paper from his older brother, never mind that the B student plagiarized 60 percent of his paper; just feel sorry for the C student who may have really learned something but cannot receive the rewards that the others get for theirs.

Grades are no measure of what a person may have learned in a class. They are, rather, merely a reflection of how well that student plays the game.

I am not trying to imply that you have creative and challenging students to work with either. Many could care less. The point is that many more of them could be creative if only they were gently prodded into doing so. Why should a student feel that he should put more than minimal effort into a term paper that will be as quickly forgotten by himself as it will be by the teacher.

With the poor results the educational system in the richest country in the world is getting from its educational system,

one has to wonder why. From the performances I've seen in some classrooms I'm beginning to think that teaching is being used merely a euphemism for a respectable form of welfare.

It seems intolerable to me that teachers will put up with snotty students who will sit in the front row of a classroom trying hard to play the game by asking meaningless questions and making irrelevant and repetitive remarks in a shallow attempt to attract attention to themselves in order to raise their grade point average without having to raise their I.Q.

It would seem that a professional attitude should not allow this, yet one cannot attend a single day of classes without having to see it repeated again and again. It seems that in many classes, teacher, you will when it's not needed, require arbitrary and meaningless tasks such as absolute attendance-in-criteria for a grade.

I have yet to see the teacher who is consistently so informative to make it vital important that a student attend every class.

So, teacher, if I'm not in class much in the next few weeks, don't worry about me. I know that I've got to play the game, too. You shall have your long and boring, but original papers on tiresome material that has been worn down to archaic dust through overuse. And you will be there to take your final exam even though, two days after passing it, I doubt that I could pass it again. You can choose any grade you like for me; I am beyond caring.

You see, you might flunk me but then there's that other paper I wrote for that other person in the class (the one you gave a 10) and you may flunk my essay on that test, but how are you going to explain passing the grade who used my notes?

Sorry, teacher, but for this kid anyway, the system is coming up smelling like garbage and I don't like it one bit.

Sincerely yours,  
John Q. Student  
Clackamas Community College

# the print

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