

CHALLENGE - currently
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CHALLENGE



Challenge

Tacoma Community College, Tacoma, Wash.
Vol. 22, No. 2 October 4, 1985



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fashion
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Smokers must go outside to light up after Oct. 1

By SHANNON SAUL
Managing Editor

"It stinks!" — Anonymous.
"It's going to reduce the receipts for the cafeteria" — Sharon Lee Nicholson.

"It's good policy" — Chantana Lim.

"It's going to cut down on my time here, that's for sure" — Greg Sheppard.

"I'm going to have to leave campus to study because of this law" — Sharon Lee Nicholson.

Those were only some of the comments made by various students in response to a new law known as the 1985 Washington Clean Air Act. It was passed in April this year in an attempt to protect the health of non-smokers by preventing smoking in public buildings.

In March, before the bill had even been passed, Mel Urschel, chairman of the College Council, sponsored a survey on the TCC campus, in which everyone from administrators to students was asked to participate in survey which would determine what people felt about smoking on-campus. It was discovered that many people believed that the ventilation system was inadequate, and that something should be done about smoking in various buildings.

Using the survey as a guide to feelings about smoking on-campus, the College Council passed a motion to prohibit smoking in all buildings except Bldg. 11-A. Shortly after the decision was made, the new bill came out, making a state law of what up until then had only been a proposed campus law.

As section 1 of the Amended Washington Clean Air Act puts it:

"The legislature recognizes the increasing evidence that tobacco smoke in closely confined spaces may create a danger to the health of some citizens of this state. In order to protect the health and welfare of those citizens, it is necessary to prohibit smoking in public places except in areas designated as smoking areas."

These public places include, among others, "educational facilities."

Smoking has already been prohibited in the TCC cafeteria as of Oct. 1, and executive dean of planning and operations, Don Ganges expects that the remaining smoking areas on campus will become non-smoking within the next week or two. When this happens, smokers will have to go outside to smoke.

Originally, it was hoped that a smoking area could be provided for campus smokers. Unfortunately, according to Mel Urschel, converting one of the buildings on campus to meet the requirements set down in the Washington Clean Air Act would be impossible. "It's prohibitive from a financial viewpoint," he said.

One of the requirements set down in the bill is that any area designated a smoking area be physically separated from non-smoking areas and have a separate, and adequate ventilation system. TCC's ventilation system is entirely inadequate in that air in each building moves from one room to the next, and no room has its own private ventilation system. For a building to be designated as smoking, the whole ventilation system would have to be renewed.

The only isolated building on

Continued on page 6

Amateurs do \$680 damage for \$25 from video games

By DELL GIBBS
and SEAN FAY

Vandals broke into two buildings on campus, breaking windows and ransacking vending machines and video games. The incident, which occurred sometime between 11 p.m. Thursday the 26th and 5 a.m. Friday the 27th involved an unknown number of individuals.

The suspects broke into the cafeteria (Bldg. 11) by shattering the glass pane of one of the building's front doors. They then ransacked the vending machines and video games inside. They also broke the glass in a door leading to the cooking area in what was apparently a failed attempt to enter that part of the building.

The intruders also broke into Bldg. 22 in a similar fashion. It appears they originally attempted to enter by throwing rocks at the east doors of the building. When the doors' shatterproof Lexan panes did not break, they must have gone around the side of the building and broken a window in Bldg. 22-12. The suspects then smashed the glass cases of two of the three vending machines in the lounge area in an unsuccessful attempt to get at the money boxes inside.

Total damages of the incident are expected to reach \$700. It will cost TCC nearly \$200 to replace the three broken windows. The major damage, however, was done to the vending machines and video games.



TCC maintenance man repaired broken window in Bldg. 11 after it was broken by vandals.

Bill Burt, a service manager for Masterman Vending, reported that approximately \$25 worth of quarters was stolen from the four video games in the cafeteria. The amount would have been much higher if the machines had not recently been emptied.

Tacmatic Vending, owners of the damaged vending machines, spent \$370 to repair damage done to their soft drink and snack machines in Bldg. 22 and their cigarette machine in the cafeteria. Fortunately, the cash boxes on all three machines remained intact and Tacmatic reported no cash losses.

Tacoma Police and TCC security personnel have no suspects in the case, but did secure a clear set of fingerprints from the vending machines in Bldg. 22. TCC security director Jim Kautz said that he believed the break-ins were the handiwork of

young, inexperienced criminals. Evidence from the crime, such as the methods used in entering the buildings, the suspects' failure to wear gloves while committing the crimes, and the limited success of the endeavor support the theory. Kautz speculated that the incident was part of an increasing pattern of crime and vandalism in the area.

Kautz was emphatic in his denial of rumors that the break-ins were the result of the recent cutbacks in his department. "I have records that show that windows have been broken over the past four years, even with security," he stated.

Whatever the causes of the incident, campus security personnel expect the vandals to make a return visit to TCC. Already, the three broken windows have been replaced with shatterproof Lexan in an attempt to thwart future break-ins.

Ireland: No freedom of choice



By SHANNON SAUL
Managing Editor

Two or three years ago, a 14 year-old girl was found dead in a field in Ireland. She died during labor, her dead child still inside her. Her mother claimed not to know she was pregnant.

I didn't know the girl personally, but the morbid details of her death were front page

head-lines for days. She is symbolic of many young Irish girls who can't get contraceptives, end up pregnant, and then have no way to reverse the process. Abortion is illegal. So are contraceptives for anyone not married. And while some youngsters know about the "black market," where contraceptives are sold illegally at highly elevated

prices, and learn to take precautions, many others don't. These others may not end up dead, but their lives are often hardly worth living.

