

& Dialogue

Lip Sync OK, but talented students ignored

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Some things really rub me the wrong way. Harping from a soapbox is one of them. Another is the silly little fact that talent is no longer required to be a musician at Clackamas Community College, sort of. In fact, musical talent and ability may be a handicap there. On this note I will contradict myself and do a soapbox routine. I just can't seem to shut up about my distaste for strange tastes and weird priorities.

At the risk of hammering out another uppity gripe about that overpublicized event, the Lip Sync contest, I have a few burrs under my saddle pad and a suggestion or two.

As far as I'm concerned, the Lip Sync contest can stay. It's fun for those involved and it's good for some yucks if you're in the audience. At the same time it bothers me to see this facade get more than its fair share of attention when many truly talented people at the

College are virtually ignored. There are a lot of cats running around the College who have spent years of rump-busting effort studying music, perfecting their instrumental or vocal techniques, and just plain devoting their lives to the art. But for all this these people get very little on-campus exposure.

A good deal of energy is spent each term by the Associated Student Government in producing the Lip Sync contest. In addition, prize money is offered as an incentive for people to participate. All this is done to encourage students to get involved with their school and that's honorable, but I have yet to see the ASG move to encourage actual musical performances by the College's students. There is no stage set where musicians can show their stuff. There is no effort to organize special events for musicians except when the music department does it itself. There is no contest or prize money offered to the best act.

It would seem to me, considering these circumstances, that the great at-

tention paid the Lip Sync contest, let alone the prize money, would be an insult to those who have dedicated themselves to music. If a few bored souls can spend a few evenings practicing mouth and body contortions and win \$75, where does that put those who have practiced hours a day for years? Surely they deserve more appreciation at the College.

Although I dislike the term "talent show" because it connotes visions of cut-rate tap routines, that is my first suggestion. With the right type of promotion and incentives, a talent show each term could possibly rival the Lip Sync in popularity and serve as a forum for the school's talent.

Another equally feasible plan would be "Coffeehouse" performances. These could be done on an open-mic basis or the ASG could scout for performers who might perform for the sake of playing. I'm informed that this has been done in the past with little success. I'm also informed that performances were scheduled in the evenings. The Coffeehouse and the talent show must

be done during prime time, that is, between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on weekdays to succeed. After all, who in their right mind would go out of their way to see quality entertainment for free.

Either of these plans would be a possible way for the ASG to provide good entertainment at a reasonable cost for the students of the College. It is my experience with musicians that they tend to be natural showoffs. Many, even professionals, will play without pay if the cause is good and they can have fun doing it.

Coffeehouse performances would no doubt have to be freebies for fun, but a talent show would have the almighty incentive of \$\$\$\$\$. By now these ideas should appeal to the musicians as well as the public.

Should the newly-elected officers of the ASG and more important, the students at the College see the obvious benefits of these plans, we might, just maybe, start showing our appreciation where it's deserved.

Buying victories: Accent on the 'pro' in professional sports

Doug Vaughan
News Editor

The phrase that baseball's George Stienbrenner patented, "money can't buy a championship," is anything but the case in the National Basketball Association's playoffs presently in action.

Stienbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees, has a certain style of practically buying a new team each year in order to bring a dynasty to the Big Apple. The problem is that in the end he has usually come up empty-handed. The NBA has most recently adopted his theory as several teams have entered the high bidding of the free agent market in order to win a championship.

The most notable of the acquisitions was the Philadelphia 76ers' capture of estimated \$2 million a year. The deal was made in hope two bring Julius Erving and his teammates a championship (the only thing Dr. J has not received from the NBA).

The 76ers have not had the problems that Stienbrenner did as their quest is in full swing. Philadelphia, led by Malone, had the winningest record in the NBA and currently swept the New York Knicks in their first round playoff matchup, thus earning themselves a berth for the Eastern Conference championship.

