



## **It's not a matter of if, but of when**

*Sooner or later, Clatsop Community College campus will be tobacco-free*

Thursday, August 21, 2008

In 2008 it is curious that Clatsop Community College hesitates to declare its entire campus smoke-free. Columbia Memorial Hospital took that step in 1995. Portland Community College will take the step in 2009. Clark College of Vancouver, Wash., has been tobacco-free for three years.

We know so much about the effects of second-hand smoke that a health care institution finds a smoke-free campus to be a no-brainer. The side effect of smoking on the CCC campus is the proliferation of cigarette butts, as described in Kara Hansen's Wednesday story. That's a maintenance challenge that never ends.

CCC's leaders might not want to take the step tomorrow or next year. But they need to realize that a smoke-free campus is in their future. It's simply a matter of how long they want to delay that decision.