

The Clackamas Print

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Clackamas Community College

Off-campus fight stirs controversy

Laney Fouse
Editor-in-Chief

In responding to a student grievance filed last Friday regarding an off-campus altercation involving three Clackamas college students, administrators have the difficult task of piecing together the information in order to make a decision on any disciplinary action.

The alleged incident happened during a party held by roommates living in an apartment on S.E. River Road in Milwaukie. The names used in this article have been changed in order to protect the identities of these students.

"I wasn't going to file charges but people, everybody, says it's wrong, what they did to me. Now I feel I should. Otherwise, they're going to think it's all right to go around and hit people," said Charlie.

In a telephone interview, David, one of the accused stu-

dents, said the incident occurred over an argument concerning an answering machine message with a female moaning, which Charlie found to be offensive.

"Charlie got upset and kicked over the coffee table, breaking it and then shoved a high school student in the face," said David.

Charlie recalls a different scenario.

"We were sitting around drinking and somebody said something. Somebody could have said anything, mentioned the word 'faggot', mentioned the word 'queer' or anything when I've had a few drinks and I'll just go off. I threw their [coffee] table and went into my room. Three of them came around to my door. They were telling me to get out. I put my head down and all three took a turn at socking me," said Charlie, explaining his bruised and swollen left eye.

When asked if the fight had anything to do with sexual orientation, David replied, "No, they had an idea when he moved in but didn't care when they knew for sure. Just as long as he didn't start hitting [making sexual advances] on them."

David went on to say he had not been drinking because it's against the rules for anyone on the wrestling team.

Although the Clackamas County Sheriff's office responded to the call made by the upstairs neighbors, a formal statement

from Charlie was not taken at that time. A call to the precinct revealed the officer has been out of the office since the incident. Charlie plans to press charges sometime this week.

For the time being, college administrators are keeping a low profile.

"I'm real uncomfortable saying what action he's [Charlie] taken or not taken. Every time we've dealt with this kind of complaint, it's been confidential. Until I find out what we're dealing with ... it would be speculation," said Dian Connett, dean of

Instructional Services.

According to the college's Student Handbook, the allegations concerning student misconduct must be in writing and signed by the complaining party. Grounds for disciplinary action include conduct which threatens or endangers the

health or safety of any person. The handbook also states students participating in athletics may be subject to stricter standards.

"The school cannot legally take action until the students are proven guilty," said Jim Jackson, director of PE/Athletics/Health/Community Education. He believes violence is not an alternative and does not condone it.

"[Although we] can't control what happens off campus, if what was said did happen, then it is wrong and it should not go unpunished," Jackson said.

Disciplinary action by the college would include a formal investigation of the allegations set forth in the student's complaint. The appropriate parties must all be notified in writing and, after a meeting, the associate dean or director will decide whether any corrective measures can or will be taken.

"If this becomes any kind of a discipline process, then there's a whole other set of restrictions about student records and actions that we would take with the students," said Connett.

Charlie is making plans on attending another college at the start of spring term because he feels uncomfortable with the "homophobia" which he says plagues our campus.

"I just don't feel comfortable here, and I think I would be better off in a more urban environment, said Charlie."

“Three of them came around to my door. They were telling me to get out...”

“Charlie,”
Clackamas student



Photo by Joel Coreson

Singers from Portland State University visited Clackamas' Gregory Forum last Thursday. Clackamas' choir performed many of the same songs they learned for their trip to Estonia. PSU's choir [above] also performed several songs.

Funding available for creating opportunities

Laney Fouse
Editor-in-Chief

Imaginative is the key word to keep in mind when submitting proposals for the 1996-97 Mini-Grant for Innovation Program.

The mini-grant program, in existence since the 1988-89 school year, has distributed over \$115,000. The Foundation Board expects to distribute almost \$20,000 this year to help fund projects not typically funded through the usual channels.

So how does one go about applying for these dollars? According to the Foundation Office, the general guidelines for completing a proposal include:

"Each project must demonstrate a commitment to the college's mission of creating lifetime opportunities for success through responsive education.

Funds requested must not normally be available through college resources (e.g. departmental budgets, release time, staff development, sabbaticals, etc.).

Any staff member(s) may apply for support from the Mini-Grant for Innovation Fund.

Specific time guidelines must be established for beginning and completion of projects.

At the first of each calendar year, grantees from the previous spring will be expected to provide an update (either by a one-pagereport or verbal report at the January Foundation Board meeting) on the project's progress.

Preference will be given to new projects; however, sustaining projects with merit will be con-

sidered.

Loans may be requested for seed money that can assist projects in becoming self-sustaining. Typically, grants will run from \$500 to \$3000.

All typed proposals will be reviewed by a Foundation screening committee. Funding recommendations from that committee may be sent to the Foundation Executive Committee for approval."

Once the screening committee begins reviewing the proposals, they focus their attention on six levels of interest. These include the project's commitment to the college mission state-

ment, the degree to which the program is needed, the cost benefit, the new manner of education, the thoroughness of the proposal's stated purpose and the qualifications of the key personnel. Once the screening committee reviews the proposals, the Foundation Executive Committee will work toward approving its recommendations.

For convenience, application forms are available on the F Drive; see (F:\Minigrant). The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, Feb. 28. Grant awards will be announced on or before April Fools' Day; no fooling.

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