

EDITORIAL

Revenue policy needs updating

Despite popular belief to the contrary, running a college is a business. And like any business, the college must run at a profit.

However, the new tuition hike is not the best way to keep Clackamas Community College solvent.

The budget crisis has its origin in several factors: a rising cost of maintenance, pay raise concessions, a falling number of students and drops in state funding.

The administration responded by boosting tuition fees by \$5 per credit. By raising fees, the school has slapped on a Band-Aid, but it has yet to stop the bleeding.

**Charging** a de-creasing number of students an increasing fee is a recipe for zero-sum gains.

Just ask any economics instructor.

A survey of other schools reveals forms of income more palatable and extremely profitable. Clackamas' Board of Education would do well to consider.

One option is to expand the food court and invite fast-food vendors to bid on locations, charging either a flat fee or a percentage of gross profits.

**In scandalous** examples of fiscal mismanagement, Chartwells currently receives approximately \$24,000 a year to run the cafeteria, and holds an exclusive contract for all food services.

Worse yet, quality is mediocre, choices are limited and prices are higher than the same stuff found in your local Quick-E-Mart.

Most annoying of all is the grill closes at 2:30 p.m. Call us crazy, but some of us happen to get hungry in the afternoon.

Vending machines are another easy source of income that cost nothing out of pocket yet generate a consistent cash flow.

Impulse buys of soda and chips is literally pocket change. Student governments often bring in these vendors, earning funding for student activities and freeing up funds for other uses.

**By** tradition, selling name rights is a great way to raise revenue. Businesses foot the cost of construction and pay for the privilege of doing so.

Lastly, there is teaming academic programs with private business. Clackamas has the land and suitable department matches can be found if somebody just bothers to look for them.

Many colleges expand their nursing programs to include full-time patient care. Some schools lease land to full-care retirement or hospice care and incorporate nursing students into the staff.

When financial times are tough, you can tighten your belt or you can look for new innovative ways to make more money.

Let's choose the latter.

VOTE FOR RALPH WHO

Kenton Benfield

The Clackamas Print

People think they understand democracy. Most do not.

Representative democracy, the specific theoretical subtype of the United States, is a political system in which the majority, usually the poor, controls the government by deciding upon those political actors who they want to represent them.

What this means is that the common people literally command the government; they are its supreme source of authority and its only justification for existence.

Why vote for a third party? Before the question can be addressed, it is necessary to address the more fundamental question that is implied, "Why vote in the United States?"

Political parties are private, non-governmental organizations that seek to gain political influence via elections.

Historically, America has had a great number of parties, all with the objective of obtaining political power. Other democracies, such as Great Britain, have over 30 parties vying for control.

However, from 1861 onward, beginning with Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican, no president has been elected who did not belong to the two major parties dominating American politics today.

Many political theorists over the ages have defiantly opposed democracy.

In fact, it was only Thomas Jefferson who, among the founding fathers, approved of democracy, as long as the people were educated in political theory.

The Constitution never mentions the word democracy, as the original system was a Federal Republic, with almost no voting.

Plato, the Greek philosopher of antiquity, warned that democracies produce a conform-

ist mentality among the people who rely on "folk wisdom." Ideas are spread by the elites in power, which are repeated among the populace as if they were their own original ideas. Such is so much of political "opinion" in America today.

One example of "folk wisdom" is the following statement: "A vote for a third party is a wasted vote." This statement is so full of contradictions and downright ignorance of how democracy works that it could be the subject of a book.

A voter must be vigilant against being told that his or her vote is a waste simply because that candidate may lose.

When voting for representatives, at any level, one should vote for the candidate whose competencies best embody the moral, political and personal ideals of the citizen.

An individual should vote so that a violent revolution is not required to address an issue.

If the people, who are the rulers in a democracy, do not assert their authority over their government, their government will do it for them. This is a dictatorship. You obey, or die. Literally, vote, or die.

The question is better phrased as "Why vote for an alternative party?" After all, there are more than three parties to choose from. In fact, the Green Party, the Constitution Party, the Libertarian Party and the Socialist Party all have presi-

dential candidates. What about fourth-, fifth- or sixth-party candidates?

The best reason to vote for a third party is to effect change to the paradigm that has dominated America from the Civil War to the Iraq War (Phase II).

