

# Opinion

## Offices need to be filled by new-blood candidates

Usually, in a major political campaign, a newspaper will officially endorse a candidate and advise its readers to vote for that person in the election. But, in some cases, that is not possible.

With the Associated Student Government elections only a few weeks away, just two people have stepped forward and "thrown their hats into the ring." Both of these candidates are presently members of ASG.

Considering ASG's record of performance this year, there is some speculation if members of a dispassionate, factional group can bring meaningful change to its ranks.

Sen. William Short is petitioning to have his name put on the vice presidential ballot and, at present, is unchallenged in his bid for the post. Sen. Pattie Groombridge, also running uncontested for the office of president, was placed on academic probation earlier this year and, as of this writing, isn't even enrolled at the College for Spring term.

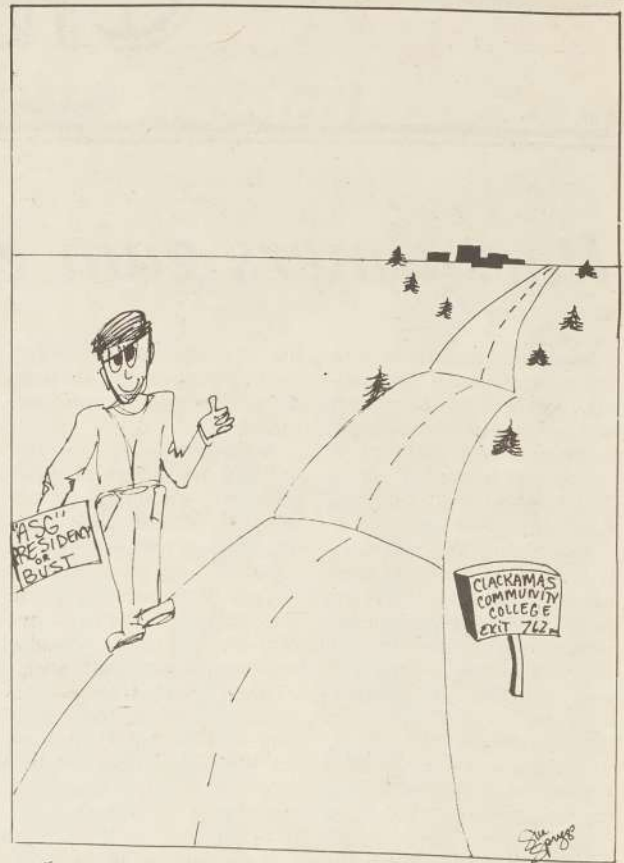
But the real problem that exists is

that the same ASG people are going to be elected: the same old faces, the same old ideas, and probably the same old hassles. ASG, the student's official representative voice, needs a face lift, a transfusion.

Student Program Specialist Paul Killo said there are rumors of more people running for office. Murmurs in the dark, but nothing concrete.

Someone, or a group of someones, needs to step out of the crowd and challenge the present ASG candidates. People not presently connected with ASG are looking at the group from the outside and have a different, and perhaps better, perspective on what could be done to make student government effective.

At this stage of the race, *The Print* urges students to take a look at ASG, take a look at themselves, and decide if they want a repeat performance of this year's student government. Further, *The Print* is asking for those who feel that the task of making ASG effective and worthy of existence is the right thing for them to get a petition and run for office.



"A LONG ROAD FOR AN UNKNOWN"

## Community colleges provide good karma

By Dave Holmes  
Editor

The word 'atmosphere,' as used in the English language, has two meanings. One has something to do with air and the other about mood and, well, karma. And as far as col-

leges go, there is a certain karma about community colleges. I'll explain.

After covering a track meet at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany last Saturday I continued on down the pike to Eugene where a friend

of mine lives and goes to school at U of O. I had a good time there, but as I walked around I just couldn't get over the feeling one gets when standing in the bottom of a missile silo: I'm so small and this thing's so big.

Oddly enough, U of O is situated much the same way as Portland State. It's sort of off to one side of a downtown area, and occupies just a bit more space than PSU.

### From my side of the pool

I was feeling out of place Sunday afternoon so I decided to go out for a drive. Much to my surprise and delight, my friend Dan and I stumbled across a sign that read 'C. College Next Right'. I veered right and Dan heaved a sigh.

Just pulling into the Lane

Community College parking lot was a much-needed shot of relief. Dan made some comment about U of O rejection notices in every pocket, but I paid no attention. No, people go to community colleges for the convenience and the karma.

For younger students, the karma of a community college is a lot more laid back than that of a four year university. There isn't as much pressure, yet the educational quality of a low-tuition school is comparable to that of the higher priced four year schools.

A lot of times it's also the only place for a student to go if he wants a college education but couldn't get into a big school due to lack of funds or lack of a high SAT score.

For older students it's sometimes hard to go back to school after 20 or 30 years in the work force. The atmosphere of a community college is a consciously planned system with older returning students in mind. In other words, the karma is good.

This is not to say that the atmosphere at U of O or any other large university is bad or anything, but just that it may not be the right thing to be thrust into for someone fresh out of high school or the job market.

In fact, with a little time, I could probably get to like a big campus and thousands of people.

After a while, those that want a bachelor's degree will have to transfer to a four year school. I think that the transition to a university is much smoother with a junior college 'buffer' than without it. In many cases, the jolt from high school senior to a freshman Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge with 19 credit hours and soccer practice is too much.

Like I said, I could get to like a big university. But for now, I like being able to recognize most of the faces at Clackamas. I like being a name instead of a number on a role sheet in US History. And no matter how out of date the word is, I like the karma.

## The Print

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