Carol was sixteen when she got pregnant. Her boyfriend, Paul, did the "right" thing and married her. Within a year the marriage had fallen apart. Paul was unemployed, his family in England. Carol was overworked with the baby and another on the way. Her parents still weren't speaking to either of them. Then Paul, who had always drunk too much, started beating her and the baby.

Suzanne was a little luckier. Though her boyfriend ran off when he heard she was pregnant she had the advantage of parental support. She kept the baby and lived off unemployment. Even so, she was unable to get a job and most of the small town where she lived had alienated both her parents and herself.

These two are girls I know. They symbolize many others, all stuck with little or no form of protection against pregnancy in a country that has refused to accept changing values. Contraceptives are still hard to

get even for married couples, and abortion and divorce are illegal.

In America these things are taken for granted. Anyone can walk into a drug store and buy almost any kind of contraceptive available. Divorce can be settled relatively easily, and abortion is available to anyone who feels she needs it.

America is a country of choices and always has been. The freedom to choose is taken for granted here. But for me, after 12 years in Ireland, it's still a little bit new.

It's hard for me to imagine that anyone could wish to take away that right to choose. And yet that is what the "Pro-Lifers" are all about. In their urge to give every fetus life, whatever that life may turn out to be, they are denying American women a right they have finally achieved, and for which they have fought for years: the right to choose. Why bring a child into a world not ready for him? A woman raped, or a woman told that her baby will be mongoloid, may not be able to take on the expense and responsibility of a child. Without that dedication

the child, the mother, or both, may end up destroyed.

In Ireland, even if the mother's life is at stake the pregnancy cannot be aborted. Even if the child is more than likely dead, and the mother close to it with only one hope of living — to abort; even then the law stands firm.

And the "Pro-Lifers," who believe so in life, would pass a rule that could cause death. Ireland is an example of what could happen should the right to choose be taken away. Even with contraceptives mistakes happen. Why should a mistake have to end up in the birth of an unwanted child who may be beaten up or rejected or even dead?



The horror of Thursday the 12th



By AURA GILLMER
Features Editor

Woe be unto the unbeliever of my tale, and may great harm befall those of any other belief than that which I am about to proffer! If you could have been a mouse in my pocket on this ever-so-eventful day, you would know that Friday the 13th holds not near as much horror as it's predecessor. Know also that as a generally non-superstitious individual, I pride myself on my logic and clear thinking. It

takes quite a large number of coincidences for me to consider the entire day a loss and file it under "superstitiously awful."

Let the tale begin then...

The morning is clearly set in my mind, but the afternoon became such a clump of dismalness that time was irrelevant.

AM:

6:00—My acutely irritating alarm rings, waking me from a horrible nightmare of current events, such as miniature graves full of aborted fetuses, starving toddlers with distended bellies roaming the desert, and fatal automobile crashes with alcohol in the drivers' seats.

7:00—As my stomach rumbles with the intensity of a freight train running through a tunnel, I dash through the front door in a mad rush to start my day, only to be pulled back by my purse, which decided to get caught behind the closing door. The zipper on the purse is not closed.

8:40—After a week of trying to get a hold of a teacher to

have a grade changed, I have finally managed to find a time when she should be in her office. She isn't.

9:30—I have spent a few months, and a mouthful of fingernails, running around in circles trying to solve a computer game called "The Dark Crystal." I find myself at an immediate disadvantage in the game, having never seen the movie. I have run into more than one apparent dead end in the game, and in an act of desperation, I have called the manufactures of the game for assistance.

This is one of those days.

The manufactures gave me a set of instructions which should have led me to the end toward which I had so diligently sought. However, try as I might, I could get no farther than before. So, AT & T took some more of my hard earned cash for a second call to San Mateo, California during one of their full, daily rates period. Once again, I received instructions which were of little, if any help. It was only after my third call that I

received the necessary information to aid me on my video journey.

PM:

Jafco and I had a small altercation about the return of a defective product, and on my way back to the car, I pulled the keys out of my pocket only to find that the keychain which I had purchased from Ben Bridge Jewelers in July was now in two pieces. It had previously been in only one piece.

So, off I go to the jewelers, but not before I try, and fail, to start the car. Sitting in the Jafco parking lot, I find that my car is out of gas. Luckily, there is a gas station across the street. There is, however, an attendant hell-bent on flirting with me at this station. (On normal circumstances, I would have humored the man and returned the flirtatiousness, but this was not the day.) After getting gas, I moved onward to Ben Bridge.

In front of me, in line at the store, is a lovely older lady who wishes to have some jewelry repaired....ten dif-

ferent items. When I finally got up to the counter for my turn, I was presented with the fact that there was a possibility that the break could not be mended. Lovely. They did offer to try, however.

At the end of the day, I had the keychain fixed to my approval, the car working delightfully, and some money my mommy had sent me. If that couldn't have cheered me up, nothing could, and again all is well with the world.



Counselor's Corner

Insight into overcoming personal barriers

By JIM CARROLL
Special to the Challenge

Earlier this month, TCC hosted a conference entitled "Barrier Breakers: Disabilities in the Eighties." As TCC's new Special Programs Counselor/Coordinator, I gained a powerful insight regarding disabilities from this conference. In speaking with students and staff after the conference, I found one of the recurring themes was the need for all of us to be better "Barrier Breakers" for OURSELVES.

