

Opinions/Editorials

Some Like Big Butts and They Cannot Lie

By Kevin Devine, Staff Writer

I've come to notice two things while walking on campus: it's getting cold and there are cigarette butts everywhere!

There are signs and a policy promoting a "Clean Air Zone" on campus, but there are too many people who – judging by the butts – ignore it.

"Students, employees, independent contractors and visitors" aren't allowed to smoke on campus, the policy states.

But as early as 8 a.m., the time when I drag my feet to my political science class with a coffee in hand, my heavy morning eyes spot several students near a set of bushes gathering to smoke.

And on my way to the library I pass far too many students with cigarettes in hand. They are walking quickly, looking out for the security guards.

Noticing so many people smoking on campus prompts me to ask one question: why don't we create a designated area for campus smokers?

The only reason why students are smoking all over campus is because they have

nowhere else to go.

Personally, I think smoking is gross, but I also think that saying "no" to smokers would do nothing to stop their habit. Look at Prohibition. Did everyone stop drinking alcohol?

Prohibiting smoking only means finding butts scattered all over a campus that's supposed to be "going green."

In an interview, engineering technology major Michael Stadnycki said a smoking area would also benefit non-smokers because they would know which area to avoid.

"They should have a designated area because a lot of the students don't want to be around it on campus. I can't say much because I smoke once in awhile, but I do it in the parking lot." Sophomore Pete Schmidley added:

"While I don't smoke, I do believe they should have an area for smokers because students are already smoking on campus anyway."

So what have we learned? No matter how many times you say "put down that cigarette!" no one is going to listen. The best thing to do is to set up a spot on campus where students can smoke. If you don't like to breathe the smoke, then don't visit the area. I promise you that you won't see me there.

MCCC's Clean Air Zone policy states in part:

"This policy prohibits students, employees, independent contractors and visitors from lighting, burning or smoking cigarettes, cigars, pipes or any other tobacco containing items on the College's campuses in the following areas: the interiors of all buildings, inside all College-owned or leased vehicles and outside areas including the quad and other grassed areas, paved patios and walkways, the athletic field and tennis court, bus stops, special pass parking lots adjacent to Parkhouse Hall, College Hall and the Science Center on the Central Campus, as well as the parking garage at the West Campus. This includes the use of smokeless tobacco, snuff, or similar substances."

MCCC
Comedy NIGHT

Montgomery County Community College

Featuring:
Jeff Dye

Jeff Dye is an extremely talented comedian/actor/host who will be hosting MTV's "American Idiot" which will premiere in late 2009. Jeff's Comedy Central Half Hour Special will be airing next year and he performed at this year's JUST FOR LAUGHS festival for TBS in Chicago. Jeff was a finalist on the 2008 season of "LAST COMIC STANDING" and he performed in a 50 city tour with LCS. Last year he won the Giggles 10th Annual Laff-Off in his native Seattle, and was chosen to perform at the Montreal JUST FOR LAUGHS Festival.

AS SEEN ON
LAST COMIC
STANDING!

Thursday, Nov. 5 @ 8pm
Science Center Auditorium
FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by the Student Leadership & Involvement Office



RENOVATIONS COMING SOON @ The Brendlinger Library

IMPORTANT THINGS FOR YOU TO KNOW:

- October 23 begins the first step toward renovating The Brendlinger Library. The entire lower level of the library will be closed off and unavailable until about May 2010. Our most popular books will be moved to the upper level of the library, while the least used will be stored off site so renovation of the lower level can begin.
- If you need a book that was moved to remote storage, please go to the Reference Desk for help. In most cases, we should be able to borrow the book from another library.
- The upper level of The Brendlinger Library will be the new "Quiet Zone". While this area should be quieter than the main floor, there likely will be some noise. Please help us by being as quiet as possible. Feel free to take the disposable earplugs available at the circulation desks.
- The main level of the library, including the computers, will NOT be affected in this renovation phase.
- The Brendlinger Library plans to remain open throughout the entire renovation process. While we will do our best to minimize disruptions, your patience is very much appreciated. When the library's renovation is complete, we hope you will see that it was worth it!

Please email libraries@mc3.edu if you have any questions or concerns about the renovations.