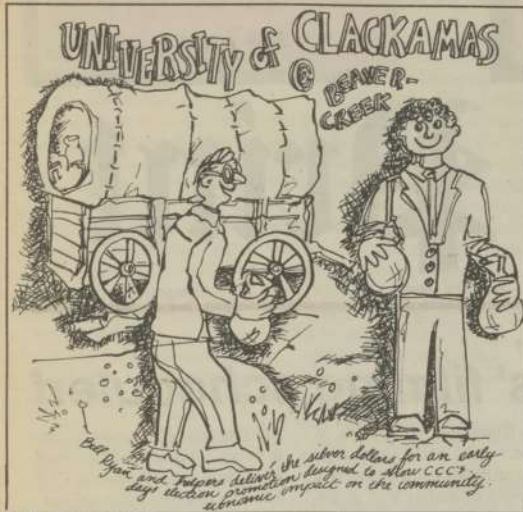


# The 'invention' of a college



by Sue Anne Walker  
Contributing Writer

"University of Clackamas at Beaver Creek," Assistant Dean John Hooley can't even say it without a chuckle. The label of "University" was a joke that dated back to the early days when Clackamas Community College was nothing more than a collection of temporary buildings and odd locations.

Mr. Hooley had a dream of being able to counsel students in an office of his own. That dream was answered by a room in a Presbyterian church. In a year, one student made it through the maze

of classrooms, up the stairs, and past and art class where a nude model was working, to his office.

The institution had a feeling of being invented as it went along. A handful of talented faculty members such as Fred Dewolfe in the History Department, Jim Streeter in the Math Department, Jim Lee in the English Department, and others were willing to pull together to create the environment of "we're going to make this thing work."

"It's the kind of thing you do when you're young and think you can do anything," says Hooley.

Clackamas had to pass a levy in order to keep running and in the early days not everyone was convinced that a new community college was a good idea. There was controversy over the location. Some thought a location that was more centralized in the Clackamas County area would be better than way out yonder in Beaver Creek. One of the promotions during election time incorporated a plan to improve community awareness of the economic impact the College had on the area. Faculty members took part of their salary in silver dollars. One faculty member stated "Grocery clerks hated our guts because we flooded the stores with silver dollars that they didn't have a slot for in their tills." (An illustration of silver coins being carried to their destinations can be seen in the clay creation by Nancy Travers, that hangs in the CCC library.)

If you see that angry gleam in the eye of an aging grocery clerk at the mention of UCBC (University of Clackamas at Beaver Creek) now you know why. Today Clackamas has established itself as a part of the community, but that creative spirit still lies in the foundation of its pioneer days. It's unlikely that Clackamas will be christened as a real university; except from behind the doors of our chuckling faculty and staff that remember the early days...at least not soon.

**The Clackamas Print is now accepting applications for section editor positions.**

Applications may be picked up in Trailer B, and they are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday May 23.

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