

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I'd like to congratulate Print Staff Writer Staci Smith on a balanced treatment of schedule mailing issues.

There are, however, a couple of points I'd like to clarify:

Clackamas receives less than a dozen complaints each year about district-wide mailing, out of a district population of 225,000. The recent public debate about schedule distribution was prompted by a single letter to *The Oregonian*. That's not much criticism.

In addition to district-wide mailings, a total of 4,000 to 5,000 schedules are distributed each term, usually in single bundles of 25 placed at 175 sites

throughout the county.

Our current mailing method has proven most cost-effective because it requires little special handling. The "least wasteful" distribution system -- that is, one which delivers schedule information only to those who want it would probably employ several different approaches and require more management. If Clackamas goes to a more complex system, it is likely to cost more money. As we explore alternatives, cost-effectiveness will continue to top the list of priorities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wilcox
Publications Supervisor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Daniel Mala's article "Tuition Gains Precedence Over Education." Surely, everyone who is involved with students at Clackamas Community College would like for finances to not be an issue for anyone. Unfortunately, it does cost money to attend classes and receive credit for your work at all levels above high school.

Procedures at Clackamas, and any other institution of higher learning, are set up to insure that the institution is not here one day and gone tomorrow. I would bet that the rules which govern our registration are not much different from those at Portland Community College or George Fox College or even Oregon State University. I'm sure Mr. Mala is an honest young man and would certainly have paid his tuition three days later just as he said he would. Unfortunately, not everyone is always so honest (I know this is a shock to learn).

I would ask Mr. Mala how he would feel if he had arrived at registration and the cashier's with his hard-earned money in hand only to find out that all of his classes were closed because the seats had been filled with individuals who had not only not paid for last term's tuition, but had also not paid a dime to get their seat in these classes, either.

Students have a habit of asking why their tuition goes up but never seem to be sensitive to the costs of producing their education. Each year, higher institutions across Oregon and the U.S. write-off thousands of dollars in unpaid student debt that, somehow, just never got paid.

I, and many of my colleagues, are very sorry that you feel that you have been treated like a "McDonald's-style service." What had been hoped was that students would be served in a faster and more efficient manner (you could easily go stand in one or more of the 10-hour registration lines at several other local colleges ... and then be told the same thing when you reached the cashier).

College should be a learning experience; all aspects of it. No one promised you that college would be easy and, certainly, they never said it wouldn't cost you. Education may be a right but it is not free! When you open your business Mr. Mala, rest assured that I will be one of the first to consume your goods or services and I'll pay for it on a deferred plan which I know you won't mind. And, be certain that I'll ask to use your goods and services again ... unfortunately, I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!

Jim Jackson
Director of HPE/Athletics/
Comm. Recreation

Dear Editor,

Mr. Hibberd (Wed. Apr. 21, 1993 article), it is extremely difficult to develop a rapid and comprehensive grievance procedure for sensitive issues such as sexual harassment (or child abuse or domestic violence or gay rights) that protects both the rights of the accused and the accuser. However, "protect" those rights we must for this notion is axiomatic to our U.S. judicial system and to our democratic government: guilty until proven innocent.

Thus, after many hours of discussion and debate by all sectors of staff on how to protect both employee and student rights, a fledgling sexual harassment policy was put into effect Dec. 1, 1992. Furthermore, this procedure has built into its evaluation component two check points -- quarterly briefings and yearly evaluations.

In the sessions which I attended, whether the college should have a policy was not an issue, but rather how to design a procedure within the confines of

the law. "Fast food, it ain't" but it's a beginning. I have received at least one call from a higher education institution asking for a copy of our procedure, for they, like many others, are wrestling with an acceptable design.

Finally, one needs to also understand that unlike business or industry, "academic freedom" is a universal concern for colleges and universities. Thus, there is a third element to protect and a direct reason for policy delay on many campuses. Ample literature exists on this topic; you're welcome to borrow some of mine.

Ideas for improving and refining this 5-month-old procedure at Clackamas are most welcome. However, let's do give credit to a caring administration, faculty and staff who have not only given many hours of time to this procedure, but who have also placed our college in the forefront by developing and implementing a mechanism to deal with the sensitive issue of sexual harassment.

Judith E. Peabody
Faculty

Buildings damaged by earthquake

College analyzes necessary repairs

by Jason Eck
Staff Writer

The recent earthquake experienced locally caused extensive damage in some areas but did minimal damage here at Clackamas, serving as a warning and possible preview of a more violent and devastating shaker that could occur in the near future.

