

Comments From The Top
By
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Mail, mail, and more mail

As News/Managing Editor, a lot of memos cross my desk. Some I read, some I laugh aloud about, and some, unfortunately, get tossed. There always seems to be a politician somewhere holding a fundraiser or a press conference; and you thought money made the world go 'round.

This is my first column on the editorial page. I finally decided to seize this opportunity as it may be my last in a great while as I go on to the "big league and become a smaller fish." I figured that most of the people on this campus could use a laugh or two, or, on the serious side, a voice to vent our common frustrations that go with living the campus life-style. Thank you for your support.

It's bad enough being late getting out the door in the morning trying to get to class, now you have to leave at least 15 minutes early (and still be late) just to find a decent parking spot at least a mile from your class, even on Tuesdays. Pretty soon the college is going to have to rent space from the Berry Hill Mall and have a shuttle to and from the Campus: The Blue Light Special Express. Hey Stan, don't retire yet! Have you thought about getting your chauffeur's licence? And don't even think about parking in a designated yellow zone for more than a nanosecond around here—our campus parking patrols are ruthless. I learned that after approximately 2,000 tickets. I have so many tickets that my left wiperblade is permanently stained pink. At the rate the college is expanding, they're going to have to have a lottery-type drawing just to park. When's the next shuttle, Stan?

The Community Center turns into a White House-equal every May. Associated Student Government elections are once again upon us. Signs and flyers are everywhere. (If one shows up in a bathroom stall, I'll throw up.) Open-mike debates are only a few days away, and the stress level is growing higher between the candidates. It's so great. So what if nobody turns out at the polls? We're only voting for the people who will be responsible for most of the activities on campus next year. So what if no one uses their given right as a responsible college student to actually have a hand in choosing whos "seconding a motion" which you may not like. I really hope I don't have to write a headline like "Ace wins by a landslide: five votes to three; Another record-breaking year in the polls for ASG." Have a little respect folks. Exercise your right to vote May 9, 10 and 11--night students too.

Speaking of record breaking: A whopping one team signed up for intramural softball this year (down from an overwhelming four teams last year). Pretty embarrassed? Western Oregon State College reports that over 64 teams signed up for their intramural softball program this year. Embarrassed now? While you're recovering, how about getting a few people together and challenging The Print staff at a bout around the bases. Even Charlie Brown and Snoopy had a team to play against. Maybe the Blue Light Special Express can bring some of those bargain hunters over to field #2; they're probably more challenging anyway.

Tuition hikes to benefit students

So how do you feel about the proposed tuition hikes. Does it get your dandruff up and make your blood boil? Or, do you casually shrug it off for more immediate concerns, like are they serving lasagna for lunch today?

On the bright side there is a cafeteria to serve lunch in today: whereas, when the college opened in 1966 there wasn't a cafeteria let alone a campus. People actually paid \$60 a term to take classes in the basement of a church, to attend evening classes held at local high schools, and to work in shop classes held at the old Oregon City Vocation School next to the National Guard armory.

Since 1966, the campus has been built, programs have been expanded to include

more classes, and many new programs have been offered. All this and the campus is still expanding. Yet, the tuition increases since the college opened have always been kept well in line with the cost of living increases as reflected by the Consumer Price Index.

Oh sure, some will argue that the college administration didn't have enough confidence in the voters to ask for even more money on the last budget levy so that tuition wouldn't have to be increased, or that the squeeze is being put on the students to make up for the administration's lack of voter faith.

Get real; right now the average property taxpayer is paying through the nose to support public schools and one should never

look a gift horse, or a generous voter, in the mouth. Even if one rents, there is a portion of rent that goes to pay property tax and if property taxes go up so does the rent.

Let's give the administration some credit for putting a reasonable levy proposal before the voters and thank the voters for passing it the first time; the voters haven't always done that. The voters passed a building bond issue last year and this years budget levy, so what more do you want.

So what if the tuition is going to increase. The increase is staying within the cost of living increases, the students are the ones who are going to benefit from the tuition hikes, and CCC still has one of the lowest fulltime tuition rates around.

Slow doors at CCC become useless

You are late to your mid-term in McLoughlin. You run up to the building, breathless and impatient. Arms full of last minute papers, you spy the blue and white sign on the door and the black rubber pad before it. You step... and wait.

However much you want to curse, the door will still open at a snail's pace. It is state law!

Thanks to a democratic government, the law can be changed. But why instate the law in the first place? With all the complaints from disabled students using the slower-than-slow automatic doors, the reasoning behind the law seems foolish, at least, on this campus.

The rumors about the reason for changing the speed on the doors are really true.

The state of Oregon was sued by a young man who accidentally trapped his head in the fast-moving doors of the past, seriously injuring himself. This prompted the state-wide law on slower automatic doors.

Since the state has required these doors to open and close slower, CCC has nothing else to do but comply. Unfortunately, this is not an issue open to debate on this campus.

Getting back to this wonderful democratic government that we live in, the system can work for us. The petition that is rumored to be floating around campus to speed the doors up should not be turned into this administration, but to the state capitol where the written voices might really cause a stir.

Although exclusively for disabled students, the slower moving automatic doors present a problem to all who pass through them. The sharp metal edge of the door can become a hatchet to some students cruising to class, or, at least, an embarrassment. For some disabled students, the door can become a time-trap, when self-mobility already has them under restraints. For now, these other hazards have to be dealt with by the individual.

As inconvenient as the slower doors are, this campus is stuck with them.

You might be late to class, but the state of Oregon has a healthy bank roll, clean of all law suits that might pop up because of the speedy automatic doors. Which one seems fair to you?

Clackamas Print

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