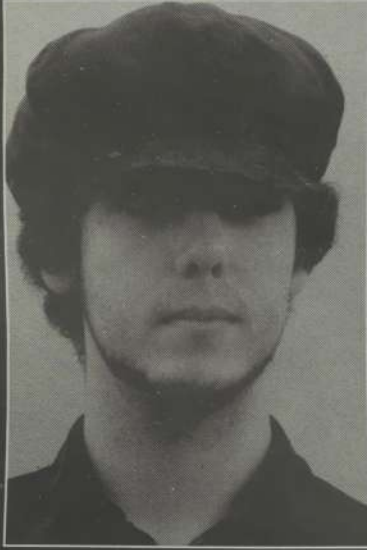


# A smoking hot face off battles of

## Cleanse our campus of smoke

By Matthew Ostergren  
Arts & Culture Editor



I have observed countless underage smokers on campus and it is a discouraging sight. Smoking will affect their health for the rest of their lives. It creates all sorts of health problems that often don't manifest until much later in their lives and because of this, short-sighted teens often pick up this bad habit. If teens are not able to smoke while on campus, hopefully they will not start smoking at all.

Around the smoking shacks one can find any number of discarded cigarette butts lying on the ground. Not only is this disgusting, as those butts have been in people's mouths, it is also litter that someone will have to pick up. Well either that, or some squirrel or bird will try to eat it, and that is just not good. It costs the college much needed funds to pick up the shit that someone so carelessly tossed onto

Progress is something that often comes slowly, but whether it is social or technological, it is often inevitable in its march. In an ideal world, people manage their habits not only to maintain their personal health but also out of consideration for others.

There is currently talk on campus of banning smoking entirely. Already people are only allowed to smoke in restricted spaces on campus. This is certainly an improvement over having a tightly packed group of smokers standing right outside the door every time you walk outside of a building. That being said, it would certainly be a further improvement to the environment on campus if smoking were banned altogether. There are slew of reasons as to why smoking should be banned on campus, and I would be delighted to share a few of them with you.

People can complain how the campus is a public place, but it is a shared public place, and other people have to share the air. For someone who doesn't smoke, it is rather unpleasant to walk past the cloud of smoke emanating from the smoke shacks on campus. It leaves a bad taste in the mouth and a sense of disgust in the mind.

Beyond that, tobacco smoke doesn't just affect the health of the smoker; it affects the health of anyone who has to breathe the smoke. It seems hardly just for others to be forced to inhale the smoke when they have made the health-conscious decision to not smoke themselves. For those who have asthma, second-hand smoke is an even greater concern.

Some smokers may complain that they need to get their nicotine fix in order to function properly during the day, but it is not fair to those who have no choice but to be around it.

My concerns extend beyond second-hand smoke however. If you haven't noticed, there are a large number of minors on campus. Out of any demographic, teenagers are the most susceptible to social pressures to start smoking. It is important to maintain an environment that encourages teens to avoid smoking

the ground. It also leaves the air around it smelling burnt and foul. The litter and the money used to discard it do not make the college look good when the college is looking to get grant money from the state or find potential donors.

Smoking is an expensive habit, and students who attend CCC are already poor enough. If their smoking can be limited, it could free up needed funds for much more important things like rent, food and tuition. Those dollars spent on packs could go to something of so much more use to everyone.

Progress is important in an institution, but even more so in an institution dedicated to education. Clackamas can and should lead the way. The banning of smoking in various locations is not a new thing. It is time for CCC to get on board, and push for a healthier environment and lifestyle. The costs are almost nil, and the potential gains are enormous.

