

Learning on an empty stomach

Night classes hard to stomach on a campus without dinner

Kyle Steele
The Clackamas Print

Are you a full-time student who also happens to have night classes and would like to have dinner before class on campus? Well your luck at finding food that would qualify as a meal is slim-to-none on campus, because Clackamas' own cafeteria stops serving menu-item food after 4 p.m.

This predicament leaves the Barlow vending machines as the single on-campus means of food of a mealish variety, and let's be honest, that food hasn't been fresh since the heyday of Mr. Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch.

This also makes the unofficial class trips to Haggen's and other fast food joints a common occurrence during night classes. I've personally walked into Haggen's at night and have seen almost entire classes and their teachers getting food at their deli. But not every student has

their own means of transportation, and trust me, bus drivers look at you funny when you ask for a quick trip to the Jack-in-the-Box down the road. Many students are left to starve in class as others come back with food, drinks and maybe even a magazine to read later.

So why isn't the cafeteria open and serving menu food a little later? Maybe till six? That way classes will have begun and students can already have gotten their food and have eaten a better meal by then.

Marco Velasquez, director of the Clackamas Chartwell's, said that they have tried to keep it open later, but "didn't get the traffic needed." He also said that it is open later now than under the previous director, who closed it at 2 p.m. This is a new class however, and if we want food later we are going to have to show a real desire for it.

Even if the Sub Generation shop in the cafeteria is the only station open till 6 p.m. it's still better than nothing, and it's still a much better option than the deep-fried places that are near by. Many students are not getting the food that they need to excel, either because of a lack of time or transportation, and

this is a problem that could easily be corrected by later hours in the on-campus cafeteria. If anything, the demand for food at this time should be greater and the cafeteria should get the customers to warrant later hours than they are open for.

So if you are a starving college-American and would like meal-food that you can get on-campus before your late class, take it up with your student government, tell the staff and management at the cafeteria or just make your opinion by known on your blog (we know you have one, you crazy blogger).

The revolution is coming, and it will be catered. Viva la Revolution!

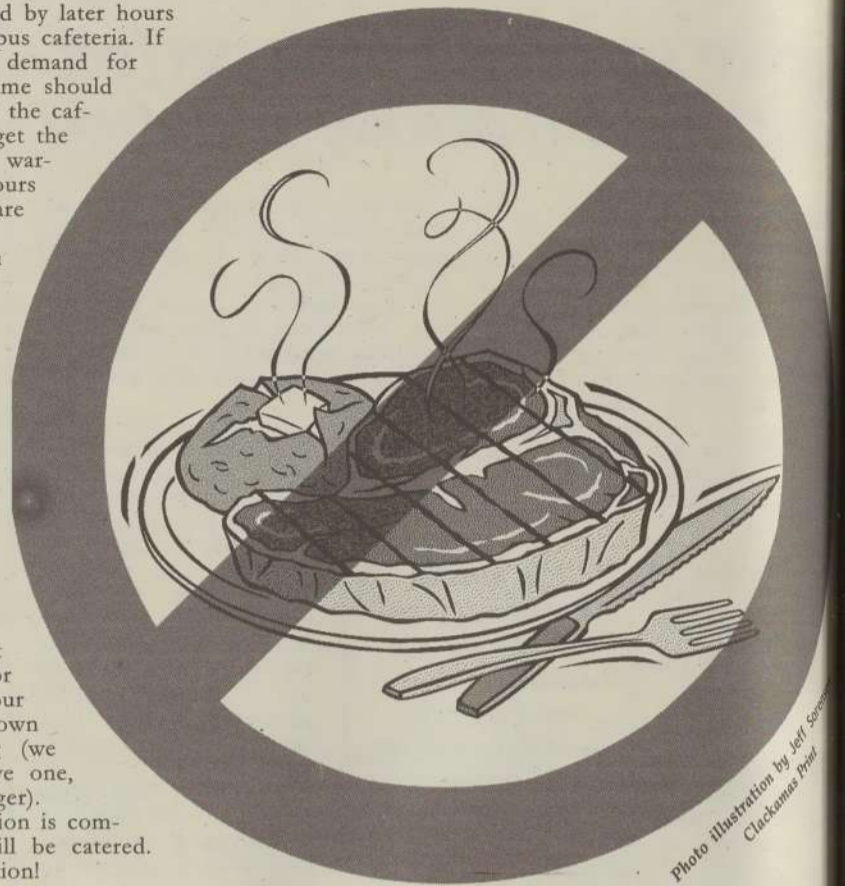


Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Death to celebrity gossip mongers!