Another NBA team that is showing the pocketbook is the

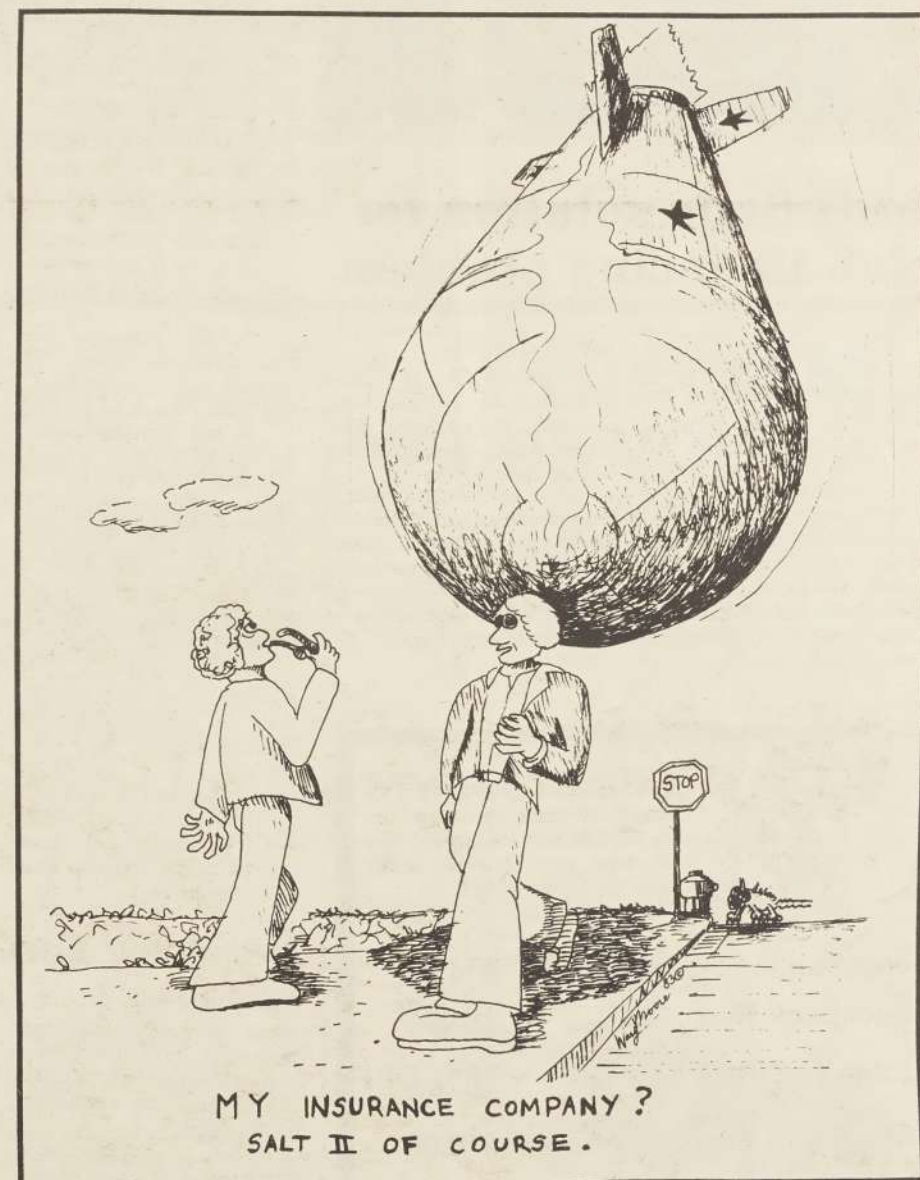
route to success in basketball is the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers have not had a wink of trouble convincing the locally favored Portland Trailblazers that they are one of the premier teams ever to play the game.

I was one of the firm believers that the Trailblazers actually had a chance to beat L.A. from the start, especially since the Lakers' top two players off the bench are out with injuries. But my mind has changed, as the Lakers took a quick three-game lead in the best-of-seven series, looking virtually unstoppable.

Look for the Blazers to be eliminated by the time this article hits the press as the Lakers won't take long putting the final touch on Portland's season. Sorry Portland, take a few million dollars and buy yourself a respectable team.

One team that had trouble in the playoffs despite their high payroll was the Seattle Supersonics. The Blazers embarrassed their archrival, leaving no pity for the overpaid cagers from Seattle. Why weren't the Sonics so super? Easy: they need a coach to go with their team.

Both Philadelphia and Los Angeles have proved that it is possible to buy success in the NBA. But with the new contract (to go into effect for the 1984-85 season) the teams will only have one more year to buy the championships they have been dreaming of. Finally, a team built on the fun-



like the Trailblazers, will be able to compete against the 76ers and Lakers of the NBA.

Whether the outrageous

contracts of today's NBA are detrimental to the game of basketball still is unanswered. What is answered is that L.A.

and Philly are on their ways to a best-of-seven series to determine the world champs--and money got them there.

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