

Internet should be provided for students, staff

✓ *Streeter Hall computer lab yet to receive Internet hookup*

by Patrick Lundstrom
Staff Writer

Clackamas students can get access to the Internet through the Streeter computer lab, but only in a limited way.

E-mail capabilities have been available for some time, but this is only one (but the most common) of the many Internet communication standards (protocols).

The administration has plans for extending other services to students. Some of the anticipated capabilities are World Wide Web (Web), File Transfer Protocol (FTP), File Search and Retrieval (Gopher) and Telnet (older protocol commonly used in libraries), utilizing the program Netscape. There is still some uncertainty about extending Usenet newsgroup capabilities.

The school is committed to providing Internet access to the students and staff, having in-

vested "many tens of thousands of dollars bringing Internet e-mail and Web access," stated Network Administrator Scott Branscum. "I feel they have done a very good job investing in that technology."

Student access, through the Streeter computer lab, is planned for this term. Dividing the lab into sections has caused delays in hookup; the date is still to be announced.

Delays in access are generating concern among students. To some, it sounds like the same sort of delays that they got last term, after access had been promised.

"They say money is their concern," states Chris Esterly. "I seemed to think that it is a issue, of the way in which each student may use the Net. You know students using the Net for sex talk, the retrieval of obscene material, or just innocently hogging the Net, when other students may wish to do their homework. It kind of gets down to a suppression of certain types of information deemed unworthy of the colleges time and money. Sounds a lot like the college is telling us what we can read. I'm sorry, but I was unaware of the college's au-

thority to dictate morals and ethics. The Net is a huge resource (over 12 terabytes of information) that brings the proximity of the world within reach of your terminal, and as the world shrinks, your understanding of it increases, hence a broader, more understood student. Isn't a broader base a important byproduct of colleges?"

The students have already been given the potentially most harmful tool available. E-mail is the most popular service on the Internet, with an estimated 20 million users, and one of the more immediate interfaces.

It is true that one could search for, or stumble across, potentially offensive, or explicit, ma-

terial on the Web. This can also be said of a library, or some text books.

Michael Garvison stated by e-mail, "I thought one of the reasons for going to college is to be

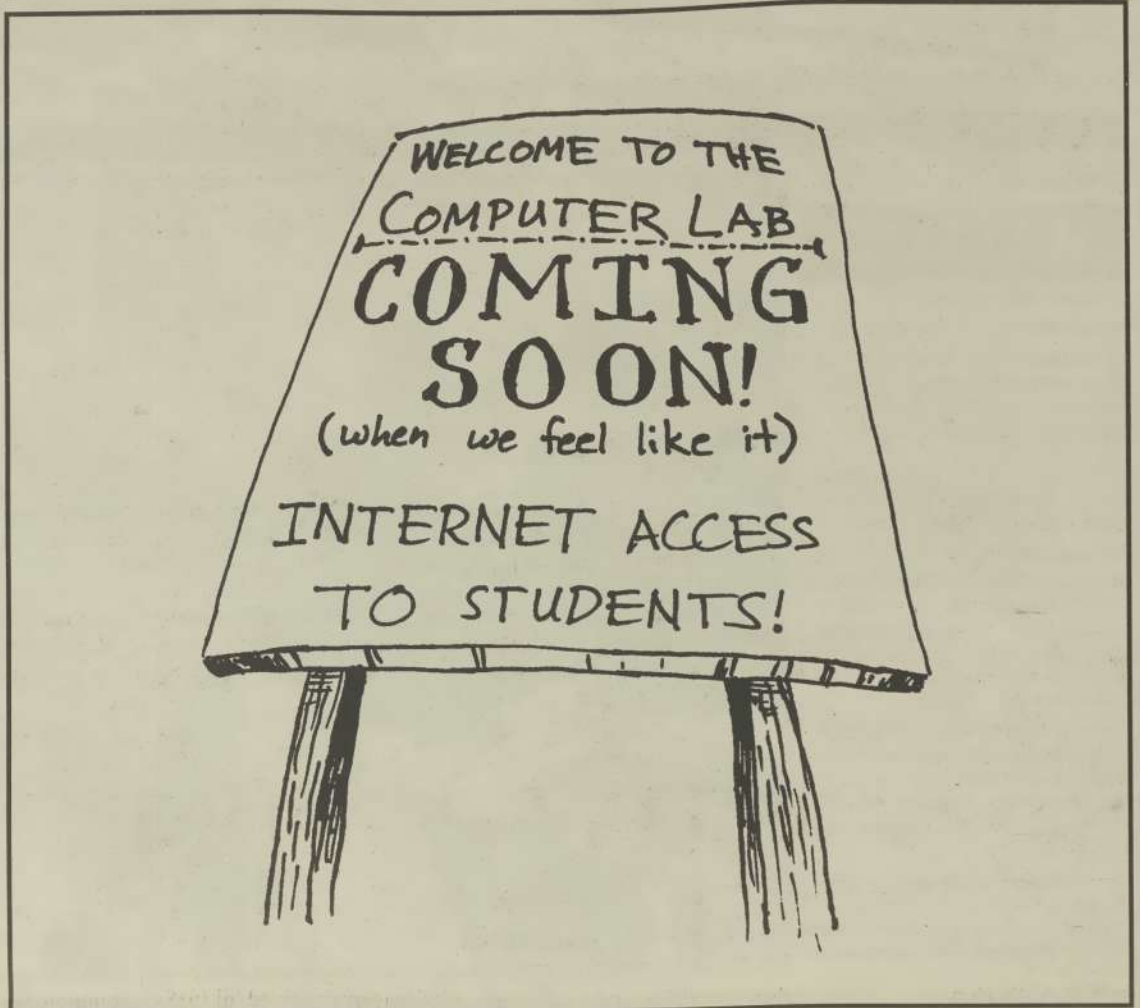
simply say that access should be given to anyone who asks.

Some people suggested access for members of a Web club. Besides informing members of the joys and dangers of the Internet, a club could help rehabilitate 'Net junkies. Rehab failing, the club could help the junkies get hooked up at home.

A solution that some schools have opted for is to limit

access. Students could freely surf the 'Net, but could not save and/or print things they access. This prevents excessive use or abuse of paper and storage media. Giving students access, without the ability to take it away from the lab, could result in the excessive use of lab time to read and hand copy information from the screen.

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