Although the March 25 "Spring Break Quake" was not big enough to do significant damage, it did, however, cause damage to a couple of college buildings. It also wiped doubts from people's minds of the possibility of an earthquake in our area. Some places were harder hit than others, namely those closer to the epicenter of the quake. In the Oregon City area, the damage was minimal.

The buildings that were affected include the Community Center and Randall Hall, according to Gary Dirrim, dean of college services. According to Dirrim, a structural engineer came to the campus to inspect all buildings after last month's quake.

After careful inspection, damage was found in the CC to the brick and concrete supports outside the building. There are cracks in both the concrete and brick portions of the supports that need to be repaired. Calculations are still being figured by a structural engineer so that the supports can be fixed properly, Dirrim said. The damage in Randall Hall was

less serious and occurred in the concession area.

"We're still in the analysis process. In the next 10 to 12 days we hope to come up with a plan to make the necessary corrections," Dirrim said.

The college carries earthquake insurance, and has for several years, so the costs of repair will be of minimal cost to the college.

"We have \$41 million worth of earthquake insurance with a \$100,000 deductible per occurrence," Dirrim said. This means that for \$1 million in damage, \$900,000 will be paid by the

insurance company and \$100,000 by the college, Dirrim explained.

The college has compiled a list of safety measures to take if and when another earthquake hits. George Sims, environmental safety specialist, said the most important thing to do when an earthquake hits is "not to panic. Nothing is going to tumble down radically unless it's a 7-point something. The main thing is to get to a safe place -- an open area," Sims said.

With the possibility of another larger quake, let's hope that these steps will never need to be taken.

Earthquake Safety Measures

*these tips were issued by the college

- 1) If indoors, seek refuge in a doorway or under a desk or table. Stay away from glass windows, shelves and heavy equipment.
- 2) If outdoors, move quickly away from buildings, utility poles and other structures.
- 3) If in an automobile, stop in the safest place available, preferably away from power lines and trees. Stop as quickly as safety permits, but stay in the vehicle for the shelter it offers.
- 4) After the initial shock, evaluate the situation and if emergency help is necessary, call Public Safety (on campus ext. 6650) or 9-1-1. Protect yourself at all times and be prepared for aftershocks.
- 5) Damaged facilities should be reported to the Plant Services Department (ext. 2385). Note: Gas leaks and power failures create special hazards.
- 6) If

- an emergency occurs, activate the building alarm. You must report the emergency by phone.
- 7) When the building evacuation alarm sounds, walk to the nearest marked exit. Ask others to do the same.
- 8) Assist persons with disabilities in exiting the building! Remember: Do not use elevators and don't panic.
- 9) Once outside, move to a clear area at least 500 feet away from the affected building(s). Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrants and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and crews.
- 10) If requested, assist emergency crews as necessary.
- 11) A campus emergency command post may be set up near the emergency site. Keep clear of the command post unless you have official business.
- 12) Do not return to an evacuated building unless told to do so by a college official.

\$13,000 awarded to college projects

by Michele Myers
Staff Writer

Now that the 1993 Mini Grants have been awarded, life at Clackamas can get a little more interesting. This year the Mini Grant committee received 21 proposals for more than \$55,000 and nine proposals were awarded for more than \$13,000.

Mini Grants are an important factor in the building of Clackamas' educational departments. They provide valuable money for worthy projects that would otherwise not receive funds.

Mini Grants are awarded by a committee which carefully looks over the proposals and awards the grants to the most worthwhile projects. Money awarded by the committee is raised

through fund raisers held throughout the year. The more people who become involved in these fund raisers and the more money raised means more deserving projects can be awarded money.

In the past, the grants have been responsible for Phi Theta Kappa funding to International Education. This year, many different departments are benefitting from the grants. Paul Wanner was awarded \$2,000 for a tolerancing video training starter set. Carol Evans and Cyndi Andrews of the Learning Resource Center were also awarded \$2,000 to establish a summer success lab. John Snively of Physical Science was awarded \$1,741 to purchase an integrated digital weather station. Bob Misley Jr. of Life Sci-

ence received \$1,500 to purchase and install native trees and shrubs along Douglas Loop. Gerald Cook of Automotive also received \$1,500 to design and construct training models. Judith Andersen of Nursing was awarded \$1,420 to buy instructional interactive video software. Gayle O'Toole received \$1,269 in funding for a diversity management workshop series. Terence Shumaker of Drafting was awarded \$1,100 to explore Virtual Reality. Last, but not least, Calet Hottman of Financial Aid received \$500 to computerize scholarship information.

These people will go far in helping the college and their departments with these worthwhile projects.



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