## Fight for our right to smoke

By John Hurlburt  
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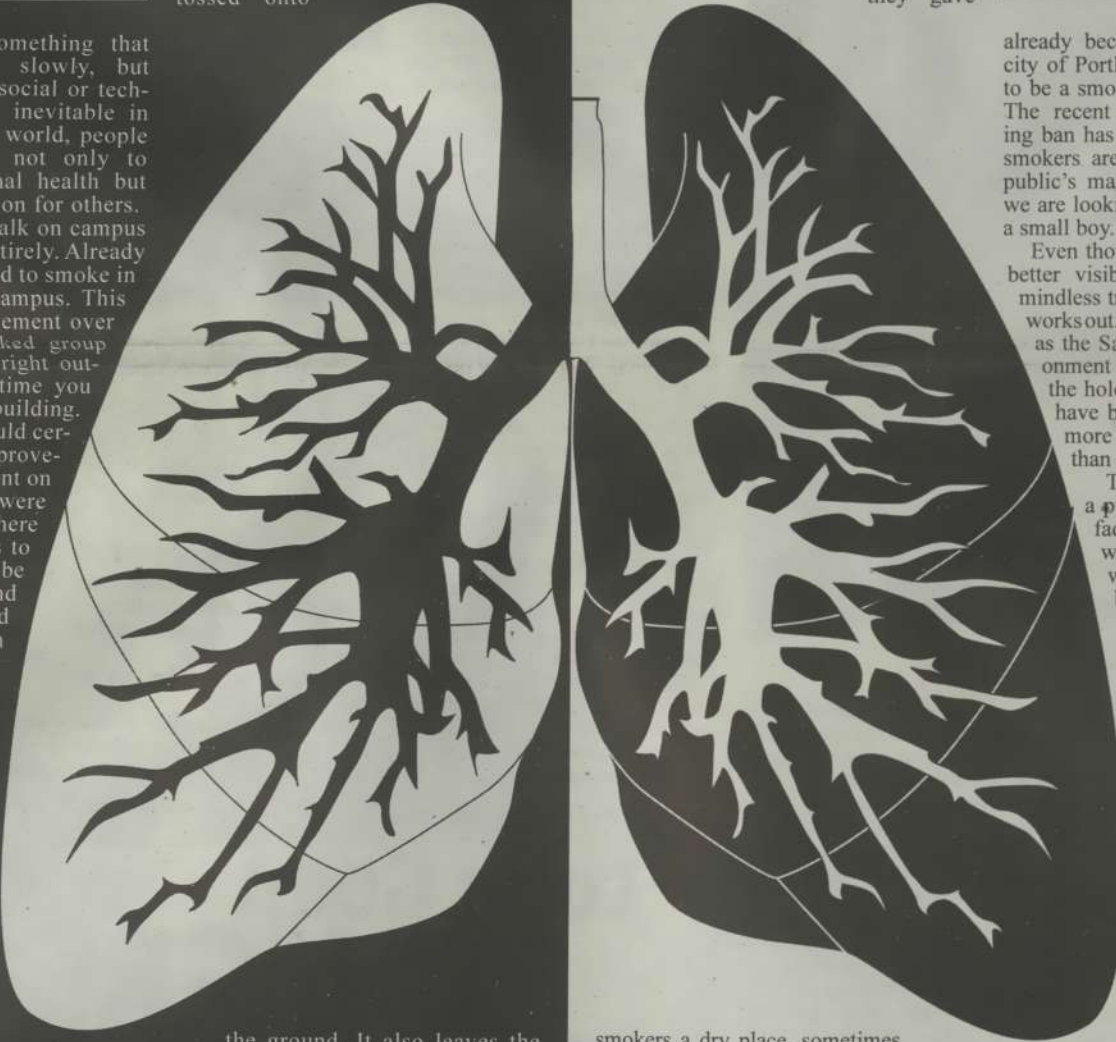
Smokers better start stocking up on Neosporin because, once again, we are about to get burned.

As expected, Clackamas is now talking about making the campus smoke-free. The announcement comes as no surprise. Ever since the smoking shelters were implemented, it felt like the college was on the verge of sliding down a very steep slope towards ridding itself of the annoyance that smokers bring to the campus.

Why wouldn't we want to get rid of these cancerous tumors that are clogging up the campus' collective lung?

My only response is at this point, who cares if smokers stay on campus?

When the smoking shelters were implemented, I absolutely despised the idea of herding tobacco partakers into tiny stables like a bunch of cattle for the slaughter. But the shelters grew on me; they gave



already become smoke-free. Ever city of Portland has announced to be a smoke-free city in the long run. The recent bar and restaurant smoking ban has only gone on to prove smokers are the new object under the public's magnifying glass, and we are looking like ants in the sight of a small boy.

Even though it does give the oppressed better visibility on the state's mindless trend following almost works out. Easily avoidable even as the Salem witch trial, the monument of Galileo, McCarthyism, the holocaust and "Twilight" have been avoided if people more into independent than following the group.

The ousting of smokers is a public health concern, a fad. If health was the issue, it would be expelling the people who spray too much body spray or Gucci perfume. We would expel people who don't use dust mite repellent into broom closets, lock them in there, and when they broke and bought a stick of Old Spice.

Perfumes and body sprays are allergens similar to smoke, and forcing smoking on campus can be forced to stop to somebody who chokes off your wind with their injurious grace.

Not only is the smoking ban a mindless trend to oppress one group of people in order to get

for the institution as a whole, it also creates an academic disability for the oppressed group.

Smokers do not work to the potential unless they are able to exercise their right to smoke. Forcing smokers to crowd into parking lots during a 10 minute break between biology and Spanish will cause smokers to be late to class, which would prevent them from attending instructors, or to skip the cigarette break in a state of agitation.

Some smokers may quit or start using smokeless products such as snus, but most will blitz to the parking lot to attempt to consume their smoke, inhale and run back to class sweating and late.

Students aren't the only ones affected either. School staff and faculty will be forced into the edges of the campus searching for the closest parking lot. Breaks will be lost by marching away for a cigarette. Overall efficiency will be lost due to the time and effort taken to get a break

smokers a dry place, sometimes with wind barriers, to practice in their habit. They also sectioned off the smokers into areas where those who did not want to be bothered by the smoke could easily avoid its pungent smell. The situation felt like a win-win.

The reality ultimately related more towards the cattle in a slaughterhouse. CCC had begun easing smokers into realizing they had no more hope to keep their habit alive on campus.

Was there really a problem with the shelters? Most would probably say no but in order to stay cutting edge and look good in the state's eye, meaning more grants and more funding, right now Clackamas needs to establish itself as a progressive institution.

This has led to great innovations at the school such as the Veteran's Center, but there is always a negative to the positive and right now smokers are taking a knockout punch to the face in the school's quest for visibility.

Institutions such as OHSU and Portland Community College have