It seems that many of us choose to sustain rather than challenge the physical, emotional or interpersonal barriers to our lives. In this way, we perpetuate our own disabilities to "maintain the status quo." By accepting the barriers in our lives, we often avoid our sense of personal responsibility and place the "blame" on "society," "family," or "friends." Blaming or avoiding has never removed the "barrier."

The insight that I received from the conference was that we all have barriers in our lives that we need to overcome. They come in all shapes and sizes and degrees, but they all inhibit our ability to grow and function at our best. Some helpful tips to removing your barriers might include:

1. Decrease your judgements. Judgements tend to be rigid and barrier producing.

2. Increase your options. Look beyond the black or white choice. Try to find three to five options for any situation.

3. Focus on being "effective" rather than "right." Most of us use being "right" as a barrier to hearing others.

Accepting this challenge to break our personal barriers involves risk, courage, and commitment to personal growth. But after observing and participating in the Barrier Breakers Conference, I am convinced we are worth the risks.

Smoking....

Continued from page 1
campus is the quiet lounge, Bldg. 11-A.

Smoking students at TCC are obviously not very pleased that their smoking will have to be done in the chilly outdoors. However, many smokers and non-smokers alike feel that prohibiting smoking in the cafeteria is a good idea, though they would like to see some sort of designated smoking area on-campus for those students that smoke.

According to Mel Urschel, students are not the only people who will be affected by the new law. Smoking staff and faculty will have to leave their rooms to smoke also.

Urschel hopes that the law will not be hard to enforce, a view echoed by Don Gangnes, who says, "As far as the law is concerned, it says that smoking violations will be dealt with in a manner similar to

traffic violations. I guess one could consider having individuals issue some kind of citations if that became the problem, but we're hoping it won't be a problem."

Though some concern about the law has been expressed by people who use the cafeteria, there have been no formal complaints, according to Gangnes, who says, "It looks like the general consensus is that we can eliminate smoking without creating considerable hardship on anyone."

Gangnes also feels that enrollment should not suffer because of the new rules. "There may be some initial reaction in terms of not being allowed to smoke, but I think that those reactions are going to bring about some change, so that perhaps we'll have an area for smoking. I think it will all work out in some point in time."

Superstar Crystal Gayle's show a tremendous success

By ALISA WILDER
Entertainment Editor

Crystal Gayle performed at the Auburn Performing Arts Center on Sept. 29, as part of Green River Community College's Artists and Speakers Series. The capacity crowd was treated to more than a country and western concert. Gayle also sang jazz and blues songs from the 30's and 40's, and some contemporary ballads.

She sang some of her more current hits, which included, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue", "Talkin' In Your Sleep", "When I Dream", and "The Sound Of Goodbye." She also sang several songs from her new album, "Nobody Wants To Be Alone." Gayle admitted that at first she didn't like the song after which the album was named, but eventually changed her mind and liked it so well that she named the album after it.



Also on this album is "God Bless the Children", which Billie Holliday co-wrote. Gayle said she particularly liked this song because she has long been a big fan of Holliday.

A real crowd pleaser was her duet "You And I" with Duncan Mullins, the bass guitarist.

She had originally sung this song with Eddie Rabbitt.

Throughout the night, Gayle's voice was clear and could be heard distinctly over her band. It was refreshing to attend a concert where the band was content to let the singer be the star. This, however, did not keep the spotlight from shining on each of the six members several times during the night, when each did a segment or solo extremely well. One deserving special mention is Jay Patten, the saxophonist and clarinet player. His solos were outstanding.

Though the concert lasted only one and a half hours, Gayle gave such an excellent performance that the audience was satisfied and gave her a well-deserved standing ovation as she and daughter Catherine waved goodbye from the stage.

Titans win

By HEATHER BOYCE
Sports Editor

TCC's volleyball team emerged victorious after last Friday's game against Olympic Community College. The Titans took the first three games away from OCC with the scores of 16-14, 15-12, and finally, 15-11.

"We're playing good volleyball," Coach Olga Manos enthusiastically stated. Manos, who coached at Lincoln High School for "five long years", is new to TCC, as

of Puget Sound on the 14th, where the Titans took fourth place; an exhibition game on the 15th in which they defeated Fort Steilacoom Community College; and a fourth place tie at the Shoreline tour. The Titans also beat OCC in a previous game on the 23rd, taking them in four matches.

League play officially begins on Oct 2. The first league, home game will commence on the 9th against Centralia Community College.

is the entire team. The one exception is returning sophomore Michelle Green.

Karen Abron, a freshman from Wilson, scored the top "kills" with twelve to her credit. The most "aces" were attributed to Michelle Green, with an impressive number of four.

The season began on Sept 13, with TCC beating Skagit Valley Community College in two matches. Other wins under their belts include a tournament at the University

Degree applications due Friday Oct. 11

All students completing associate degree requirements during fall quarter are requested to file applications for graduation in the Registration and Records Office, Bldg. 18, by Friday, Oct. 11.

It is recommended that daytime students make ap-

pointments with their advisors prior to this date to review their records and determine eligibility for graduation. For evening students, counseling



staff is available for this purpose Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in Bldg 7. Students should call 756-5122 for appointments.



From hikes to raft trips to college representatives

By SCOTT GRANSE
Challenge Staff

There are some new activities planned for the month of October. A hiking trip to Mt. Ranier's Gobbler Knob is planned for Oct. 12 at 9:00

a.m. Cost will be \$3.00, which does not include dinner money.