If a voter is satisfied with the status quo then he or she can vote for one of the major parties. But if a voter wants real change, genuinely improves the status of the nation, then an alternative option should be considered.

If one takes the time to study the issues and compare them with the alternative candidates and the parties, the decision is no longer a choice between two evils that characterizes conventional politics.

There are options, there are people have all the power and the choice. Choose wisely.

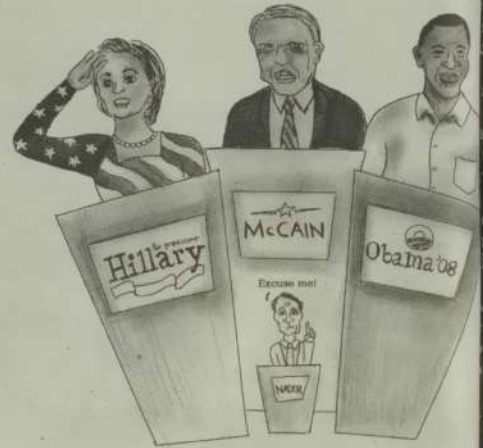
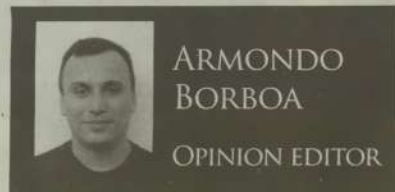


Illustration by Andrea Simpson



ARMONDO BORBOA  
OPINION EDITOR

As often as somebody does something stupid, somebody else is always hanging around just waiting to point his or her finger and scream that the sky is falling.

The Clackamas Board of Education is now frantically looking to develop policies regarding weapons on campus specifically relating to firearms.

This issue recently came up after a self-professed "gun-nut" student was arrested for making threats online against other students and faculty. At the same time, another person shot himself in the leg on campus.

As a person who fluently speaks a number of languages, I know there are some ideas and concepts that transcend culture and nationality.

One of those ideas is "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

However, something that is uniquely American is our almost insane need to "fix" something until it is well and truly broken.

Fortunately for the Chicken Littles concerned, there are already policies

on the books regarding weapons, specifically firearms, on campus.

Furthermore, there are state and federal laws that also apply. Creating a gun-ban

policy is a non-issue.

None, zip, zilch, nada.

No need to waste valuable Board time developing even more verbiage to address something already legislated ad-nauseum.

Not that it will stop anybody from trying to fix it.

According to all applicable laws, the only non-duty police or security allowed to carry firearms onto a campus are people who have a concealed firearm permit.

These are people who have received an extensive background check, firearms training and registration with the police. These people are obeying the law, not breaking it.

Yet still, there are some people who seem to think that Clackamas is a modern OK Corral and it is about 10 minutes till high noon.

We seem to have lost all touch with reality, or at least as far as acknowledging the difference

between justifiable caution and total hysteria.

In the same light, the Darwinian process tends to weed out the dumb, stupid and the lazy—hopefully before they have a chance to breed and pass on their genes.

Hope it was worth it.

The student who was making petty threats on his MySpace page has pretty much blown any chance he ever had of getting his dream job as a police officer, or in fact of scoring any sort of decent government job whatsoever.

And I am pretty sure that he will never be allowed to carry a concealed weapon from this day forward.

The man with the bullet in his leg is actually an instructor here at Clackamas. He shot himself while taking a bathroom break, claiming it was all the result of a bad firing pin or some such nonsense.

Sorry, professor, but you screwed up. Anybody who knows anything about firearms knows that guns do not just go off by themselves. You were either playing with it or were just irresponsible, stupid and careless. Don't blame the tool for your shoddy workmanship.

Poor weapons discipline causes pa

But what about the things we see on TV all the time? What about Red Lake, Virginia Tech?

Sadly, in the world, person mentally unbalanced to commit such horrible acts always find a way to be heard.

It could be with a school, a machete at a party or with a suicide vest.

Fortunately, Clackamas has a history of being a safe school. There has never been a felony assault happening on campus grounds. We have a well-disciplined campus force and cadet corps.

In fact, statistically speaking, students on campus, day or night, are within their own right, surrounded by a community.

A firearm is a deadly one that must be respected and handled with care. It is at the heart of this respect for those firearms that weight of responsibility with gun ownership.

If the Board of Education to weigh in on the issue, it should focus on what is best: education and training.

The Clackamas Print

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