

EDITORIAL

The proper role of student government

The better the checks and balances are in a system of government, the better chance it has to improve and avoid corruption.

There are no checks and balances in the Clackamas Associated Student Government, and no importance is set on fairness.

As a result, Clackamas' ASG is a poor example of what a student government can be. It's not even a government. It's a club.

The only difference ASG has from any other club pertains to the magnitude of its budget. It would be interesting to see how much good the Global Activism Club could do with control over a budget in the hundreds of thousands.

ASG could be a great resource for students. Instead, it has become a bimonthly burger stand - a burger stand paid for with student fees.

To the knowledge of most students, this is the only thing ASG does.

It is important to acknowledge that ASG has raised funds for many charities over the years. The Clackamas Print has seen first-hand the good student government has done for students.

It's important for a student government to improve its community, but it should not abandon the community.

ASG could earn back a great deal of goodwill by increasing grants and loans to students who can barely afford the \$5-per-credit-hour increase it chose to support last term.

It would also benefit the student body if ASG made its services a little better known.

Perhaps energy could be spent on letting students know that ASG can offer them a wide array of emergency loans.

This neglect of student interest is a direct result of the manner in which student government operates.

It ignores questions and critiques, and systematically expels any persons who suggest new ideas or ask hard questions - tactics reminiscent of some of the worst and most crooked governments the world has ever known.

How can a government ensure stability and fairness when the president of ASG handpicks all officers and senators except for the vice president?

What if the president of the United States was able to handpick the members of Congress? If the president wasn't a completely upstanding individual, he or she could get away with anything, as the people selected to supervise would not object.

In order to run for ASG president, a person must be a member of student government. In order to be a member of ASG, he or she must be selected by ASG.

The college no longer offers leadership classes for students to take that would qualify them to run for president without first being selected.

That is not democracy. That is a joke.

Most student governments within United States colleges and universities have a much larger number of elected offices than simply the president and vice president.

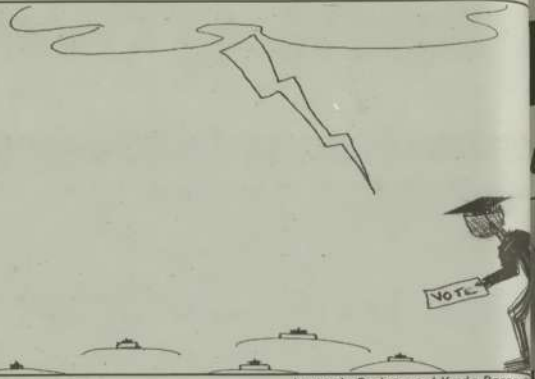
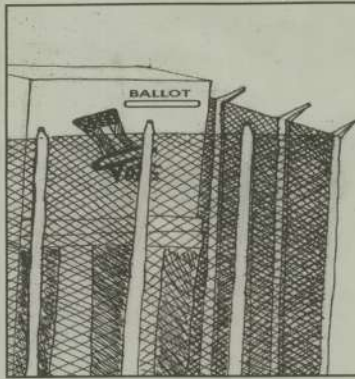
It's not entirely surprising that those student governments tend to provide more substantial services for their student body.

Those who advise officers and senators at Clackamas should be more concerned about the kind of future politicians and government officials they are grooming.

Clackamas is a microcosm of the country. It may just be a student government in teeny tiny Oregon City, but one of these days, these people will take office in the real world, carrying all of their bad habits and selfish, self-perpetuating tactics with them.

For now, ASG has lost sight of its real purpose: to serve students.

Instead, it seems it is only interested in serving burgers.



Armando Borboa and Kayla Berge

Youth apathy and the vote



JOHN HURLBURT  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

In junior high school, I was a fanatic about politics. Politics became what I read, what I obsessed over and what I wrote songs about in my first "band."

At one point, a group of friends and I started a protest against the war in Iraq, which at the time was just beginning.

In the protest we all wore armbands that had "impeach W" printed on them.

Five years later, it seems a lot has changed, and I am finding it really hard to get motivated about politics.

Hard to care

The problem's not merely mine, though; all over the nation, college students are finding it difficult to care about politics.

