

opinion

Anti-nerve gas letter Improperly petitioned

Nerve gas. It shares the same popularity as incest and genocide. What could be wrong with endorsing a petition calling for the detoxification of nerve gas and a ban on the development of war gases? A organization called **American for Honesty in Government** was in the cafeteria last Friday gathering signatures on a petition to ban nerve gas. Only a few students signed this petition.

"Sponsored by the Church of Scientology" is printed on the bottom of the ACHG's petition. This could be one explanation for lack of student enthusiasm. In addition, the two people for **American Citizens for Honesty in Government** were not on campus very long, only about 20 or 30 minutes. If they had stayed much longer someone from the administration could have probably asked them to leave.

No one from Community Service or Student Activities had known anything about ACHG's petition drive. No organization is allowed to carry on any activities without first getting approval from these offices. This includes everyone from military recruiters to the Gideons. If ACHG had followed the proper procedure, they would have been confined to a table outside in the hall. But they didn't, instead they formed a barrier at the cafeteria entrance. If one wanted to eat in the cafeteria, there was no way to avoid them, which was strikingly reminiscent of the tactics used by some annoying individuals in downtown Portland. ("Hey have you heard about Dianetics!")

Meredith Burke, a member of **American Citizens for Honesty in Government** stated that the objective of ACHG' was to prevent abuse of the population by the government. The group is nationwide and was formed by a Scientology minister, Art Merrian, after he was imprisoned for not giving information under oath at a trial. His reason was that the information had been given to him in confidence by a church member.

The organization is about four years old, and works in other areas besides nerve gas. Another member of ACHG said that the one reason the group was affiliated with the Church of Scientology is that the church has done a lot of investigative work in the past. ACHG's Portland chapter is located in the Scientology building on SW Broadway and receives financial support from the church, although ACHGS members are not exclusively Scientologists.

Before ACHG's display was set up and petition-gathering started, a representative of the group dropped by the Publication Trailer. She asked if a reporter would like to come down and write something about the petition drive. She left some information about the group, including a flyer that was set up to be used in a newspaper. A lot of the information it contained is hard to substantiate, due to the limited number of nerve gas experts available. Some of the statements made in it were confusing and misleading, such as: "Although people feel safe knowing that it takes a



Presidential order to use nerve gas, it has not been uncommon to have such decisions made in the field. During the Vietnam War, there was no Presidential OK to use harassing gas agent."

Nerve gas and harassing gas are entirely different. Harassing gases are agents such as mace or tear gas. These types of gases merely make one wish he were dead. Nerve gas has never been used in combat in any war. Nerve gas is not something that is readily available. It cannot be used on the spur of the moment.

Maybe **American Citizens for Honesty in Government** did not need to spend much time gathering signatures, because that was not the primary objective. It is this reporter's opinion that ACHG is nothing more than a public relations arm of the Church of Scientology.

--MIKE ROSE

feedback

In regard to my "statements" made on the Senate Election's page in last week's *The Print* (Oct. 15, 1980), I feel that statements in my publicity form were rearranged, making me look like a fool. I do not feel that changing the pictures in the Community Centre Lounge and getting an "Asteroid" machine would be a good learning experience. My quotes have been changed to fit the story, not the story to fit the quote.

I was also not aware that my publicity form was going to be used in the paper. I retained the impression that what was to be used in the paper as quotes were obtained from an interview on that Friday (Oct. 10, 1980).

In this case, it was a bad editing job. Ed. note--Apologies for the mistake. The publicity form did, however, state in black and yellow "This statement will

be printed as a direct quote in the special edition of *Cougar Print*; please think through carefully and explain your point of view in some detail." Here is--word for word--what was turned in to *The Print* on Arlene Boyko's publicity form.

"If elected, I would like to see student government accomplish everything asked of us. Should we (sic) able to make changes or ask for opinions I would like the pictures changed in lounge and an asteroid machine put in. Really I want the learning experience of the responsibility (sic) of Student Government. This statement of mine is not very good, because I mainly need to learn what I can do first since I have no experience (sic) in Student Government (sic) But one thing I do have is time and desire to work really hard. P.S. Sorry about the spelling! *Arlene is now a Senator.

Arlene Boyko

Showers all washed up

One of the newest facilities of Clackamas College's athletic department is the steam room.

Located in the men's locker room, it provides our students with relaxing waves of soothing

steam.

This system was installed by the engineers with no extra cost. In fact, by eliminating showers the engineers are cutting the school's water bill and preventing the students from taking long, time-consuming showers.

Another feature of the steam room is the Icelandic cold shower. On non-steam days, we can experience the warmth of the sauna and then plunge into the freezing showers. And this will definitely help your heart.

It is apparent that this year in the men's locker room, things have not changed. I am referring to the showers and the soap

dispensers.

I wonder why the showers are only warm on hot days. What is this, solar heating! Now I know that the administration cares about the student and his welfare, but come on, how about some warm showers? And when I say warm, I mean a temperature the human body can stand. Not scalding hot--as I'm told it is after cross country, basketball and wrestling practices at 6 p.m.--or so cold it turns the skin blue, as it is in the morning. It's like being in a lottery, the winner gets the warm water.

If it is your lucky day and you happen to find the shower that's not too cold or not too hot, then comes the problem of the soap dispenser. When the person is all wet and ready to lather up with soap, he reaches with anticipation for

lots and lots of bubbles. All he gets is the residue. At least he had a warm shower.

Not to be discriminating, I never use the women's showers, however, I'd be willing to bet those showers are in the same shape as the men's.

I don't know whether or not this is a mass experiment to see how long students can take such extremes. One might say, "Be a man. Take it as it is." Is it manly, or womanly, to-BRRRR--freeze (or be well-done)?

I say moan and gripe until something is done about it. After all, we are entitled to our rights as students who have paid their dues. Let's have no more running the gauntlet. Let's have warm showers and soap for everyone, men and women.

--MATT JOHNSON

the print

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