

# Sexual harassment a reality at CCC

## Students tell of instructors' gender-based biases and unwanted advances

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Co-Editor-in-Chief

Sexual harassment is something that every Clackamas student knows is taking place but it rarely, if ever, gets reported.

CCC's Student Handbook (page 36, available in Student Activities Office) refers to sexual harassment as "conduct of a sexual nature" that "has harmful effects on an individual's ability to learn and work."

"I (CCC student) was sitting in his class one day when he (CCC instructor) said something to the effect of 'at this time the world was a great place because everyone who was any good could vote except women, blacks and dogs,'" said a student who along

with in class, turn in their papers two weeks late," said the CCC student. "The next day, a girl who had been sick asked if she could turn her paper in a couple of days late. The instructor told her 'no way' and that 'the paper is past due.'"

Section three of the Student Handbook defines sexual harassment as being "so offensive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance."

"I was in his (CCC instructor's) office getting information about the class I was taking from him," said a CCC student. "He started coming on to me. He told me that I was 'sexy

that no "parent-type person" wants to believe exists.

Who wants to admit to themselves that a colleague is trying to have sex with their daughter? Who wants to tell a parent that their child was "come on to" by an instructor while attending your school?

So just how do you go about reporting a complaint of sexual harassment?

All you really need to do is go to an instructor or administrative-type person that you trust and tell them your problem. That person is then required to appoint you an advocate to help you pursue your complaint.

But this is how the administration prefer you file your com-

Education needs to be something that is equal and fair to everyone. Clackamas cannot continue to allow unfair and biased treatment of people based on their gender. The classroom needs to be an environment where everyone is comfortable learning. Also, a student should not have to fear visiting an instructor's office to inquire about an assignment.

But Clackamas is in denial about sexual harassment. Last year, college sexism was spilled

out all over the pages of *The Print*. Now, it's one year later and things have only gotten worse.

It's time for student intervention. Students need to make the administration aware of the sexism taking place on this campus. The hard part about curing someone with a problem is convincing them or getting them to admit they have one.

Student Complaint Forms are available in the Counseling Department.

**"He (CCC instructor) told me that I was 'sexy and seductive' and when I responded in shock he said 'that's OK, right now we can only be friends.'"**

**--Clackamas student commenting on unwanted sexual advances from a CCC instructor**

with others wished (for obvious reasons) to remain anonymous.

It seems that no one quoted in this article was willing to have their name mentioned. Almost all students cited "fear of receiving poor grades" or "teachers turning against them" as their reason for remaining anonymous.

Section one of the Student Handbook says that sexual harassment occurs when "conduct is made either implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education."

"I got a 'B' in the fall quarter and I felt I knew as much or more than any student in the class," said a CCC student who has a name that can apply to a boy or girl. "In the Winter Term I changed the spelling of my name (on written assignments) to the way a boy would spell this name if he had it. I had no problem getting an 'A.'"

There are also stories that teachers openly discriminate in classrooms.

"This instructor made it clear that a certain paper was to be turned in at a specific time," told a student. "He (instructor) said that he would not accept papers beyond this specific date."

The student goes on to tell how the teacher, who was also quoted as saying "People think I'm a sexist chauvinist. That's because I am," openly discriminated against a woman in his class.

"The instructor ended allowing two boys, who he was chummy

and seductive' and when I responded in shock he said 'that's OK, right now we can only be friends.'"

It seems that this incident of this instructor making sexual statements to a student is not isolated. Here is a story about the same CCC instructor but it happened to a different CCC student.

"Are you single?" asked the instructor.

"No. I have a boyfriend," said the student.

"Oh, too bad," responded the professor. "How old are you?" he asked.

"Twenty," she said.

"Oh, I thought you were something like 27," he stated.

"Oh, just forget it then."

Forget what? Both students left the instructor's office feeling as though a certain trust had been violated and feeling that the instructor had abused the unequal power relationship that exists between an instructor and a student.

So it seems that sexual harassment is wide-spread on the Clackamas campus. So how come it never gets reported?

The procedure involved in reporting sexual harassment is tricky, confusing, embarrassing and time consuming. It is my theory that the procedure is made difficult intentionally. It's intentionally difficult not because the school's administration are a bunch of sexists but because sexual harassment is something

plaint:

1) Go to the Counseling Department and get a Student Complaint Form (they want you to get it from the person's department but the Counseling Department has them).

2) Fill out the form. YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS! Take the form to a staff member you trust (they want you to take it to the person's supervisor but you don't have to). YOU MAY TELL YOUR TRUSTED STAFF MEMBER THAT YOU WISH NOT TO HAVE THE PERSON ACCUSED NOTIFIED UNTIL AFTER GRADES HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

3) That instructor will "strongly encourage" you to talk to the instructor in question. Yeah right (you don't have to do that either).

4) Your advocate will keep you informed as to the disposition of the complaint. Any form of direct or indirect retaliation is strictly prohibited. The intent of the complaint is not to determine guilt or innocence, but to inform.

5) A summary of the incident will be filed with the chairperson of the Gender & Ethnic Equity Committee. President John Keyser and the Deans will receive a copy of reports involving all departments.

If you are still confused about all this procedural madness, once again, all you have to do is simply inform a staff member that you trust. Staff members must do all they can to help you.

STUDENT COMPLAINT FORM

DATE: April 21, 1993

REGARDING: John Doe  
(NAME OF STAFF MEMBER SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT)

NATURE OF COMPLAINT:  
I am writing this complaint because I have grown tired of John Doe's continued humiliation of women in the classroom environment. He has made comments such as "women are inherently inferior to men" and that women are "evil seductresses that should not be allowed to vote." I feel that John Doe creates a hostile academic environment with his sexist language. He is limiting women's ability to learn and succeed in this particular subject. I also believe that he discriminates against women in his grading policy.

----- Fold to here if student chooses to remain anonymous -----

PLEASE PRINT  
Jane Doe  
Student's Name

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I CHOOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS TO THE CONCERNED STAFF MEMBER.  
(Original to supervisor or department chair, who will send copy to subject of complaint.)

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Here is an example of a Student Complaint Form and an example of how to fill one out. These forms are available at the front desk of the Counseling Department. Upon completion of the form, it can be turned in to a trusted staff member.**

