

Choosing the right loo for you

Investigative reporter E.E. West surveys the men's rooms to give you the scoop on poop

E.E. West
The Clackamas Print

It will happen sometime this quarter: you are walking to your next class, or even worse, halfway through a long lecture. Suddenly you feel that familiar rumble deep down inside. Nature is calling your name.

Most of us merely dash for the nearest restroom and hope for the best, but for the really finicky commode connoisseurs among us, not just any toilet will do. It takes the right facilities and the right atmosphere to turn an other-

wise nasty bit of necessary "business" into a comfortable and productive gastrointestinal event. For those select few, here are some tips for finding the loo of your dreams.

A good rule of thumb is, the newer the building, the better the facilities. The three newest buildings on campus are DeJardin, Niemeyer and Roger Rook. The restrooms in these buildings were built with infrared sensors on the toilets to prevent lazy or malicious students from leaving behind the gruesome evidence of their visits. This is both a good thing and a bad thing. Infrared sensors often make for cleaner toilets, but they can also malfunction and flush prematurely, leaving you with that "not-so-fresh" feeling. This is especially a problem in Rook where the

toilets are too busy contemplating Tolstoy to do their job properly.

True to the spirit of the theater/music building, the restrooms in Niemeyer offer the best acoustics. Again, this is both a blessing and a curse. It's great when you're practicing for your choir solo or belting out that Twisted Sister song that's been stuck in your head all day, but it also means that any unintended performances will be broadcast in high fidelity to everyone else in the room. Luckily, thanks to Niemeyer's state-of-the-art recording facilities you can not only measure the decibel level of your gaseous emissions, you can determine whether your range is bass, baritone or tenor.

Some other features of campus restrooms include: a small convention hall-sized

handicap stall in the Streeter annex (with just enough space for a table of Farscape memorabilia and a "Who's the better captain, Kirk or Picard?" forum); a heroic chic décor in the back stall of the Bill Brod Community Center's washroom; and a handwritten library of "good time" phone numbers and dirty limericks on the stalls in the Dye Learning Center.

Some things to be careful of: set yourself down gently when using the handicap stall in McLoughlin Hall's second floor. If you're in too much of a hurry you may misjudge its height with teeth-jarring consequences. Finally, Barlow Hall's first-floor facilities have been rated a Federal Disaster Area. FEMA has been slow to respond thus far.



Photo illustration by Jeff Sorenson
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Local public access station offers free classes, equipment

CJ Ciaramella

Feature Editor

Students may not know it, but there is a local TV studio that is not only willing to put them on the air, but will give them the training, tools and resources to do so.

Willamette Falls Television, a public broadcaster located in downtown Oregon City, has been giving local residents the opportunity to produce, film and edit their own television shows for 20 years and running. Not only that, but there is no cost for taking classes, checking out equipment or reserving studio time.

"Everything here is free," said Studio Manager Melody Ashford. "Your only cost is your tape stock."

In addition, the station airs all the shows that people produce. In fact, they are clamoring for people's shows. Ashford asserted that the sta-

tion wants "fresh stuff on TV. I have tapes bicycled in, but I'd rather have locally produced stuff."

The first step in getting on the air, according to Ashford, is to "call first and reserve a class or a tour." The studio offers classes on nearly every aspect of

broadcasting, and there is no need for prior experience.

"All of our classes are very intuitive and easy," said Ashford. "A lot of the people coming in have only used still cameras."

Classes do not, however, have a set schedule, but are set according to demand. Ashford explained: "When we set up our classes, they're rotated. It's first come, first serve."

There is not a minimum number of students needed, either; in fact, a low number is preferred.

"We will do a class for one person," said Ashford, explaining that a one-on-one experience is best.

"We like to keep it under three people per class."

People who enroll in a class or reserve a four hour time slot are given time to work in

one of the studio's seven editing suites, almost all of which contain digital desktop editing software. Most contain Adobe Premier Pro, but there is also a Mac suite with Final Cut Pro. The suites are named after major networks such as NBC, MTV, and TLC. As Ashford explained, "We could have named them 'One,' 'Two,' 'Three,' but it's more fun this way."

Fun seems to be the overriding goal around Willamette Falls Television. As Ashford explained, you don't have to be a broadcast journalism major to be interested in

making TV.

"With this type of the doesn't matter if you're going to do it professionally or not," Ashford. "It's just fun."

But Ashford also added that skills learned can give a person an advantage in the job market.

"If you can come into the studio with that extra skill, you can make a short promo for your company or something, and we can give you an edge," Ashford.

Students interested in Willamette Falls TV can contact them at (503) 650-0000.



Contributed Graphic

The über guber race

Ben Maras

The Clackamas Print

Low approval ratings for Oregon leadership are already causing many citizens to look to the gubernatorial elections, more than a year away. As candidates begin filing their preliminary paperwork and Political Action Committees lobby to draft candidates, Oregonians are trying their best to stay informed on a controversial race, especially on the issue of education.

The man in the crosshairs is incumbent Governor Ted Kulongoski (D). Criticized by Republicans for his left-of-center rhetoric, and mockingly called "Bowler-in-Chief" for his campaign ads featuring the candidate bowling, his actions are also gathering opposition within his own party. Many consider his education rhetoric to be stronger than his actions.

He has also shown support for a national military draft to aid in the war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan, which did little to help his numbers in the blue-state of Oregon.

Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson has already launched a campaign to take out Kulongoski in the primaries. In addition, fellow Eugene Democrat Senator Vicki Walker has expressed interest in the job, but is still unsure if she will run. Walker has been a strong advocate for education, demonstrating on the steps of the capitol building in Salem in February. Both are strong leftists who claim to appeal to "old-fash-

ioned Democratic values."

From the right, the names on the tongues of the GOP are Republican Chairman Kevin Mannix and Senator Jason Atkinson. Mannix, who lost to Kulongoski in 2002, a mere three percentage points, the closest margin in Oregon history — has announced another run. The Oregonian lawyer, normally a Democrat, was a driving force behind many conservative measures in Salem, including advocating tougher sentences for criminals. Considered too conservative for Oregon Democrats, he switched parties after losing the 1996 Attorney General race to Hardy Meyers.

But beating Mannix in the primary polls is Senator Jason Atkinson. A relative newcomer in Oregon politics, he has been hailed by conservatives such as talk-radio celebrity Lars Larson as a "different type of [Republican] candidate" and a "common-sense Republican."

One of his primary goals is to take power in the education system "out of the hands of special interests and back into the hands of parents and teachers."

In addition, a recent campaign has emerged to defeat past Oregon governor Mark Kitzhaber, who retired from politics out of frustration at being unable to solve the state's problems. He has been cited in private circles as being unlikely to win Kulongoski's primary. Although he's certainly short of declaring a run, he's saying that he is "listening" to the campaigns.

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