A raft trip on the Skagit River will be held on Oct. 20. Space is available for 13 people. The trip costs \$18.00,

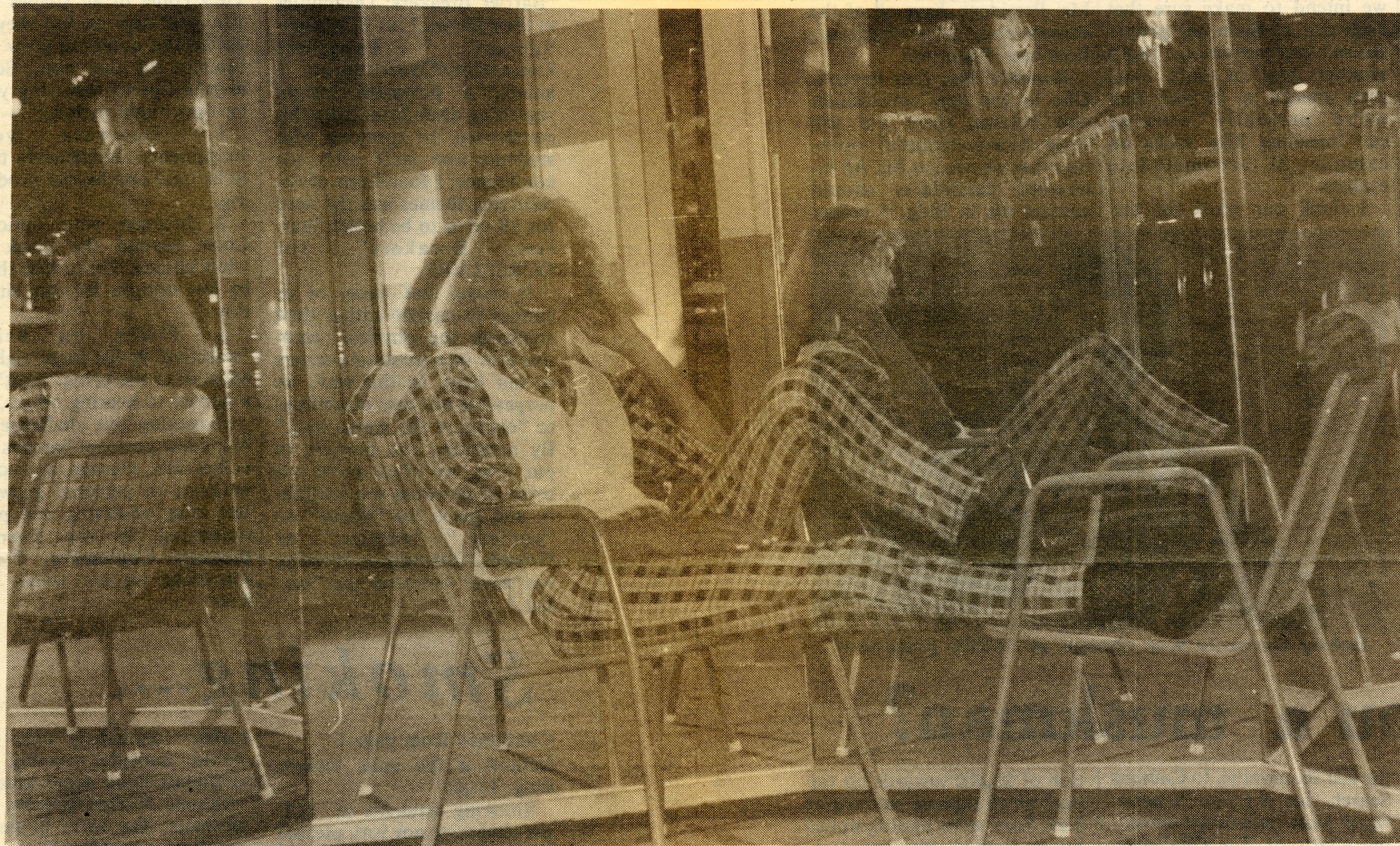
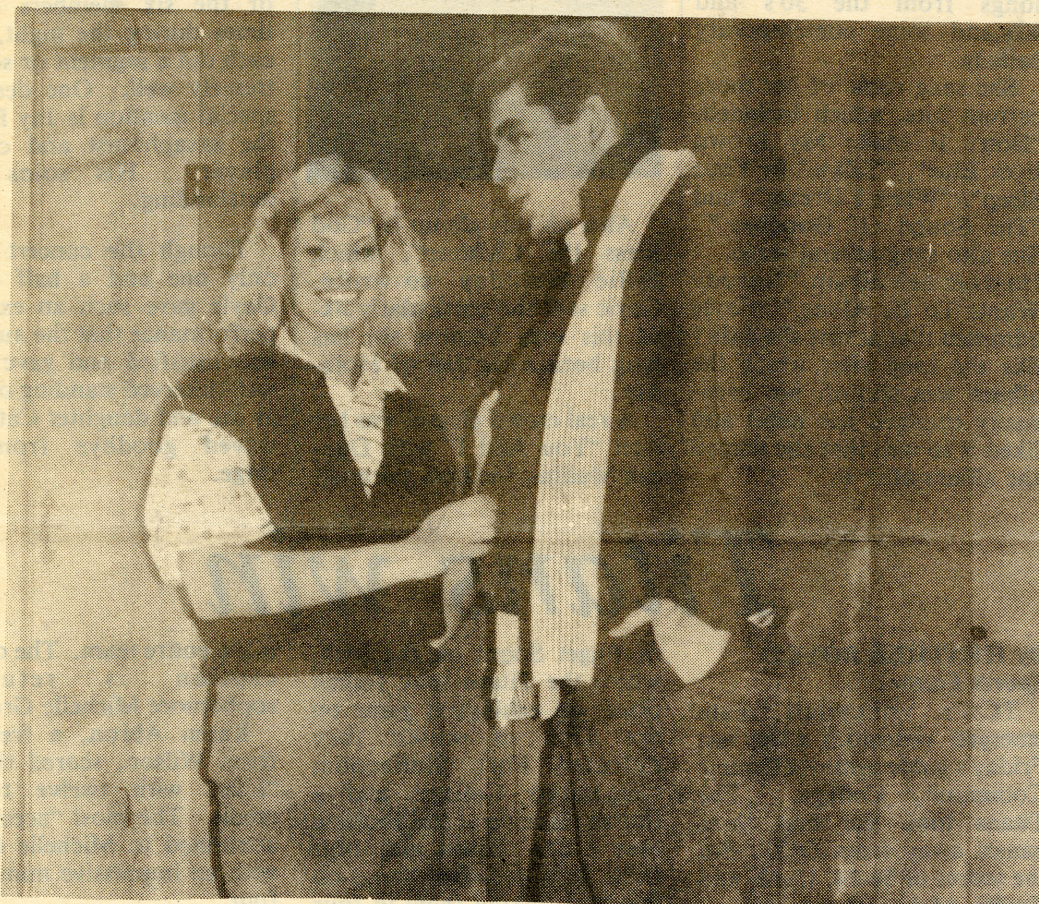
which includes transportation and rafting fee. Space is reserved when payment is made.

