

Face Off: Should campus ban smoking?

Freedom of choice includes the freedom to smoke

Tayo Stalnaker

The Clackamas Print

Banning smoking on college campuses is something Adolph Hitler would do.

No, seriously. According to Bristol University, Hitler financed studies on smoking and anti-tobacco campaigns during the Second World War. The Nazis often pointed out that Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Francisco Franco didn't smoke and that the Allied leaders, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin did. Guess who won? That's right, the chain smokers.

Perhaps the reason the Allies were victorious is because of their personal freedoms. Well, besides Russia. Two out of three ain't bad though.

America and Britain are both democracies that allow freedom of choice, which includes the freedom to smoke tobacco. Smoking tobacco has been shown to increase concentration and to be relaxing. This could explain the Allies' excellent military strategy and why Hitler was dumb enough to attack Russia.

If colleges ban smoking on campuses, they are taking away our personal freedom of choice. This is something our founding fathers died for and they should be honored for it. You don't want to be un-American do you? I would tell the non-smokers to go back to France but they smoke more than we do.

Public colleges shouldn't be able to ban smoking because our tax dollars pay for their existence. Can anyone tell me where our country receives a lot of tax money for education? That's right, from people buying tobacco products.

In all honesty, smoking tobacco at college is perfectly fine if done outside at least 25 feet from entrances. I will admit that we smokers do need to clean up after ourselves

and actually use the ashtrays on the campus. We also need to obey the signs posted by every entrance to keep 25 feet away in order to not annoy the people coming out of the building.

However, that is still not grounds for colleges to ban smoking. A more civil way to deal with this problem is to fine anyone caught throwing a butt on the ground or standing too close to the entrance, preferably for a large sum.

Our country relied on tobacco to aid in growing our economy. It helped build this nation up from 13 colonies to the superpower that it is today. America is the land of the free and smokers should be allowed to express their freedom.

God bless America and God bless Sir Walter Raleigh.

Smoking causes disease, costs schools money

David Stark

The Clackamas Print

The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention describes tobacco use as "the single most important preventable risk to human health in developed countries, and an important cause of premature death worldwide."

Of the estimated 15 million college students today, approximately 1.7 million will die prematurely of complications that arise from smoking.

Colleges may find it difficult to focus on the hazards of smoking when there are a whole host of behaviors that are taking place, such as alcoholism, which have a direct effect on the campus and the students living there.

While there are many compelling issues on campus, administrators should make smoking a priority and take a comprehensive approach to prevention.

The fact is that tobacco is one of the nastiest compounds used by man and should be kept as far away from any and

all institutions that advocate learning due to its horrendous health hazards.

There are a number of ways in which smoking can increase the cost of tuition. Insurance increases due to the risks of fire, as well the cost of replacement for damaged furniture and buildings.

The risks posed by smoking tobacco are both the direct danger caused by the inhalation of the chemical compounds as well as the fire danger of a cigarette that has been chemically treated to smolder indefinitely.

The interactions between the body and the tar that is inhaled are as hazardous as they are numerous, the most publicized of which would be cancer.

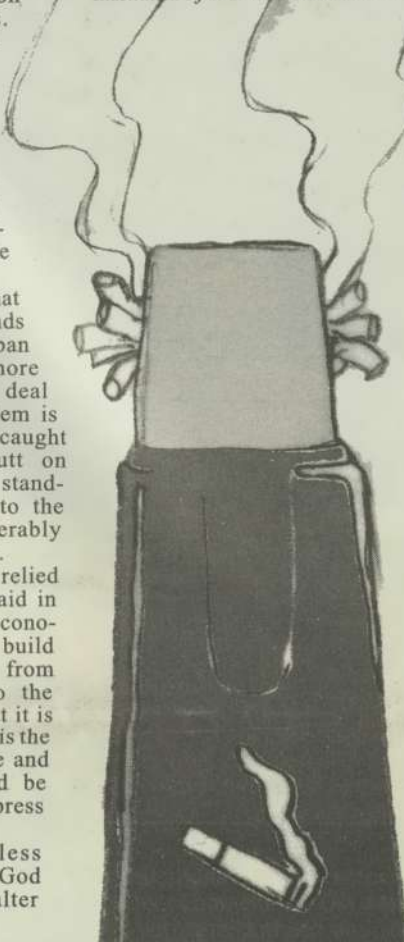
Other unfortunate reactions come in the forms of myocardial infarctions (heart attack), strokes, thromboangiitis obliterans (Buerger's disease), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), emphysema, halitosis, and in men, erectile dysfunction.

A study done by an international team of researchers has produced results showing that the risk for heart attack in people under the age of 40 quintupled if they smoke.

In 2001, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh launched a comprehensive tobacco prevention initiative that included a social norms marketing campaign. Smoking rates decreased over one-third following UW Oshkosh plan, which is currently used by other campuses as the design for their anti-tobacco campaigns. And as such they should be commended.

The evidence is clear: tobacco without a doubt one of the most deadly creations humans administer to themselves, and all colleges should make an immediate ban on smoking

Illustration by E. E. West Clackamas Print



Drag show offensive, exploitive

I am a second year student here at CCC, and was witness to an outrageous event happening in the Community Center here at CCC. On Tuesday, May 8, the college saw fit to allow a grievous event: a drag show. Being a moral citizen I found this event to be offensive on two different levels.

Just to be clear, I have no opposition to people expressing themselves in a manner that allows them to live a better life. But, for the college to allow something like this in a center for the community, where a very small portion of the community is of like mind, is egregious.

First off, the Oregon City community is one of traditional moral values and to have this event in the center for said community is even more offensive.

Finally, tolerance is a good thing when tolerance is about accepting people, but this event wasn't about embracing gender confused individuals, it was about exploiting and mocking them. I found this to be

even more ironic when a club that is supposed to be supporting people who have alternative lifestyles put on the event.

In conclusion, the college has made the type of mistake that is both hurtful to itself, the student body and the community that it has become such a good part of. I truly wish the school hadn't dropped the ball this time.

Ron J McGauvran
Clackamas student

Drag show double standard

According to posted flyers, campus emails and an article in *The Clackamas Print*, the Rainbow Club is sponsoring a "drag pageant" on campus. Regardless of how I feel about it, I support the right for them to have this event.

According to their club advisor, it's important because "it's a diversity issue." According to one club member, "it's just for fun and community involvement."

I recall this past winter where

The Clackamas Print ran an article about the serious need to not use the title "Christmas" when referring to the annual Giving Tree, because it was found to be offensive to some, while exclusionary to others. Anything perceived to be associated with "Christian" influences is entirely unacceptable, regardless of whether some found it fun, or that it garnered community involvement.

I am not sure if this double standard is ironic or just sad. I see it as a diversity issue.

Kurt Lewandowski
Instructor of Mathematics

Editor's note: The article referenced ran in issue seven of The Print in the news section and was reporting on the controversy surrounding the Giving Tree. This was not an endorsement of either side of the issue.

The Clackamas Print encourages reader response. Submissions must be received by 1 p.m. Friday in order to be printed in the following week's issue. All submissions must be accompanied by the writer's full name and contact information; requests to remain anonymous will be considered. Please limit letters to approximately 200 words, essays and guest columns to approximately 550 words. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity, not content. Please send submissions to chiefed@clackamas.edu or drop them off on a disk in RR 135.

Letters to the editor

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