

Internet radio in danger

Matt Olson
Commentary Editor

Many listeners feel indignation, repulsion and, yes, severe disappointment toward the music industry in this new millennium – but the industry's latest actions take the cake.

Last month, the Copyright Royalty Board (one of Congress' committees/lackeys) raised the fees that Internet radios have to pay by 30 percent, retroactive back into 2006. There may be no collective gasp, or even an "oh, that sucks" uttered by the masses, but it adds to the growing sense of confusion.

To "clarify," Congress has already passed three separate laws which affect the rates that different broadcasting mediums must pay to beam beautiful ballads

to greedy ears. Now mix in music pirating, two types of royalty fees (which may or may not apply), an increasing range of musical tastes and ever more competition for listeners, and it might become a bit clearer what broadcasters are up against.

The kicker is that this fee increase was, essentially, done by the music industry – to the music industry. The betrayal is an age-old one; the rich music moguls are twisting the arms of the music hipsters (what with their podcasts and streaming media). Even simpler, big money is strangling an opportunity and, by doing so, shooting itself in the foot.

The "foot" that these clout-swinging businesses are shooting is the independent Web

radio stations, which have such potential and great communities.

Too many times this pattern has played itself out: fear of the unknown, fear of change, or just pure spite for a more successful newcomer.

For example, when Napster, BitTorrent and Kazaa came out, the music industry moaned and bitched about lost profits. They moaned until Apple kicked ass with iPods and the digital music store on iTunes. For a long time before that, downloadable music was an opportunity squandered and bungled by so many parties. You'd think that someone would have learned something from the mistakes made and imitated Apple and its success.

Unfortunately, it appears as if this newest turn of events is just another addition to the sad equation of fear, failure and poor foresight that the music industry operates by.

The saddest part is the actions taken

by Congress in all of this. Time and time again, they've passed laws hastily, desperately trying to bail water out of a sinking industry.

Don't fear, though; all is not doomed.

As these morose patterns and trends define themselves, people will begin to recognize them and learn from the mistakes that have been made. Innovation will always be there; it may struggle with morality, competition and Congress, but it will always be there.

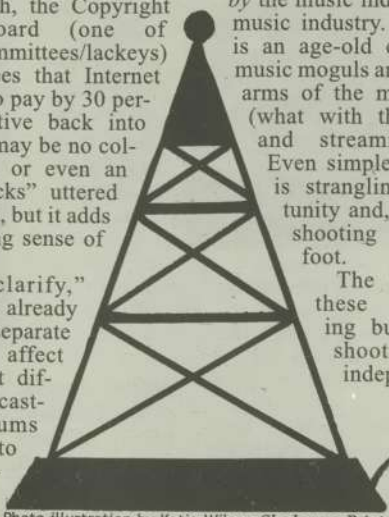


Photo illustration by Katie Wilson Clackamas Print



Campus Poll: Did you get your taxes in on time?



"I didn't do taxes."

Melody Judd

"I didn't need to file them, but I needed the refund, so I got them in."



Gabe Averre

"No. I was just doing them, actually."



Rebecca Holstein

"I was actually just on my way to do them."



Cory Andersen

"I still have one day."



Ryan Hoppel

"No. I'm lazy, and it's not worth my time for how little I'm going to get back this year."



Chris Daily

Campus Poll compiled by Nicholas Baker and Jenessa Palmer

Tuition increase necessary, legislature to blame

Matt Olson
Commentary Editor

Tuition's going up. Don't worry.

The Board of Education just upped the tuition by \$2, \$1 added to the technology fee and \$1 added to the credit fee.

Nonetheless, Clackamas' tuition is still the lowest in Oregon.

Does such relative thriftiness console most people? Yes. Does it console everyone? No. So, why did the board deem it appropriate?

Was it the growing number of enrolled students, or was it the desire to improve class

quality? Maybe it was the simple desire of greed.

A great number of students may not care, but others do. The explanation is not found here on campus, but in the halls of the Oregon legislature.

Last year, the community colleges proposed a 2007-2008 budget of \$529 million. This impressive sum may seem like an overestimation, but considering the costs of 18 different schools and the escalating enrollment at each of these colleges, that figure is not grossly bloated.

Despite this, the governor and the state legislature have decreased the proposed funding to an estimated \$458 mil-

lion. The under-funding, along with other factors, has finally compelled Clackamas to raise its tuition.

The measly \$2 raise is understandable when compared to the tuition increases done by other community colleges in the last two years. While other colleges raised their tuition by nine percent, Clackamas was steadfast and didn't increase tuition costs at all.

Also, Clackamas' needs are special. The Harmony campus construction, planned to begin soon, will cost approximately \$20 million. Without that extra money from the state, the revenue will have to be made up in other areas.

Considering all of these things, it would be stupid for the Board of Education not to raise the tuition. Like any other business, schools need to stay competitive. In this case, competitive means up-to-date technology, and being well-staffed and well-maintained – all of which cost money.

Finally, what's \$2 when compared to the enormous amount of money everyone wastes on food in Chartwells? With a bit of perspective and a respect for the administration and faculty here at Clackamas, anyone can see the well-meaning intentions behind this minute increase in fees.

So, tuition's going up. Don't worry; be happy.

ASG due for renovation; coup d'etat comrades

Editors' Note: The following is an editorial written on behalf of and representing the majority opinion of The Clackamas Print's editorial staff.

The ASG debates for president and vice president were a farce. Not once did a candidate establish a difference between him or herself and the other candidates. Entirely too much time was spent on questions like, "Is there a plan to keep students on campus after they finish their classes for the day?"

There were many claims by the candidates that ASG understands the general student population. The average age of a Clackamas stu-

dent is 32. The average age of an ASG member is 20. That's a gap of more than 10 years. After watching one of ASG's many events around campus, it's easy to see that there isn't much interest, unless it has to do with free food.

When *The Print* asked all four candidates about the criteria for someone to be a candidate in the election, an attempt was made to turn the question around on *The Print* and how we select the editorial staff.

This is the problem *The Print* has with the election of president and vice president: In a supposedly democratic student government, only a person with two terms of Student Leadership is allowed to run and hold elected office.

The only way to get Student Leadership training is to be a member of the CCC Student Government or the CCC Student Ambassadors.

The sitting ASG vice president and the selection committee review applications and appoint members to these two groups.

Current ASG President Tim Lussier said that no one who qualified for a position on ASG has been turned away.

This criteria specifically leave out other representatives of students, such as members of Latino Leadership, not to mention the students themselves.

So, what's the solution? The only way to make a change to the ASG bylaws is to have three-

fourths of ASG vote on whether or not to make the change; however, there are guidelines to have the ASG Constitution repealed.

All that is needed is 100 signatures from Clackamas students supporting the repeal, a constitution to replace the old one and a vote with two-thirds approval by the voting student body.

The U.S. Constitution doesn't have as many rules about the U.S. presidency as the ASG Constitution has about the ASG president.

The only way to fix this problem of such an internalized election procedure is to start gathering signatures for a repeal of the ASG Constitution, since those already in power aren't willing to make the change.

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The Clackamas Print is a weekly student publication and is distributed every Wednesday except finals week.