

## There are better activities than DUII

The holiday season is here and the parties are getting underway, unfortunately the celebrating can be cut short by one fatal act - drunk driving.

While this topic has been discussed in "The Print" this year, it is important enough to warrant writing about again. This past Thanksgiving was proof of that - over 500 drunk driving deaths occurred over the holiday weekend.

These were senseless deaths, all of which could have been prevented if those who were driving had not been intoxicated. It doesn't take much alcohol, to become legally drunk, to have impaired judgement, and to then commit suicide, kill others, or both.

There are many alternatives to drunk driving and it is important to remember that many more lives than just the drunk driver's are at stake here. It would be so much safer to take a taxi home, to have a non-drinking driver designated to drive people home, to stay at the host's house, or the best alternative of all - not to drink at all.

On the back of the "Today" bulletins around campus and in this edition of "The Print," there are recipes for non-alcoholic drinks. By serving these instead of alcohol, many lives could be saved and perhaps everyone would be able to have a happy holiday season without the threat of death. Remember - drunk driving cuts celebrations short, be safe - don't drink and drive.

-SLV-

## Airline tragedies- prevention steps need to be taken

In the recent past there have been a large number of airplane tragedies. One of the most recent occurrences was on Nov. 15 when a Continental Airlines jet flipped over on its back shortly after takeoff in Denver, Colorado. The tragedy took the lives of 28 people, including Treasure Valley Track Coach Bob McAlpine, and left 54 people injured.

Shortly thereafter it was revealed that the pilot, Frank Zvonek, was not at the controls at the time of the crash and the first officer, Lee Bruecher had only 36 hours of flight time on his record. To compound the problem, the weather conditions at the time of the crash were less than favorable. There was snow on the ground and high winds blowing.

Who is responsible for preventing something of this nature happening? How can it be avoided in the future? There should have been someone, either from Continental Airlines or the tower in Denver, who could have examined all of the before-mentioned circumstances and seen what an obvious risk this particular flight was. The issue here is the amount of risk that is present.

For the past few months airlines have received a storm of criticisms. Some of them may be deserved. Regardless, there is a need for improvements in the current system. While the airlines and airports might disagree who needs to take the first step in the process, the Federal Aviation Administration needs to intervene and solve the problem of unnecessary risk. Before another tragedy like the Continental disaster in Denver occurs again.

-CLC-

## College Board needs to reject semester system

The State Board of Higher Education has proposed that all of Oregon Universities and community colleges change from the quarter system into a semester system. However, the board has left the decision, of whether the colleges adopt the system or not, to the individual colleges. At this time the Clackamas Community Board of Education has not yet decided whether to adopt the system or not.

If the college is to adopt the system it would be of great financial burden to the college. The estimated cost would be around a quarter of a million dollars to the college. Where will this money come from? Will the students end up paying from increased tuition? Most likely, yes. The chances of the tax payers agreeing to higher taxes is quite small. They will not even pass the current levy that we have put to them.

It is very obvious that the semester system is not in the colleges best interest. Rogue Community College and Chemeketa have already made this decision, and it is the right one. Now it is time for Clackamas Community to make the same vital decision. The semester system is a bad system and demonstrates the short-sightedness of the Oregon Board of Higher Education.

-MKT-

## Student Opinions

### Do you feel that Christmas is over commercialized?



Yes, I do think Christmas is over commercialized. The true meaning of giving and sharing is lost in the hustle and bustle of buying and shopping. - Nina Pavlichko -

I feel Christmas is over publicized because of all the Christmas items are out at an early date. - Travis Adams -



I feel that Christmas is to celebrate Christ's birthday. This celebration then means to be happy. And to remember the suffering that Christ did for the world. We should celebrate with love, purity and true feeling of care. One can do this with all that he/she can give. - Lawrence Payne -



Yes, Christmas is very over commercialized. When the stores start putting up Christmas decorations twenty days before Thanksgiving things have gone too far! -Wynter Bayer -



Christmas now is almost strictly a shopping season. Many stores do over 40% of their business at this time. It's as if it's not a holiday as much as it is a chance for the retailer to "cash in." That's too bad because it should be more. -Tony Leonetti -

photos by Heleen Veenstra



## The Print

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