

What is that smell in the Skylight Dining Room?

"Greasy nasty kitchen."

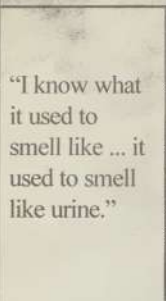


**Isnardo Gandarilla**



"It smells like cleaner."

**Evan Passon**



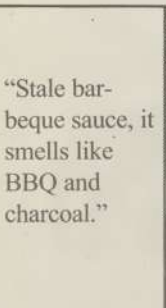
"I know what it used to smell like ... it used to smell like urine."

**Paul Wanner**



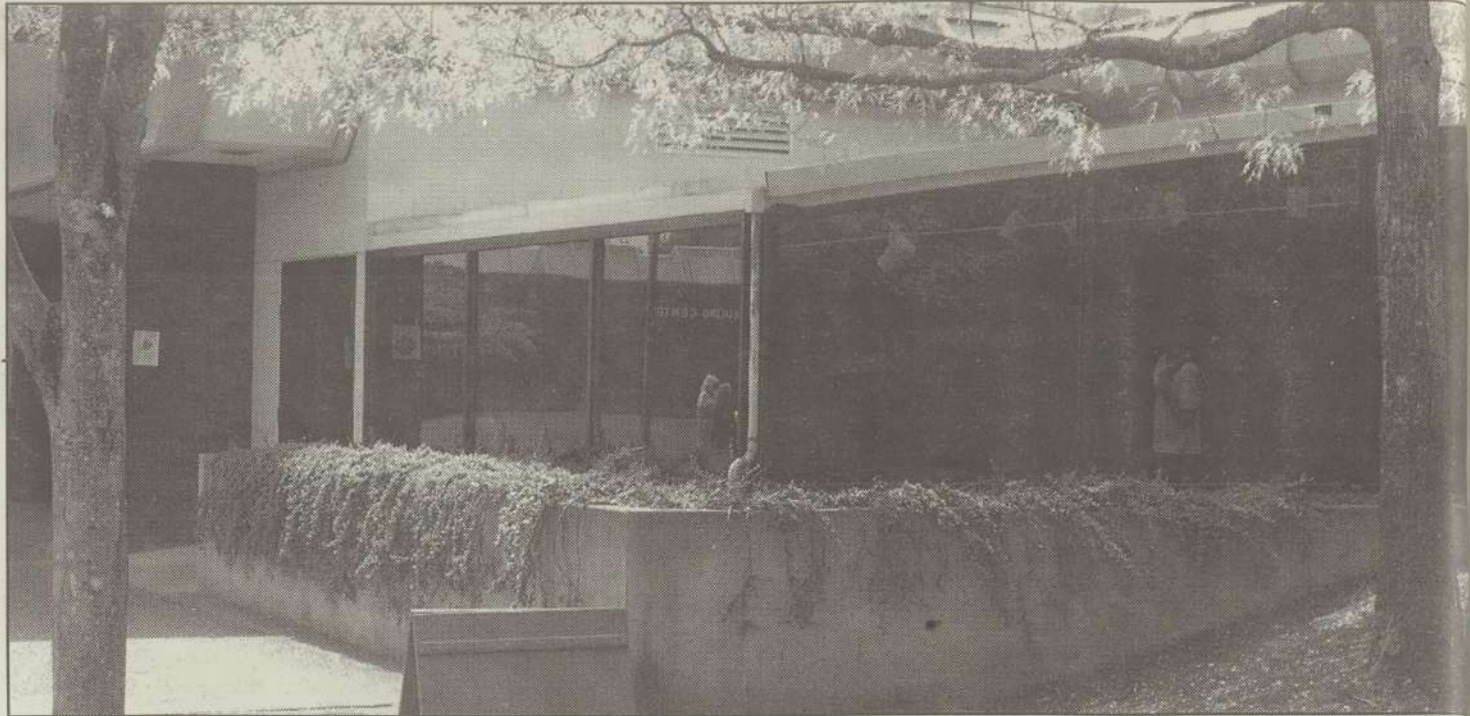
"It smells like the beach at low tide, it just stinks in here."

**Laura Andrews**



"Stale bar-beque sauce, it smells like BBQ and charcoal."

**Britt Crooks**



BEN MARAS CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Skylight Dining Room houses a mysteriously unpleasant odor, making it the 'nosesore' of the college.

# Stumped students speculate stench

**Ben Maras**  
OPINION EDITOR

One question has plagued Clackamas students since the dawn of time: What is that unusual and unpleasant odor in the Skylight Dining Room?

Theories range from poor ventilation, to a plot by the college to use neurotoxins to gain unlimited control over the brains of the entire student body. Others believe there is a Sasquatch living in a bomb-shelter under the floorboards.

The pure fact that a dining area (which implies that one is supposed to eat in it) smells of a mixture of mold and cheese wiz is

something to be worried about. What on this earth could produce such an unusual smell?

It can be one of three things: animal, mineral or vegetable. Most minerals do not produce strange odors (brimstone aside); besides, the smell of the lounge is a bit more organic than the smell of a rock.

Veggie? Maybe, if one counts some bizarre fungal growth as a vegetable, and if it is, would a bottle of Round-Up really cost that much? With the sheer magnitude of the odor, though, it seems the fungus may have grown legs and teeth and spends nights stalking the campus for prey, dropping strange trails of peat-moss, at which point it becomes both an

animal and a vegetable.