Information about either activities is available from Dan Webber, at 474-3802.

Representatives from area universities will be on campus in coming weeks to meet with students interested in transferring. UPS, St. Martin's, PLU, WWU, and Evergreen will be represented. UPS will be

represented on Oct. 10 in the lobby of Bldg 7 between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm, and St. Martin's will be in the Bldg 7 lobby on Oct 17 between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm

Cool autumn winds usher in hot new fashions



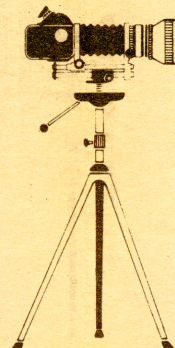
Entering a clothes store these days is a little like walking into a maze. You may get out alive, but then again you may run up against the Minotaur. In other words, maybe you'll end up with something that looks terrific, and maybe you'll mix your stripes with your plaids. That's a no-no.

But that's the real trick of shopping for clothes these days: figuring out what's in, what's out, what's new, what's old, what's tacky, and what's got style.

So, for all you shoppers who want to be assured of looking "mah-velous", (but not necessarily having your bank account feel that way), we of the *Challenge* would like to offer up just a few hints as to what to look for when shopping for fall/winter fashions.

Let's take the men first—they're easy to dress. Shoes—only four kinds of shoes come to mind; 1) the traditional and oh-so-boring sports shoe (this includes Nike, Adidas, etc.—and remember we're talking about dressing up for a date, or something equally important) 2) the true-blue (brown) boat-shoe in its many colors and fabrics; 3) the standard pointy-toed dress shoe—and guys, let's try to make them one color here. Leave the two-colored combinations to number 4) the saddle shoe. These are classy and twice as expensive. Oh, Converse high-top or low, in any color are acceptable in any situation.

Shoes are about the only thing of any variety that clothes manufacturers offer the men. For all other garments, it's good to keep one general rule of thumb: shop big. The bigger the better. The more material you can wrap your body in the better. The days of the men's tight-butt jeans are gone. Now it's baggy pants, maybe a fairly tight under-shirt or tank-top, covered by a loose dress shirt or designer print. Then comes the coat. Make it big, baggy,

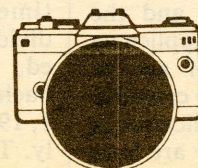


and heavy enough to keep you warm; then make sure it's got the special effects—snaps, buttons, straps, zippers, etc. Top it all off with a few of the right accessories (ties, scarfs, binders, optional nose-ring) and you'll be able to hang out just about anywhere with "style."

The women are a little bit harder to dress because of the great variety their wardrobe can entail. For instance, women can wear jeans or they can wear dresses; they can wear blouses or they can wear shirts; they can wear boat-shoes or they can wear pumps. Put a man in a dress, blouse, and pumps and not only will he look ridiculous but his prized masculinity will be severely questioned.

So, for the women, what can we say but anything goes? The trend toward big, baggy, clothes is evident for women in everything but pants, which still remain spray-paint tight. Also, bright colors are appearing with alarming frequency. So, if it's baggy in the right places, tight in all the right places, and colored all over, it's probably right in style.

Oh, by the way, the folks in the pictures that cover this page are Challenge staffers. The clothes they're modeling are from Jelley's, Saturdays, and Jay Jacobs. Good luck this winter!



New solution to old mess

By SCOTT GRANSE
Challenge Staff

With the dawning of the fall quarter comes the inevitable annual parking conflict, causing assorted grumblings and complaints from the general student-body. The problem is not exclusive to TCC. I'll bet that almost everyone attending here has suffered the same problem in high school.

With the existing budget, it is doubtful that any new parking space will be made available. It is also doubtful, judging from past experience, that the students' complaints will bring about any action from the administration.

Because of the uselessness of complaining further, it seems much more logical that we, as students, do something ourselves.

A vast majority of students drive to school alone, yet come from the same neighborhood as other students, who also drive alone. Carpooling not only saves gas money, but would vastly reduce the number of cars in the parking lots.

We certainly can't complain that there isn't a bus stop close enough to campus. Thus, there is absolutely no valid excuse for not taking advantage of the city bus system.

