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Smoking issue burns at Clackamas

Smoking has been twenty-five year controversy on campus

JIM SPICKELMIER

Webmaster

"The only way they will get me to quit smoking is when they pry my lit cigarette from between my dead fingers," Signey Vernon, retired Clackamas sociology instructor, exclaimed one day during class.

She went on to explain that she had been raised in a society where smoking was OK; however, society's viewpoint on smoking was starting to change. The point of the lecture was that it takes about 50 years to effect a change in social values and that the smoking issue was well worth watching

as a "highly visible" 50-year lesson in social change.

That was long ago and the smoking controversy was just beginning. Only a few years had passed since cigarette advertising had been banned from TV and billboards, the national movement to change a social value, smoking, was in its infancy.

Having attended Clackamas many times, I never forgot the aforementioned 50-year assignment. I have watched the changes in campus smoking policies with interest.

From the time of its construction through the late 1970s, Clackamas was an open smoking

campus. Believe it or not, one could walk out of class and light up right in the hallways. There were butt receptacles everywhere and nobody thought twice about smoking indoors.

Non-smoking areas at Clackamas became an issue in the early 1980s. The atrium area of the cafeteria became the non-smoking lunchroom.

By mid-decade the trend had changed to designated indoor smoking. The atrium cafeteria area became the smoking lunchroom, the main cafeteria became non-smoking and limited indoor smoking areas were appearing throughout the campus.

Around 1989, the smoking issue hit the fan at Clackamas. The question was do we, or do we not, ban all indoor smoking on campus? It was a heated issue and came down to a student vote. The smokers won for a brief time; however, an administrative decision ruled that all non-votes counted as no votes and by this means the administration banned all indoor smoking from campus buildings. For a brief time outdoor smoking areas were set up with picnic tables and overhead outdoor heaters but those too went by the wayside.

Will the college inevitably become smoke free? You can bet on it.



"It's nasty when you walk around the campus and walk through a cloud of smoke."

--Josh Cummings



"People should be allowed to smoke only in areas where others don't have to be bothered by the smoke."

--Johan Limbourg



"I think designated smoking areas should be enforced for people who like to smoke."

--Patrick Chandler



"People should be able to smoke anywhere outside."

--Niki Froehle



"I am very satisfied with where people smoke, it makes me feel comfortable with my surroundings."

--Vern Reck

Photos and survey compiled by Mike Pollock

Letters to the Editor

Smoking discussion not intended to banish smoking altogether

In response to (last week's letter to the editor), "Smokers urged to speak out for rights," the subject of DESIGNATED smoking areas was brought up in the College Conversation of Nov. 1, 2000.

In this conversation, the suggestion was made to designate smoking areas around the campus, NOT to ban smoking altogether.

Non-smokers don't like the health hazard it becomes and want to designate areas for the smokers. The smokers don't like this idea and feel that they are being discriminated against.

Smokers were not the targets of the discussion, the health of all students was. Smoking is a personal choice that not everyone chooses. So the smokers should respect everyone else's choice and accept the idea presented by

ASG areas away from building entrances. This allows for a better work and school environment for everyone, not allowing the smoke to permeate doorways, buildings and offices. This idea would benefit both smokers and non-smokers.

ASG has gone into serious research about covered smoking areas. If this solution is implemented, the designated areas have not yet been decided. Great discussion will go into the placement of the areas to make sure that everyone is accommodated. No one ever said that accommodations could not be made and there has been absolutely not talk of banning smoking from Clackamas Community College.

Hayley Hill,
Student Ambassador

'We want healthy lungs, and clean air' and 'not to smell like smoke'

I want to say I am disgusted with all the smoking on this campus. Whenever you walk out one of the buildings, you have to walk through the thick smoke in the air and cigarette butts on the ground.

I am thankful that smoking is not allowed inside the buildings, but something has to be done about the problem that exists now.

Most state-run schools, county offices and businesses have designated smoking areas that smokers must use if they wish to light up.

Everyone is worried about personal rights these days; well, my rights and the rights of many fellow students, are being violated every time we are exposed to this smoke.

I do not choose to have my books, belongings and myself

smell like smoke. I have to walk through many smokers to get to my classes, which causes me to have the aroma of a dirty ashtray.

There is now proof that second-hand smoke is just as dangerous as smoking itself. Those of us who do not smoke are unable to avoid the smell of the smoke, or the damage it can do to our lungs. We want healthy lungs, and clean air; by attending CCC, those wants are just a dream, not a reality.

If students have to walk to a designated smoking area to light up, it may even help some of them kick the habit. These students would thank you later and hundreds of us would thank you now for a smoke-free, butt-free campus.

Joshua Shelton,
Student

Why use an alias for *The Counter*?

I don't think I have to be a political science major to think I have the right to face my accuser, and I have never had any contributors to the *Clackamas Counter* introduce themselves to me. I wouldn't know them if they walked right by me. So I wonder who is this Clackamas student who is so much to say about *The Print*?

Seth K. Thurete, in his article "*The Counter* is an academic paper, not *The Print*," declares himself "one of the 'freethinking' Clackamas students who participated in the first edition of *The Clackamas Counter*." But Thurete isn't registered this term, nor has he ever been registered at

Clackamas.

I guess it's just a coincidence that if you rearrange the letters of Thurete's full name, they spell 'seek the truth.'

So, if Seth K. Thurete isn't the author of these two opinions, then who is, and why is he (or she) hiding behind an alias? Why all the cloak and dagger, riddles and conspiracy theory? Why all the venom toward *The Print*? I've already expressed to Dean Darris,

who acknowledged he is the advisor to *The Clackamas Counter*, that *The Print* is not interested in an altercation.

Much of what "Thurete" said in his article is



Steve Nielsen
News Editor

On the contrary

about members of last year's *Print* staff and their actions. Several of those students have moved on to

four-year schools. Regardless, I don't believe they used the newspaper to persecute Dean Darris, Don Epstein, Jennifer Rankin, or anyone else. I am sure that they were working under tight deadlines to collect all the information on a story, and reported the facts.

This paper has already spent too much time and space on refutation of the *Counter's* accusations. It would probably be much easier to resolve any further problems if any person with a complaint would talk about it with *The Print* staff directly. We at *The Print* aren't out to harm anyone; we are just looking for the truth.

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