Youth apathy is a fact made brilliantly clear when you look at the percentage of young people who choose to vote.

According to The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, in the 2004 presidential election, the percentage of registered voters under the age of 25 who cast their vote was 54.4, whereas the percentage of voters age 25 and older was 74.

Why aren't youth motivated anymore? In the '60s and '70s, students were among

the most boisterous groups.

Now, we have relegated ourselves into a dingy corner of a warehouse, where our voice doesn't matter because we're too silent to be heard.

I can't speak for the millions of voters out there, but many individuals my age are discouraged or apathetic toward the political process.

What I have noticed is a feeling of hopelessness.

Some don't feel like their vote makes a difference, and for a lot of reasons this is understandable.

Our country doesn't vote democratically. Instead, we have a system in which citizens vote for a representative and the representative votes for the president.

Originally, the electoral colleges were instituted to give every state a fair say, but the system has become dated.

As opposed to promising a fair political process, the colleges ensure that Americans don't technically vote for the president - the representative who the people elect votes for the president.

What is the point?

Not only does it mean the popular vote isn't meaningful, but the representative elected to vote for the nation's leader can change his or her vote and earn the title of "faithless elector."

The mudslinging campaigns that we endure every four years spread so much disinformation that it becomes difficult to decode the candidates' true character.

This has resulted in the general public getting stuck watching two actors in a Wild West showdown in which whoever has the best

campaign and the most money

When voter turnout for your high in the '60s and '70s, there were cast ballots, and it was called the

The issues today have very young voters.

Rather, politicians pay attention to the issues that affect most of the young voters. They make the effort to fill out a ballot of this is prescription drug costs to the elderly vote.

The result of the current election is that Americans are not voting.

Young voters aren't voting because they have no passion for what candidates are saying.

At the same time, topics that the youth vote are being ignored. Candidates do not want to waste money on a demographic that is not their campaign.

Lying liars

It's true that candidates often lie. It's also true that it is necessary to be a factor in the big

Regardless, I believe we need to exercise that right. We need to exercise that right. We need to exercise that right. We need to exercise that right.

When I cast a ballot, I am speaking my voice, and it needs to be heard.

In all honesty, I am going to the party in the upcoming election. I have been told it is a throw-away vote.

To me, that's not what it is. I want to show what you stand for, not be willing to settle with.

Dear Editor:

I want to start with a thank-you for recognizing Kate Gray for making the decision to ride her bike, but most importantly, her leadership on helping all of us by reducing her carbon footprint.

I think this is such a big problem, and most of us are not even aware of it.

The more we talk about this, the more we educate and, in turn, can make a big difference.

Going green, carbon footprints and global warming are a few topics I'm passionate about and have been studying in depth.

I'm proud to be a student at a college that is trying to make a difference in such big issues.

When people like Kate start doing things like riding her

bike 12 miles from Sellwood, it inspires me to start making changes in my attitude and lifestyle.

Thank you for the inspiration, and I hope to see more articles like this.

- Jackie Wheeler

Dear Editor:

The fact that Hillary Clinton is one of "the agents of change" for our country is, in my opinion, very foolish.

This reminds me of old-English monarchs with the office remaining in the family over the years - similar to Bush senior and Bush junior.

The policies that Bill Clinton represented for his wife were things such as the problems in the economy, healthcare and trade.

He said that "she has the best ideas, the best record of achievement and the greatest likelihood for turning this economy around."

Hillary Clinton's foreign policies seem to reflect other not-so-pleasant outcomes.

Her statement recently on "obliterating" Iran would basically continue the Bush administration's policies: keeping the economy crippled, healthcare impossible to uphold and trade an absolute mess.

Our nation is already drowning in war debt, and "obliterating" a nation will jack the debts up to an unbelievable level.

Due to these circumstances, I believe that the Clintons are not in the business of change, but of simply keeping the presidency in the family.

- Rachel Schreindl

Dear Editor:

I am writing a majority of what today's (Wednesday) paper.

Plain and simple boring and uninformative. The only article was worth reading covering the topic of order individuals.

While the sports pertaining to CC the rest just seems

I believe that much better with interesting topics like so expensive yet manufacture.

This is partly USA's high reliance on trucks for food events in foreign

- Brian Parsore

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