Monologue

Unifying departments important for Keyser

By Shelley Ball Editor In Chief

It's been a long, drawn-out process, but Clackamas Community College's presidential search finally ended earlier this month when Dr. John S. Keyser was chosen to be president

Now that the College has a new leader ready to take command in July, a question bearing heavily on his success is whether Keyser will be able to work well with College personnel.

This question was one College Board members had to ask themselves in picking a new president. Board Chariperson Bonnie Robertson expressed it best when she said the Board's number-one qualification for the president-

to-be was that he be able to "work well with the community and the College."

Indeed, this is important to someone who must lead. Keyser is inheriting a College composed of administrators (including the Board), faculty members, students and classified personnel, and some of the relationships between these groups have been strained in the recent past.

It's important, therefore, that Keyser be capable of working with each of these groups in a unifying manner. This College needs to become stronger internally. How else is it going to be able to work with the community if, internally, individual departments can't get along better with each other?

As a writer/editor for this newspaper, I have had the opportunity to cover faculty contract negotiations and the presidential search stories.

Both are good examples of how College departments have clashed with each other.

Although negotiations for a 1985-86 faculty contract have just begun, previous agreements concerning a two-year contract were long in coming. In fact, it took more than a year for the faculty and the Board to come to terms, which happened just last May.

So tense were the negotiations then that a factfinder's hearing was scheduled, but later called off. Had the factfinder's hearing taken place, however, by law the faculty would have been just one short step of going on strike had they so desired.

When an agreement was reached in May 1984, the College's faculty had been operating for nearly a year without a contract and constituted the latest time in a school year for an agreement to be made. Just six months later, the faculty began gearing up for the current contract negotiations.

As for the presidential search, all seemed to be going well until Pat Fitzwater, search consultant, organized the make-up for the presidential screening committee. It was at this point that representatives from the College's faculty, administration, classified and student groups each drafted and submitted to the Board suggestions that included their ideas on committee representation.

While suggestions were always welcomed during the presidential search, the Board did not anticipate there would be disagreements over the screening committee's membership. Some extra time had to be taken for the Board to re-evaluate the original committee proposal and

decide on a final one. (This final proposal, incidentally, turned out to be only slightly different from Fitzwater's.)

The fact College departments went so far as to submit ideas about the screening committee shows they cared about the selection of a new president and wanted to have as much input as possible. No doubt each group hoped for a president whom they thought they could work with.

This is not to say the College's former president, Dr. John W. Hakanson, was completely inept at working with personnel. Yet it can't be denied he was responsible, as president, when the events I mentioned above took place.

In regards to the future of Clackamas Community College, I hope Keyser proves to be the strong leader the Board thinks he is. After some of the disagreements that happened between College departments, especially between the faculty and administration, some fence-mending will have to be done. Keyser will have the power to initiate it when he takes over July 1. Let's hope he uses tat power to benefit the College as well as the community.

Community Corner

By Fritz Wenzel

Elsewhere in this issue is a story about the march for peace, jobs and justice that is being put together by a manager of a union local. I noticed the publicity for the march and had some other thoughts on the subject:

The bulletin board in the Community Center is packed with all kinds of posters and advertisements proding the inhabitants of this information mecca to do, be and support activities like hang gliding, dances, plays, and child care centers. Without knowing what really drove me over to the proximity of the board (probably some underworld use of subliminal thought control), I found myself face to face with a particularly assertive poster urging me to join a coalition to march for peace, jobs and justice.

Right away I had a problem with the poster. I'm not really excited about a march. I have a hard enough time lugging my body over to the refrigerator to rejuvenate my tired little cells after an average day. I don't think I could handle marching too much, unless the poster means march as in the March of Dimes. Now that is something I could consider. I would feel guilty about my apathy, except that I don't think I'm alone. It's my bet there are quite a few people like me. The last decade has seen us evolve into that kind of America, I think. We are all for protesting as long as we can pay someone else to do it for us.

Anyway, this poster lists some 57 organizations, ranging from the Gray Panthers to the National Gay Task force to the Southern Christian Leadership Council (I

presume the folks from the National Gay Task Force will not be marching right next to the folks from the Southern Christian Leadership Council-there could be a bit of a problem with that. As for the Gray Panthers, I don't know if they will be marching at all).

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

To Vacillate Or Not To Vacillate, That Is The Question, I Think.

I KNEW IT ALL ALONG:

A trucking company back East is involved in a project that will see them replace the diesel used as their regular fuel for their huge trucks with, you guessed it, cod liver oil. I guess that goes to show you that sometimes adults can learn by listening to what their children tell them about some things in life. Now if someone would just find an alternative use for Brussels sprouts, the world would be a better place.

SOME 'BITS AND PIECES' about life on our planet: A survey of 2,000 people aged 18-24 listed their most influential public person as Clint Eastwood. The survey said Eddie Murphy rated a distant second, and President Ronald Reagan was third. The thing that worries me is that two of the three people above seem to enjoy using the phrase "go ahead, make my day." If that doesn't make you think twice about what the chances of the planet's survival are, I don't know what will. Look out, Mikhail!



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Page 2

Clackamas Community College