It could still be a dead animal, like a large rodent, maybe a capybara. Or it could be something far worse, such as the bodily odors of thousands of college students, trapped in a confined area, roasting and stewing in a veritable steam room under the hot Oregon sun (words that usually cannot go together). With no way to escape, the smell only cooks down until the air is a near plasma of noxious fumes, sending the students' senses into neurological convulsions, their scent receptors trying to leap right out of their nostrils and hurl themselves to their deaths.

Of all the theories, perhaps this is the most disturbing (although

mold-monsters is a close second. It is hard to imagine how much B.O. it takes (not to mention the time it takes) for odors to combine to create that pungent aroma.

There are legitimate concerns in this matter; a repulsive smell of an unknown origin would usually warrant an investigation. But since it doesn't seem to be a health concern for the college, all we can do is sit back and hope it's not anything toxic (or predatory).

Best of luck to ASG, as the new construction plans call for their office to be moved into the area. At least then maybe measures might finally be taken to remove the odor and we'd finally have this age-old question answered.

# New Fox reality make-over show 'The Swan' ruffles viewers' feathers

**Jennifer Trank**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Thanks to Fox's new program "The Swan," reality TV has sunk to a new low that has redefined the exploitation of women to dangerous levels, exhibiting television at its worst.

For those who have yet to see the show, each week viewers are presented two new self-proclaimed physical and social misfits. Actually, they are average-looking women who have fallen victim to today's unrealistic, media-driven portrayal of the way women should look.

Each woman describes the misery associated with each physical "flaw." Viewers learn why each contestant is so utterly unhappy with herself while plunging through the most dismal lows in her life. One contestant recalls her father warning her grade school teacher "not to expect much from her," while another describes the pain and humiliation associated with requiring daily facial shaving.

Contestants become the project of a "team of experts" including two plastic surgeons, a cosmetic dentist, dermatologist, physical trainer and therapist (thankfully).

The panel critiques each woman from head to toe in brutal detail, peppering the discussion with such comments as "That nose has got to go" and "It's a scalpel, not a magic wand." The beauty wannabes then undergo multiple procedures to bring their physical appearance more in line with what the experts feel is the ideal woman (picture Britney, Beyonce and Barbie rolled into one). They are then resuscitated, bandaged and wheeled to a motel to recover, looking like they've had encounters with a meat grinder and a blowtorch. Still shrouded in gauze, the

Swan hopefuls are put on rigorous exercise regimens and restrictive diets to shed the pounds required to win the pageant.

On a positive note, the women are also provided weekly psychological counseling which, in most cases, is totally inadequate.

After three months, contestants and their construction team gather for the unveiling. To add to the fervor at the "big reveal," mirrors are off-limits throughout the recovery period. The drama is immense, with dumbstruck girls professing with unbridled joy, "I don't even recognize myself!" How nice.

At the end of each episode, one "former ugly duckling" is told she has been chosen to participate in show's beauty pageant, while the other is told, "Sorry, not good enough!"

What message are we sending about inner beauty and loving oneself? Is the scope of what constitutes attractive really that narrow? Can the misery and self-loathing it takes a lifetime to amass be eradicated with a scalpel, a tube of lipstick and a few sessions on a therapist's couch? This seems a bit simplistic, not to mention exploitive and dangerous.

According to Rod Rohrich, president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), plastic surgery should not be viewed as a means to transform a person's looks or life.

"Some patients on these shows have unrealistic and, frankly unhealthy, expectations about what plastic surgery

can do for them," said Rohrich.

Rohrich also expresses concern for the young, impressionable audience.

"The public is being lulled into a sense that there are no real risks or complications [associated with] cosmetic plastic surgery," he said.

The ASPS urges potential patients to find a qualified plastic surgeon that operates in an accredited facility to ensure patient safety.

What the women on this program need is major reconstruction of self-esteem, not their profiles. And we as a society need to rethink what makes a person truly beautiful.

We have become a society of couch-gawkers who take pleasure in the drama of others. This show takes the meek, the insecure and the miserable, places them at center stage and gathers the masses to stare and shake their heads in agreement: "She is indeed ghastly."

This is not only exploitive on the part of Fox, but in poor taste and downright cruel. The sad part is most of us will remain glued to our televisions, unable to pull the plug.



INTERNET PHOTOS

Before and after photos of 'Cindy,' a contestant on Fox's 'The Swan.'

# Letters to the Editor

## High cost in cafeteria gives students' shaft

I wanted to bring something to the student body's attention. It may be trivial to some, but I think it will resonate with others. It used to cost about two dollars for a bowl of soup just a couple of terms ago; it now costs \$3.40 or so.

It used to cost fifty cents to get a refill on a regular coffee; now it is about \$1.10. That is a 120 percent increase. Starbucks only charges 50 cents in the real world. Do they sell stock in this company? With this kind of market profits, who needs to invest in their 401K? Just buy cafeteria stock and you are set.

The point I want to make is: Why the dean doesn't do anything about it? I complained to the dean's staff and they said they would get back to me and never did. I wonder if the student president even knows or cares that the students are being gouged big time. By the way, I was told that the school gets a percentage of the profits.

Maybe that's why nobody will call me. Two plus two equals what? It equals the school making more profits and the students getting the shaft. Just a thought.

Karl Barnes  
CCC Student