

Student Opinions:

Should people over 60 be required to take their driver's test over?



Photos by Julie Church

Yes, they should be required to take the test every other year after the age of 60 in order to keep the roads full of eligible drivers. The maximum speed limit has increased, younger drivers and drunk driving accidents have increased. It wouldn't be right to let a elderly, less-responsive, individual drive on the highways.

—Eric Lepire—



Yes, people over 60 should definitely be required to take their test over because they often lose their agility and ability to drive safely on our highways. They lose the eyesight easily and don't have the ability to drive defensively which is often the cause of most accidents.

—Kara Kriste—



Yes, because it seems to me that a large majority of the drivers causing problems on the roads are older drivers. For those over 65 it's been at least 50 years since they've been tested; so I'd say yes they should be tested.

—Rob Stark—

Tax base solution: Consistent source of funding

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

Clackamas Community College needs a tax base. The college needs to have a consistent source of funding.

Right now Clackamas college is on a two year rate base serial levy. The disadvantage of this system is that it is very insecure. Each election the college needs the approval of voters for their budget.

With a tax base the college will have stable funding. That means that the college can budget based on the tax base. The college will not have to go through the hassle every two years to base an election. And there will also be less of a burden on the tax payers.

Besides having a consistent source of funding for the college, a tax base has another big advantage. Every two years money is spent on campaigning to pass the election. With a tax base that will not be necessary, since there won't be a rate base serial levy that needs to be passed.

The disadvantage of a tax base is that property owners will get a tax increase of six cents, but it's worth it!

Clackamas Community College is an institution that provides good education to the community and it helps out small businesses in Clackamas County. With a tax base the college can determine its purpose better than without a tax base. Besides that, the community gets back a lot for those six cents they put in.

For everything Clackamas Community College does for this county, should the tax paying public do something back for the college? The answer is "YES" and a tax base would be the solution. Clackamas Community College deserves a tax base!

Semester conversion . . .

Freedom of choice

Lately everybody is really getting into the semester conversion issue, and I wonder how do you feel about it?

Do you belong to the students who oppose it because you feel that you'll be getting less choice in classes with a semester system? Do you belong to the group who are concerned about transfer credits and feel that whatever it takes to transfer should be done? Or are you not sure what is best for the college and individuals?

I always had my reservations about the issue. I wanted to be sure that credits would transfer, but I also wanted to be sure that there would be a large selection and flexibility in classes.

Anyway, I never was really sure about the issue until I found out that, besides community college faculty and students, four year college faculty and students don't like the semester system either.

You know that really makes me wonder. The Oregon State Board of Education decides that a semester system would be best for at least the four year colleges. But it turns out to be that most of the people in the four year institutions don't like a conversion.

Now the community colleges are pushed in a corner to decide whether they want to go for a system that transfers credits really well, or to go for a system that gives, especially for the part-time students, a large variety in classes.

Well, to get to the point. There are not many people that like a

semester conversion. Why not stick to the program we are on right now? Shouldn't it be a decision of the faculty and students of two and four year colleges instead of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education?

Wooden shoe like to know



by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

For you students on campus, just voice your opinions. It's important for people on campus to know how you feel about the whole deal. If nothing will be changed, no college need to make a choice, even though most colleges have already made their minds up. Oppose the semester system!

Maybe the Oregon State Board of Education won't be happy with a semester conversion opposition. But who are the people who should be making the decision? Faculty, staff, and students who go to school everyday, or the Board members?

Pro and Con

Tax base pointless: Too convenient for administration

by Michael L. Walker
Co-News Editor

Clackamas Community College does not need a tax base. A tax base is pointless for both students and property owners, and is too convenient for administration. As a community we have more control with a rate base serial levy like the one passed on March 22.

The people of Clackamas County want local control. They want to know that if they want to give money to the college the choice is theirs. What provides more local control than CCC having to come back to the voters each year? The rate base serial levy at least gives the voters a choice. Under the Oregon Constitution, if a tax base were passed there is no way, unless an amendment were passed, to vote it out. A tax base is there for good.

Without a tax base the college must stay accountable to its citizens. Coming back each year would give a barometer of what the people think about CCC. It would show the level of support CCC has with the people. It would also demonstrate what kind of job we're doing. If people aren't pleased with the kind of service they receive, they're not going to pay for it. By holding a levy every two years, problems would have to be solved in a short amount of time. With a tax base the problems might be shelved indefinitely.

A yearly levy would keep CCC a part of the community. It would keep the college in touch with the citizens of the community. Because we would have to appeal to the people, our administrators would have to spend more time thinking about what the people want — not what they, as administrators, think would be ideal.

The tax base would hit property owners hard because it would raise six percent each year, automatically. Although it seems like a lot, in a time of high inflation, like in the early 1980's, the six percent would be insufficient. So, in the end, CCC would still have to go back to the people and ask for supplemental amounts which would mean more money spent on further elections.

Some might say that people would vote against the levy because they have no choice on how much they pay in state and federal taxes — that they are mad about how much of their income goes to taxes. I say no. It was proven last March that the people feel they are getting quality service. And when they feel good about something they want to keep it going that way. If a tax base was passed it would be just like state and federal taxes which go to Uncle Sam regardless of what the taxpayer wants.

Another question that might be posed is: Isn't the school in danger of closing if the levy isn't passed? Again I answer no. Last November a levy election was held and didn't pass. Did the school close then? No. Will it close in the future if another levy doesn't pass? No. All it would mean is that the school would have less money. We survived that four month long November to March crisis and came out okay. We can do it again.

A rate base serial levy is your choice as a tax payer. A tax base, however, is your last choice forever. You can vote out a rate base serial levy any time. The tax base lingers on forever.

The Print



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