We would be better to funnel our energies toward action, instead of spending our time complaining about nothing being done.

Silicon Valley: is it cocaine valley?

By SEAN FAY
Challenge Staff

Cocaine use is prevalent in American society, and no where is this more apparent than in Silicon Valley, California.

Silicon Valley is a huge computer industrial center, employing thousands of people. Unfortunately, an estimated 80 percent of the people employed in Silicon Valley are cocaine users.

One company, Northern California Electronics, lost an estimated 280,000 of its employees because they were not performing at optimum capacity.

To combat this problem, companies have established drug rehabilitation centers at their factories to help their employees "kick" the cocaine habit.

The general consensus is that the benefits attained from rehabilitating workers will far exceed the costs of treatment.

Silicon Valley companies do have a problem. Their willingness to do something about it is a welcome change, and more companies should take notice.

All too often, it is easier to ignore the problem, but addressing it quickly and effectively will benefit all in the long run.

The Collegiate Challenge

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New student president comments on ASTCC plans

By MICHAEL CASEY
News Editor

Without the fanfare and spectacle of a convention, the stumping of issues on the campaign trail, or even a TV debate, a new ASTCC president was elected last spring. Now in his second year at TCC, newly-elected president Bobby Barnette has made himself at home in the oval office of Bldg. 6. With his executive powers securely in hand, the new president was more than happy to talk with the press.

Reporter: Mr. President, what are your administration's plans for this school year?

Barnette: Well, our goals for this year center around one underlining thought, basically, and that is to make the students become more aware of their government here on campus and get involved. With this in mind, we would like to do a number of things, such as establishing the new constitution and bylaws as efficiently as possible. This will include implementation of the funding process.

We also look forward to recruiting and educating some good senators this year and

maintaining a positive image of the ASTCC. We are going to try our best to keep the students well informed of the events occurring within our curriculum.

There are many college committees on campus, and we intend to make sure that each one of them has proper student representation. That's another goal of ours. And then there's a project that we're presently working on—installing bike racks on campus to accommodate cyclists.

I think our goals for this

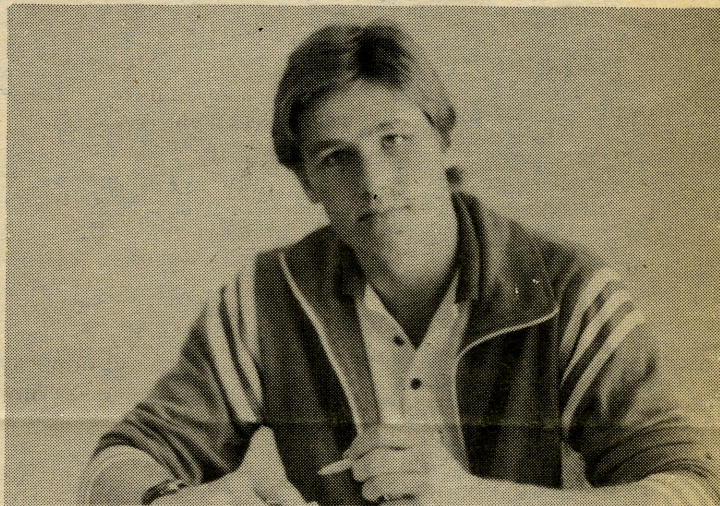
year are very practical.

Reporter: Mr. President, have you ever had any problems with cancerous growths on your nose?

Barnette: Well,...no comment.

Reporter: I see. Well then, Mr. President, have all of the student-body government offices been filled yet?

Barnette: No, they haven't. Due to the new constitution and bylaws, there are still three vice-presidential openings that we need to fill. All interested candidates should contact me in Bldg. 6 before



Bobby Barnette was chosen as ASTCC president

Are you a muskman?

Last year more than 300 colleges representing more than 2 million students competed in a national campus search for a student to represent English Leather Musk men's toiletries in national advertising.

The second annual 'Campus Search for the English Leather Musk Man' is now underway to find the 1986 student who will represent the company. Campus winners will receive gift sets of English Leather, and the national winner will receive cash and prizes.

To enter you must be an enrolled college or university student. Contestants, or friends of contestants, must send one photograph, color or black and white, taken within

the last six months, to Campus Search for English Leather Musk Man, care of the managing editor of *The Challenge*. The photos must be no larger than 8" x 10" or smaller than 3" x 5" and should have the contestants name, address, school, and age on the back.

All entries are to be in by Nov. 20. No purchase is necessary to enter.

The editorial staff of *The Challenge* will select a male student representative of TCC as a national finalist. A panel of judges, selected by the manufacturer, will review photos of the campus winners and select a national winner. The English Leather Musk Man will win a cash contribu-

tion of \$1,000 towards his tuition, an all expense paid trip to New York to be photographed by a leading photographer, and a selection of merchandise prizes. All selections will be based upon photographic appeal.

Kerry DeGroot, a 20 year-old California State University optometry major, is the current winner. Until winning the Campus Search, Kerry had never modeled professionally. This year he has been appearing in English Leather Musk advertising in magazines including *People*, *Life*, *Cosmo*, *G.Q.*, *Playgirl*, *Mademoiselle*, *Penthouse*, *Seventeen* and *Glamour*.

Write a paper and win big!

Guidelines and application forms for the Younger Scholars Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities are now available for photocopying in the Financial Aid Office. The Program will award up to 100 grants nationally to college and high school students to conduct

their own research and writing projects in such fields as history, philosophy, and the study of literature. Applicants must be 21 years of age or under throughout the calendar year in which the application is submitted; or, if they are over 21, they must be full-time col-

lege students pursuing an undergraduate degree at the time of application. Individuals who will have received, or expect to receive a bachelor's degree by October 1, 1986, are not eligible to apply. The application deadline is November 1, 1985.

