

From the editor...

The problem with loud entertainment in the Community Center is not about noise at all. The fact is that Clackamas Community College is simply too small.

The Community Center itself is poorly designed. The mall area, a popular gathering spot, is not separated from the counseling and registration area by any physical barrier. Consequently, even the noise of normal social conversation in the mall makes its way into areas designated for business.

Students should be allowed to hold activities on campus; student activities are an integral part of college life, no matter what volume level those activities produce. The only area currently available for activities is the Community Center. Other colleges have isolated areas in which to hold events (Portland State, for example, has live bands performing at the lunch hour in their "basement" cafeteria).

Construction plans for new buildings on campus don't seem to include any area for student activities. What Clackamas needs is one area isolated from the normal business offices of the college in which to hold activities.

The concern over noise in the Community Center is only one sign of the growing pains that the college is currently experiencing.

The concern over noise does seem vaguely familiar, however. Let's look at the problem: noise is something difficult to isolate and only a certain number of people seem to enjoy it. Kind of sounds like cigarette smoke, huh?

Perhaps the answer to noise is simple: hold activities outside in the campus' designated smoking areas. Those wonderful "improvements" to outdoor smoking facilities (picnic tables) could be utilized as stages. Why not? What's a little more debris outside the Community Center?

I understand that those staff members concerned about noise in the Community Center have jobs to do, and that the noise level is interfering with those jobs. But the whole thing seems kind of selfish.

The faculty and staff of this college are important, but they need to remember that they wouldn't even have these jobs if it wasn't for the student body. The reason all of these people are so busy in their offices is because this is a school; they work here to support the students. I doubt that there would be much work to do if there were no students here.

If we are all going to coexist peacefully at Clackamas Community College we are going to have to learn some tolerance and quit complaining when somebody does something we don't like.

Homeless problem won't disappear easily

By this time everyone has probably heard enough of the homeless in this nation, but apparently not enough according to some. In an Oregonian article, Rev. Jack Shields, a board member of a shelter program declared, "I wish I could tell you something new...[but] it's just getting worse and worse." There are a projected 11,000 homeless children a year, just the children. Imagine how many adults are out there as well.

It is known that there are those who wish to be out on the street, but this is not addressing them, but the homeless who are unwilling victims. It is not the fault of those, like Steve Johnson and his family. He is unemployed and cannot find a job that pays enough for a \$300-400 apartment in Portland. This is real life that is happening all over America.

This is a potential time bomb that could mushroom into a larger problem, yet it seems that the mass majority do not seem to care. Maybe it is that fact that our priorities are way out of proportion. Maybe the government needs to take heed to an old saying, "Don't worry about the speck in someone else's eye when you have a log in your own." The government needs to spend less money on foreign aid (some \$50 billion), and maybe give a little attention to the problem we have here. (Well, one of the many, but this is another editorial topic.)

Everything seems to point to the advertising game where millions are spent on a 60 second spot. Oregon's own Nike Corp. plopped down \$1 million alone on the advertising spot during the

Super Bowl, not including the fees for personalities like Wayne Gretzky and Bo Jackson. Nike is a great outfit, but they are a prime example of how ridiculous amounts are spent on the smallest amount of time for millions. It seems funny that Johnson's family can't find a place or make ends meet while corporate bigwigs throw away dollars like yesterday's trash.

So what are we to do about this? Maybe we should declare "war on homelessness," have the CIA retrieve a homeless person around the corner from the White House, have the President then interrupt "thirtysomething" and show us what a homeless person looks like. Then we could spend millions on an empty TV campaign produced by Michael Mann with a phone number so a home-

less person can call in for help. Sure, as if a every one of the homeless carry around a 28-inch TV in their back pocket along with a cellular phone.

What we should really do is something, anything to help the problem. Even you can help out by giving time and skills to a shelter, or you can give food, clothes, or money to any organization. Maybe you could pelt your local state representative with letters and phone calls. Even Clackamas' ASG could give a call to an organization who feed the homeless called LIFE (213-936-8095), to set up a branch here at Clackamas to feed the homeless. And remember, just because Christmas is over and done with doesn't mean that the homeless disappear until next year. Do something. Now.