Laura Cameron
Commentary Editor

I had my usual face-off with the television the other night. It tried to convince me that celebrity gossip is important, and I tried to make it shut up by ESP. It ended in a stalemate, as always.

These clashes of opposing wills are almost never quiet. Most of the time they involve yelling on

my part. "This isn't news!" is my usual cry when celebrity gossip interrupts the newscast. "Our own government is spying on us, and you focus on Tom Cruise?!" And, of course, my favorite refrain: "Who cares?"

It's a sobering realization to come by that, obviously, somebody cares. In fact, a lot of people must care, to warrant injecting such useless trivia into the newscast and the newsstand. But why? Why does any-

one care? I suppose the Hollywood set has the same kind of appeal as daytime soaps: scandalous, full of sex and drugs, and usually more interesting than our own lives.

In fact, gossip magazines like *Star* and *National Enquirer* often read like a soap opera digest: "Angelina announces that she's carrying Brad's baby, ignoring advances by her estranged father and driving Jen to seek solace with Vince. Meanwhile, Jessica files for divorce from Nick, and Jude tries to make up to Sienna for sleeping with the nanny." All it needs is a serial killer and a "surprising" paternity test and it could be the next story arc for "Days of our Lives."

It's also possible that some people are trying to live vicariously through "Entertainment Tonight" and the countless celebrity gossip rags. Like a father living his dream of the NFL by putting his young son on a football team, many Americans fulfill their fantasies of fame by soaking up gossip like a sponge. This is relatively harmless, since very few such people actually become stalkers, but unless they get a shot at an all-celebrity Jeopardy challenge, it seems like a complete waste of time.

Of course, the most cynical part of me says that we, as a society, focus on celebrity gossip because it's easier than thinking about real issues. The more I observe our society, the more I'm inclined to agree with this view.

I don't know. Maybe there's some totally innocent and logical reason for our infatuation with movie stars that I haven't thought of. All I know is, the next time I face off with the evening news, I'm adding a new weapon to my arsenal: the remote control.

Ah, Mute Button. You are my one true friend.

Controversial chair change for county

Rev. Sam Krause
The Clackamas Print

I was told that county politics aren't interesting; that no one cares about what happens in Clackamas County - at least politically. I beg to differ. It's when no one is looking that shady practices occur.

Near the end of December the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners replaced Martha Schrader with Bill Kennemer as the chairperson. The chair position rotates yearly and Commissioner Larry Sowa has always been known to defer. It's Kennemer's turn to chair the county board.

What's exciting about that? Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris was told by Kennemer that Schrader would no longer be on the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee. Norris was told of the change about a week before any changes to the chairmanship were made.

Kennemer and Sowa told Oregonian journalist Andy Parker the change was routine. Kennemer even explained that he was concerned with Schrader's attendance at the coordinating committee meetings. Funny, Schrader attended at least 70 percent of the meetings. Even more interesting was that her alternate, Sowa, never went to the meetings when Schrader was absent. Sowa replaced Schrader on the committee.

Also, Norris (who co-chaired the coordinating committee with Schrader) and other Metro leaders praised Schrader's work on both the coordinating committee and the 28 member Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee.

I would say that the change

on the board was bound to occur. Although, how the change occurred just exemplifies what is wrong with a three member board of commissioners.

In Oregon, if a government body has a quorum (the minimum number of members that need to be present in order to do business) there must be public notice of the meeting, and at least the press must be allowed to attend. Also, the minutes must be made public after the meeting occurs.

Our county has a board of three commissioners. Only two of them constitute a quorum. Sowa and Kennemer obviously discussed the change before it occurred. Technically they were supposed to tell us (the voters) and the press before, during and after the decision was made.

Doesn't all of this sound unnecessary? Multnomah County has a five member board of commissioners. Even Wilsonville and Lake Oswego have larger chambers of commerce and city councils than the board of commissioners.

Our board is hamstrung. Members can't talk without breaking the law and decisions can be made with only two commissioners. At the moment there are two Republicans and one Democrat on the board. Which party do you think is going to have a favorable outcome on contentious issues?

Lynn Peterson is going against Larry Sowa next election. If the position changes hands to a Democrat, the same problem still exists.

Clackamas County has an old system that is in serious need of a tune up.



Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print