Ignorance isn't bliss

By SUSAN LLEWELLYN
Challenge Staff

I had to have a hysterectomy in a hurry. I did not have time to make my own decision. I did not have time to internalize the situation, examine it, or understand it. My condition was critical, and possibly fatal. The day the doctor diagnosed my problem, (a fibroid tumor the size of a grapefruit), I went home and cried. The cyst could rupture unpredictably and it had to be removed in seven days. Not only the cyst would be removed, but probably my uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes as well. The first reaction was fear; irrational perhaps, but human. I was afraid I would die.

Hysterectomies are the second most frequently performed surgeries in our country. Only tonsilectomies rank first. Approximately 750,000 women undergo this surgery every year. Doctors will advise over fifty percent of their female patients over the age of 40 to have their wombs removed. (*Every Woman's Guide To Hysterectomies* by Dee Dee Jameson and Roberta Schwabb)

I am a 44 year-old business woman, but I was ignorant about female surgery when I underwent my operation Aug. 28.

Before the surgery, I didn't ask a lot of questions. I didn't even know the necessary questions to ask. Unfortunately, not a lot of information was volunteered. Everything happened too fast, and I was so stunned, I didn't realize until weeks later how unprepared mentally and emotionally I really was.

From my first visit to the doctor, and throughout the entire six weeks of recovery, I had to drag pertinent information out of my physician. My gynecologist is an excellent surgeon. I trusted him. But, sadly enough, he seems no different than many doctors in regards to communicating and sharing information with their female patients.

Hysterectomies may be almost routine to surgeons and hospital staff, but for me, it was cataclysmic. Very little was explained in advance. No one gave me a book or pamphlet. I had no idea that two doctors would be in the operating room instead of just the one who diagnosed me. And I didn't know that it would be the second doctor who would be doing post-operative check-ups.

I did not know the difference between vaginal hysterectomies and abdominal

hysterectomies. Nor did I realize that the abdominal hysterectomy which I had would leave a scar. I didn't know what the size or location of the scar would be.

I had no answers supplied to me about the onset of menopause. I was prescribed a hormone-therapy medication called Premarin, but lacked information about the pros and cons of hormone therapy. I was not prepared for the "normal" depression after surgery and the emotional outbursts of tears and discouragement at such slow progress. I was unaware that I would have aches, pains, and a low amount of energy for weeks, or that I would have a swollen belly and would not be able to wear normal clothes.

There were a hundred questions, but very few answers, until I was finally clear-headed and energetic enough to make a trip to my local library and find a book that could help me understand my experiences, my feelings, and the implications of the surgery on my future.

Women have a right to know what is going on with their bodies, just as all patients do. My surgeon has a large, successful practice, and I don't believe he thinks he is neglectful of his patients' needs. But I am shocked at the indifference. During this experience, I was hurt by my own lack of knowledge. Major surgery is a major event in a person's life, and I did not feel as though I could understand and participate in my recovery process as effectively as I might, had I been aware of its ramifications.

Many women will face this experience some day; my advice to them is to read books about the subject in advance and insist on answers from their doctors. It will help.

In search of the sweet life

By HEATHER BOYCE
Challenge Staff

"La dolce vita." That is how the Italians describe "the sweet life."

For the past several years, I have taken a deep interest in the Italian culture, its people, and their way of life. This fascination began during my freshman year in high school, when I was first introduced to the Italian language. Three years of this foreign language later, I had indeed created a romantic mental image of this far-away land.

Financially, traveling to Italy to study, or even to visit, was impossible, so I set out to find my "La dolce vita" closer to home.

My quest ended here in Tacoma, at Grazie Caffè Italiano. Situated on North 30th St. near the waterfront, the restaurant consists of a dining room, pasta kitchen, and delicatessen. After my first encounter with Grazie, visions of gliding gondolas and buxom, Italian women preparing fettucine all' Alfredo danced in my head. "This is the place," I said to myself.

One week following submission of my application, I was summoned for an interview.

While softly humming "Figaro! Figaro!" under my breath, and waiting to impress my prospective employer with my grasp of the Italian language, I was told that Grazie had undergone a change. All menus had been translated into English, to de-emphasize a strict Italian orientation. Clientele, the management explained, would be less intimidated by a menu in the English language.

Grazie's chef hit the proverbial nail on the head when he stated, "Heather, this place is not that Italian." Although disappointed by such findings, I was elated to hear those magical words, "You're hired."

Even though forewarned, I still anticipated being surrounded by dark-eyed, handsome Romans, who would be ready to woo me with their language of love. Instead, I found myself amidst fair-haired, Calvin Klein-clad youths, who had yet to experience their first encounter with a Gillette Trak II and were attempting to order a vodka on the rocks.

Grazie is, however, an elegant restaurant which serves excellent cuisine. But, perhaps the only evidence of "La dolce vita," or "the sweet life," can be found in the pastry case, wherein lies the cheesecakes, fruit flans, and chocolate tortes.

Italy, the boot-shaped country of my fantasies, still beckons me.



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The English as a Second Language program is looking for conversation partners for its international students. If you have ever wondered about our international students, such as what brings them to TCC or what their native countries are like, perhaps you would enjoy being a conversation partner with one of them.

