

College Conversation sparks innovation

Amy K. Hanson
Managing Editor

Students had the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns to college President John Keyser and staff about campus life at the College Conversation held on Jan. 22.

Issues raised at the conversation included several concerns about athletics, food service, student and non-student pay rates on campus and various educational programs.

Gary Dirrim, dean of college services, first reported on questions raised at the conversation at the Jan. 30 President's Council Meeting.

After the Feb. 6 President's Council, Dirrim said that three things were being addressed, the first being the difference between student and non-student pay rates.

According to Dirrim, the council spent hours discussing this topic. Human Resource Manager Rusty Painter will be doing research and report back to the President's Council with recommendations.

Painter will be talking with Academic Tracking and Student Employment Coordinator Vi Christensen and Tutor Coordinator Don Shula and reporting rationale and adjustments to the council.

Second were concerns about athletics. In response to these concerns, new showerheads and clocks will soon be installed in locker rooms. An over crowded weight room as well as new scoreboards for the softball and baseball fields are still being discussed.

About food services, Dirrim said that improvements are being made and Associate Dean Roxey Hobart will be calling together the food service committee.

According to Dirrim, none of these issues have ironclad recommendations.

Staff members 'value driven'

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e-mail and Internet, there was some sort of conspiracy to keep these services from the students. Media Technician President, Diana McKeever stated that this is not true.

"Not all staff has Internet. Some don't even have pc's," she said.

"Unfortunately it's not like a lightswitch. You just can't just turn it on and off," said Scott Turpin, of I.T.S., explaining reasons for the delays.

According to Turpin, the technology first had to be set up and the way it was wired made it difficult. There were a limited number of connections from the provider and they had to petition for more.

Other student complaints were that O.I.T. was trying to hide information from them and they were censoring e-mail.

"We don't censor anything. We don't have time to censor anything," said Turpin.

It is not just the technology

that is slowing things down but money as well.

"The system is being upgraded as the budget allows. The bottom line comes down to money and bodies that can do the work. We just got Internet a couple of months ago," said McKeever.

As students became upset over the delays some sent e-mail to staff members which has only added to the problem.

"The staff became frustrated when they started getting e-mail, making them feel uncomfortable. It made the staff defensive when they didn't know who the sender was," stated McKeever.

"We're not trying to make them feel deprived or willfully withhold any services from them. We are value driven, the students are the reason we are here," says McKeever, who feels she can say that as she was once a student here herself. "We know where our jobs come from. It's the students."

Albee a born lover of the Arts

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entitled *The Zoo Story*, he wrote it as his 30th birthday present. With this successful play, Albee realized that playwriting was for him.

"I discovered that I was a playwright and had been all my life," said Albee. "I'm glad I'm a playwright; I like the fact that theater always exists in the present tense."

Censorship is an issue of concern for Albee. He is not happy with the problems creative artists face.

"Censorship of content is a fascist act; there is no such thing as a little censorship," said Albee who feels the arts are threatened in this country.

"The attempt to destroy the aesthetic education of Americans through the elimination of the National Endowment for the

Arts is a criminal act," said Albee. "I see us turning away from anything that does not reaffirm the values that we already hold ourselves."

The arts as a whole are important to Albee because he sees them as what makes humans unique.

"We are the only animal that has created art," commented Albee. "This is what happened sometime way back there; our tails fell off, and we grew art."

"All art is in opposition. Art is there to hold a mirror up to us. It is there to question the values we have accepted without question," said Albee.

Members of the audience seemed impressed with Albee's lecture.

"It was an absolute smash," said Shields. "It was truly a glorious event."

Phi Theta Kappa : Dispelling the myth

Laney Fouse
Staff Writer

In order to understand what Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is, you must also understand what it isn't. To it's credit, PTK is not a secret society or a sorority. There are no cryptic passwords or surreptitious handshakes, no clandestine meetings, or bizarre initiations. According to its Mission Statement,

"The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two year college students...To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence."

In other words, as college student with a 3.5 GPA or above, your scholastic achievement ranks you among the top 10 percent of all students enrolled in a two-year college. Many felt that such an achievement should be rewarded. Thus, the establishment of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Since 1918, PTK has honored more than one million students. Distinguished alumni includes people from such fields as education, business, arts and entertainment, public service and politics.

Member benefits include automatic nomination for

the National Dean's List (a publication of outstanding students). Inclusion in the PTK Transfer Database which is made available to colleges and universities seeking transfer students. Members are also eligible for an estimated \$21 million in transfer scholarships provided exclusively for Honor Society students.

"The reality of PTK," says second year advisor Kate Gray, "is that [PTK] serves its members. The members make it what it is."

Members volunteer their time to campus activities such as Moving On Week (being held through Friday) and Skills Day (scheduled for Thursday, February 22). They also get the opportunity to volunteer for local fundraisers and national projects.

General membership meetings scheduled throughout each term are held in McLoughlin, Room M204. Unless otherwise posted, meetings are scheduled for Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. A variety of topics includes information from the fields of Science, Literature, Psychology, and the Honors Program.

This Thursday's topic will be "The Right to Love". Questions about Phi Theta Kappa can be answered by Kate Gray, Ext. 2371 or Dave Arter, Ext. 2210. (Special Note: Story and Pictures of last night's PTK Induction Ceremony will appear in next week's Clackamas Print.)



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