Picnic tables not much help in cold, rain

by Ron Jagodnik Staff Writer

Can you feel it? I can feel it. Spring is in the air!

I came back to Clackamas for Winter term expecting the same old campus, only a little colder and a little drearier. Boy, I was surprised when I walked pass the Community Center and spied the picnic tables!

Just the sight of such a spring-time structure filled me with a rush of excitement. I wanted to strip off my sweater and bathe in the rain. I wanted to rip my blue jeans into cut-offs. I wanted to pack a hearty picnic lunch and bask with my loved one in the wonderful (yet unexpected) Spring atmosphere.

Well, I controlled my urges, maintained my composure and simply sat on the table's bench with a content smile and lit a cigarette.

Before I had a chance to put my feet up, to relax, and to read the Winter term's first issue of

The Clackamas Print, a friend of mine, Sam, bundled in a winter coat and moping slightly, lit a cigarette and pulled up a seat next to me.

"Aren't these picnic tables great? What a great idea for improving morale on campus during Winter term," I beamed, with Springtime enthusiasm, daydreaming about a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a pickle for my picnic lunch.

"Ya, some great compromise!" Sam snapped.

"Compromise? Compromise? What compromise?" I asked, stunned by Sam's reaction. During Fall term, I knew Sam as a positive and jovial fellow, even when dealing with the indoor smoking ban, with which he wholeheartedly disagreed. "Looks like a breath of fresh air to me, though a bit strange for Winter term."

"Ya, the fresh air is a bunch of hot air - \$2500 worth of upgraded outside smoking area. It's all in

the paper."

I picked up the paper which had a rain-dot design running the ink. I read Editor-in-Chief, Jim Titus' article about the edition of picnic tables to the campus' outdoor smoking area as a "reasonable compromise."

I felt silly and cold and wet and I put my coat back on. I could not believe that I bought into the idea that the picnic tables are here

to bring a springtime atmosphere to the dreariness of Winter term. I packed my drenched paper into my bag and sighed.

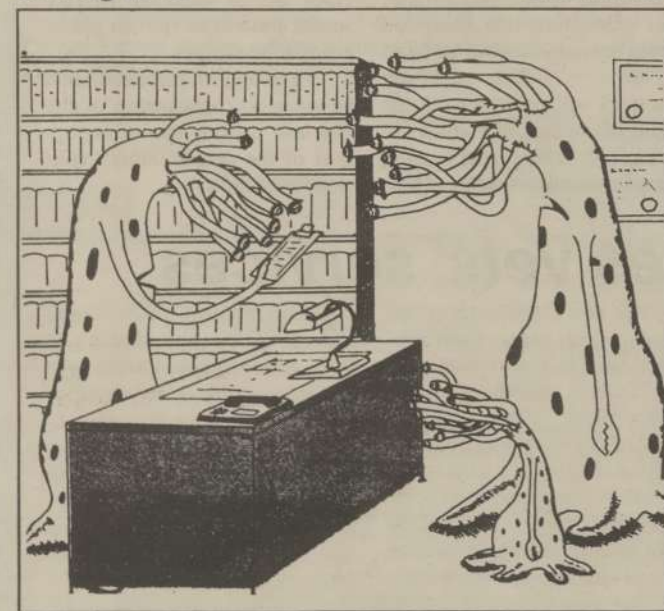
I am kind of glad that the picnic tables are for the smokers, because now I don't have to worry about whom to talk to about reservations for two, preferably in a quiet corner, in the smoking section of the Community Center's outdoor cafeteria.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Clackamas Print welcomes Letters to the Editor. Such letters must be signed or will not be printed. Letters must not exceed 300 words and should be typewritten or neatly printed. Letters can be turned in to the Clackamas Print offices in Trailer B north of Randall Hall. The Clackamas Print reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor for grammar, obscenities and libelous material. Letters to the Editor must be turned in Friday in order to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

Missing Links

by Paul Henry



"I'm very sorry, Mr. Orkin, but I'm afraid your son is going to need contact lenses."

Clackamas Print

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