We are looking for students and staff members who can get together once a week for informal conversation with an international student. This is not a tutoring situation. It's just a chance to get acquainted and exchange ideas. This is an opportunity to learn first-hand about another culture, and in so doing, perhaps gain insight into your own way of life.

If you would like to broaden your horizons, plan to attend an information meeting on Wednesday, October 9, at 12:30, in Bldg. 22-1.

Campus Events for Oct. 4-17

- Oct. 4**
Student Success - Free Workshop TCC, 12.30-2.30
- Oct. 9**
Movie "Vacation" 12.30 pm Bldg 11-A
- Oct. 11**
Reducing Test Anxiety - Free Workshop, TCC 12.30-2.30
- Oct. 12**
Hiking Trip to Cobbler's Knob - Mt Rainier
- Oct. 16**
Movie "Modern Problems" 12.30 pm Bldg. 11-A TCC Chamber Orchestra - Free performance. Bldg 3.

Oct. 4-17 calendar of events for surrounding Seattle-Tacoma area

Oct. 5
Centennial Exhibition Burke Museum U of W
"Einstein: You Know Al, He's a Funny Guy"•UPS Bacon Bowl•King-dome•Seattle
Mary Lou Retton and other members of the U.S. gymnasticsteam at Seattle Center Colesium
Seafood workshop•Seattle Aquarium
Gallagher•Paramount
The Blasters•The Backstage(In Ballard)
Oct. 6
Seattle Seahawks vs. San Diego Charges•Kingdome

Oct. 7
Audition For Missoulas Children's Theatre•Broadway Performance Hall•Seattle
Oct. 8
"Vancouver•Isle of Wonder"•film at P.L.U.
Duelling Harpsicords•Dr. Carole Terry/George Shangrow•Broadway Performance Hall
David Brenner•Washington Center, Olympia
Oct. 9
Manhattan Transfer•Paramount
Eddie Rabbitt•Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theatre
U.S. Marine Band•Seattle

Center Opera House
Oct. 10
Kenneth Collahan Exhibition•Tacoma Art Museum
Manhattan Transfer•
Oct. 11
Eddie Rabbitt•Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theater
Tacoma Symphony•Pantages
Oct. 12
"Johnny Appleseed"•Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle
Krishnattam•U of W
"The Legend of Goose Hollow"•Seattle Center House Stage (for kids)
The Diamonds•Exhibition Hall at Puyallup Fair

Tacoma Symphony•Pantages
Oct. 13
Mantovani Orchestra•Seattle Opera House
Myron Floren•Pantages
Oct. 14
"Bubble Memory"•Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle
Oct. 15
Modern Jazz Quartet•Roxie's Restaurant and Bar•Bellevue (Thru Oct. 17)
Pianist Andre Watts•U of W YWCA/Merrill Lynch Investment Seminar•Sheraton Hotel (Thru Oct. 17)
Oct. 17
Steele Pulse•Paramount

TCC student government has 3 vice president openings

Oct. 11.

Reporter: Mr. President, could you give me an idea as to what your duties are here as ASTCC president?

Barnette: Well, my duties include a great many things. I don't have time to explain them all right now, but I can recite a few, just to give you an idea.

I'm responsible for appointing student representatives to college committees. I help enforce the bylaws of the constitution. All expenditures from the student government fund must first have my approval. And as ASTCC president, I supervise the vice-president and secretary, and present and articulate the official position of the students at the Board of Trustees

meetings, other colleges, and outside organizations.

Reporter: That sounds like quite a responsibility! Tell me, Mr. President, will you be earning more money than Prince or Jane Wyman this year?

Barnette: No. Probably not this year.

Reporter: Mr. President, is there a limit as to how many terms an ASTCC president may hold his office?

Barnette: To the best of my knowledge, there is no limit.

Reporter: Then do you plan to stay a few more years?

Barnette: No. I'll never beat Jane that way.

Reporter: It looks as though this is going to be a very busy school year for you, Mr. President. Have you planned any breaks or vacations for

yourself to get away from it all?

Barnette: Just one, and it will be during winter recess. I plan to go to California in December with the basketball team.

Reporter: Mr. President, what's the latest news on this year's budget?

Barnette: Well, there's no big news happening right now with the budget, but I'll be sure to keep you posted.

Reporter: Mr. President, is it true that you have a "Rambo" poster hanging over your desk in the oval office of Bldg. 6?

Barnette: No, but my secretary, Kathy Picinich, has a Charlie Brown poster hanging in the archives.

Reporter: What are some of your personal goals, Mr. President?

Barnette: Well, I hope to make my year as ASTCC

president a valuable learning experience. After I receive my arts and sciences degree, I plan to continue my education at a four-year institution. I also hope to play more college basketball.

Reporter: Do you eat off of expensive chinaware, Mr. President?

Barnette: No. I eat out of a brown paper bag.

Reporter: Mr. President, are there any classified secrets that you are withholding that you might like to share with the public at this time?

Barnette: Not at this time. I'm saving that stuff for the "National Enquirer."

Reporter: Mr. President, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to see me.

Barnette: No problem. But I'm afraid you'll have to excuse me now. All of this talking has made me a bit tired. I think I'll take a nap.

Challenge Classified Hotline

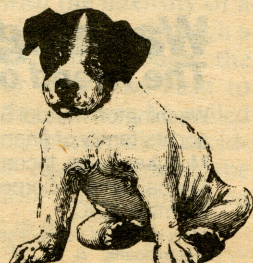
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The Classified Ads in the Challenge are free to TCC students. Anyone outside TCC wishing to advertise in the classifieds is allowed 30 words for \$2.25. Each word beyond 30 is a 5 cent charge.



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