

...er started on a bet

Bennett tells about ASG experience

Charlie Bennett served as vice-president of the Associated Student Government this past year and stirred up more than his share of controversy as founder of the Clackamas Community College chapter of the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Bennett started his career in student government in a most unusual way. He was a fellow graphic arts student in a series of three, one-on-one basketball series the winner of which would be able to run for the ASG position of his choice. The loser was supposed to run for the other position.

Bennett won the series and elected to run for the position of vice-president. His opponent decided to drop out at the last minute.

"There were two turkeys running for president so I knew I could win," said Bennett.

After choosing the position to run for, Bennett went around to the other graphic arts students seeking campaign contributions and collected the formidable sum of \$2.50. In spite of his lack of campaign funding, Bennett went on to defeat his two opponents and became the second most powerful person in student government.

When Michael Ayers resigned as ASG president in the middle of winter term, Bennett took over that post.

"I came into an administrative post that was screwed up," said Bennett. "It was like Ford coming in for Nixon."

Bennett also found out that things are different at the top of the ladder.

"I had people telling me that because I moved from vice-president to president that I was putting myself above everybody else," said Bennett. "I didn't feel I was but no matter what I did they didn't feel I was doing enough."

Bennett was not afraid to admit to making mistakes while serving as president. The one thing he regrets more than anything else was not replacing Ayers' appointed officers.

Bennett was very candid about some of the ways he was able to manipulate student government during their meetings. One particular incident is most interesting.

"Brad Boyer (ASG business manager this past year) and I were trying to prove that we could get anything approved by student government," said Bennett, "and the most ridiculous thing at the time was a Cougar Print photographer wanting funds to go to Hawaii to take pictures of the basketball team."

"After it was approved our advisor (Jim Roberts) realized that someone had pulled a fast one. He told the president who agreed and it was vetoed."

"It proved our point that anything could get through ASG no matter how ridiculous."

Bennett is currently serving as a student senator since new officers have been elected. Bennett says he is enjoying his role as an ASG senator.

"It's very relaxing," said Bennett. "It's nice to be in a position to appeal the ruling of the chair. As a senator you can feel when the officers get out of hand."

Bennett has high hopes for next year's student government.

"Next year's cabinet is tighter than this year's," said Bennett. "Everybody has been in the senate or had past ASG experience."

"Mike (Michael McCarty, newly elected ASG president) has already picked better people for the appointed posts than we did and he's a term ahead of us because we didn't pick ours until September of last year."

"I think they'll accomplish a lot more and turnovers will be less. Mike is a strong leader and he knows how to bring people together."

"Mike also gets along with the administrators and knows them. Mike's more diplomatic than I was. I couldn't work with them. I had such a bad reputation with most of them."

Bennett feels that he put a lot of effort into his work in student government.


"On the outside I'd be making \$30,000 a year for the hours I put in as vice-president and president," said Bennett.

Bennett is not without a sense of humor. When asked how his student government experience had affected him he replied, "It raised my voice so I couldn't sing 'Teen Angel' anymore."

He also said that he'd do it all over again if he were younger.



Charlie Bennett
...will he ever sing "Teen Angel" again?



TRI-CITY BOWL
AT WARNER-MILNE RD.
P.O. BOX 292
OREGON CITY, OR 97045
SEV HARKSON
OWNER/MANAGER

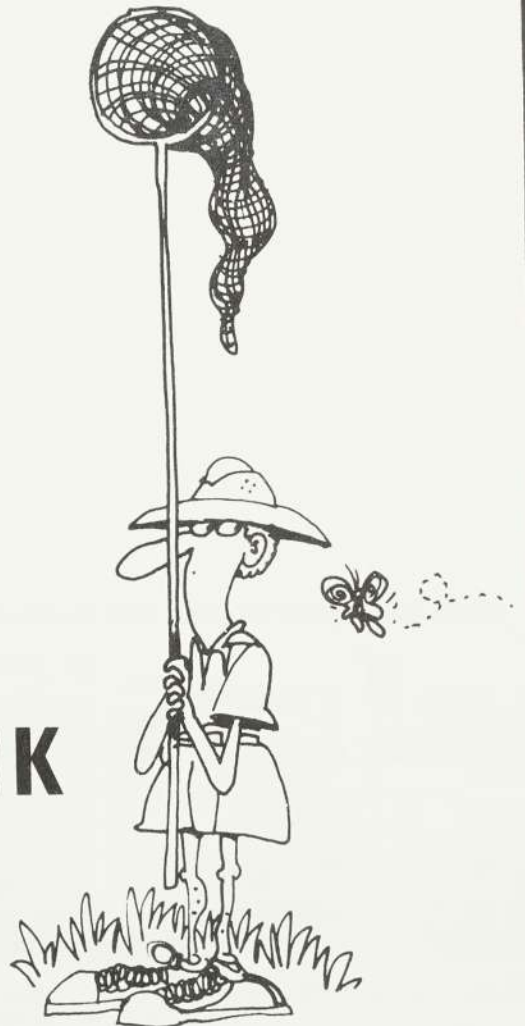
**Pool
Pinball
Bowling**

635-2603

Catch it while you can . . .

the 1977 Clackamas Community College YEARBOOK

ON SALE NEXT WEEK IN
BOOKSTORE, STUDENT
ACTIVITIES CENTER AND
CC MALL. ONLY 75¢.



Sportcraft Landing

Canoes! Canoes! Canoes!

Rental and sales
Group Rates Available

1701 Clackamet Dr.
656-6484

Clackamas Community College

