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Opinion:

**Celebrate Olympics,
boycott bigotry**



Chris Morrow
Copy Editor

The 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia have been equal parts comedy and tragedy. Firsthand accounts from journalists and athletes documenting the ineptitude of the Russian government have made the rounds thanks to Twitter feeds such as #SochiProblems and #SochiFails.

Beer-colored water, tandem toilettes, barely finished hotel rooms, locks that either don't function, or function so well that the room's occupant has to break out by force, all this coming from what's been called the most expensive Olympics in history. Then of course there is the comical irony of having Russian pop duo t.A.T.u. perform at the Opening Ceremony.

For those too young to remember them, allow me to refresh your memory — t.A.T.u. was one of the few, if not only Russian acts to break into the Western market, due in no small part to the lesbian charade concocted for them by their former manager. Considering t.A.T.u.'s continued support for the LGBT community and Russia's continued vilification of said minority group, having them perform at the Olympics in Sochi made as much sense as having Public Enemy perform at a Klan rally.

June of last year, Russia's parliament passed a law banning "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations among minors." Phrasing meant to coat the legislation in the veneer of "protecting the children," but it's more along the lines of "protecting the children from the inherently corrupting knowledge that gay people even exist."

In pre-Civil Rights Movement America, "non-traditional" would have been "interracial." Imagine for a moment that voters back then had pushed their lawmakers to pass a bill making it a criminal act for anyone to discuss the topic of mixed race couples within earshot of children. Angry old bigots and their offspring, with minds generously soaked in the brain bleach of the Ku Klux Klan, would be further emboldened by the belief that their actions were on behalf of the government. This is the case already in Russia. One need only take the time to search the Internet to view the barbarism and propagation of prejudice the anti-gay legislation inspires.

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21st century classroom



Patty Salazar, The Clackamas Print

Featuring designs from Steelcase Furniture, rather than traditional rows of tables and chairs, classrooms like this one aim to make students more engaged.

Patty Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

The educational needs of students are changing, but classrooms are set up for the classic "stand and deliver, sit and listen" format. In many cases that does not help students retain what is being taught.

With the new innovation fund controlled by President Joanne Truesdell, Clackamas

Community College started to explore options to improve the learning environments to better fit the needs of students.

Under new capital planning, which would bring future expansion to the college, they decided to look into what would be cutting edge for teaching and learning in the classroom. The college started to investigate the "classroom of the future."

Mickey Yeager, project coordinator, decided to look into companies that create improved classrooms. That is

when she started talks with Steelcase, a furniture company that has created products specifically to improve classrooms.

"We got aligned with a representative of Steelcase," said Yeager. "That's who we ended up going with. They have a strong educational component."

Steelcase's furniture was created to enhance an active learning ecosystem within the classroom. With this new ecosystem, teachers can break down barriers that a "stand and

deliver, sit and listen" classroom can have. Rogers also explains that the furniture is helping to get rid of the "back row" that timid students tend to sit in.

"The concept is that it is all-around engagement," said Rogers. "It is student engagement and faculty engagement and bringing those together."

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WHAT'S UP with that?

There's a really cool amphitheater outside the Dye Learning Center, but nobody seems to use it. Who's idea was it to build it?

Donny Beach
News Editor

Outside the Dye Learning Center is a little used courtyard with a mini-amphitheater surrounded by a brick fountain with bronze sculptures called "Faces of the Fountain."

The fountain courtyard was built in 1992 — at the same time as the three surrounding buildings, Streeter Hall, Dye Learning Center and Gregory Forum — as a central gathering area for students and faculty.

Most of the key players in creating the courtyard, and many who have seen it used in its prime, have since left the halls of Clackamas Community College.

One who remains, Bill Briare, dean of arts and sciences, remembers how the students used to gather at the amphitheater for "soapbox speeches."

"It would be nice to see students using it again," Briare said. "Get an acoustic guitar player or singer up there or have a 'free speech' day or something."

Nancy Travers, retired, was head of the arts department at the time the fountain courtyard was built. Because the fountain was an art project it went through the art department, she said. The CCC Foundation raised half of the funds needed for construction, the school board put up the other half with the requirement that the project had to be made with bronze faces.

"We didn't want just the faces because [at the time] they were usually mounted too high to be seen or read," Travers said.

The fountain design was chosen to prevent that scenario.

Mimi Chitti, retired liaison between the board of trustees and the foundation in 1992, said that

each department chose an outstanding person that contributed to our culture.

The theme for the college back then was "New Pioneers," she said. Various departments chose faces.

"We wanted to honor people significant in their field," Chitti said.

According to the plaque hanging in the window of Gregory Forum nominated people had to "relate in some way to the college curriculum."

Carol Yates, retired division secretary of the arts department, was facilitator for the project and involved in the courtyard's dedication ceremony. The amphitheater made sense as part of the fountain design because it was built before the Niemeyer Center was, she said.

"[The college] used to have things at noon at the courtyard," Yates said.

John Keyser, retired president of the college, used the area to dedicate and give awards, she said.

In 2003, one student used his freedom of speech to hang anti-war masks along the fountain walls in opposition to the war in Iraq.

The courtyard was meant as a gathering place and the fountain to be an artful representation of prominent people in history.

"It was landscaped to make it more accessible," Travers said. "There's nothing like it on campus."

Cougars trounce Riverhawks

Chris Browarski
The Clackamas Print

The Cougars played three players down in Saturday night's men's basketball game against Umpqua. The shortage in players did little to affect the outcome, however, as the Cougars decimated the Riverhawks 90-68. The Cougars rested some of their injured players and worked a slower game throughout the night.

"We rested some of our key players to avoid injuries," said coach Cliff Wegner following the game. "We could have probably had another 15 [points] if we played everyone."

The last place Riverhawks proved to be a good opponent to rest players against going in to the final stretch of games. The Cougars are one game out of first place in the tightly contested NWAAC South region. Four teams with 8-4 regional records chase the 9-3 Portland Community College Panthers going into the final week of the season.

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