

Do we really care about our safety?

■ No one attended last month's Personal Safety Workshop, but why?

by Michele Myers
Staff Writer

Do you care? Do you really care? I just don't think so, and it is a real shame as one of you will be a victim of a crime this week. Rape, robbery, assault, vandalism, hate crimes. No one is immune, NO ONE.

So far this year, Clackamas Community College has been hit with a crime wave of assault, robbery, car break-ins, alleged hold ups for \$10 and hate vandalism. No longer are we protected by the small-town aura where usually nothing ever happens. Crime is here and only prevention and education will help you from becoming a victim.

That is why I found it so difficult to believe that when I went to cover a Personal Safety Workshop put on by Jim Wiseman, Public Safety director, no one was there. The photographer and I stayed to talk to Wiseman for a half-an-hour and the only other people to show up during that time were two speakers for the "Women, Weight and Worries"

workshop" that was going on in the next room.

On Nov. 2, I had a woman ask for a special favor of me to put in a last minute classified about her stolen maroon duffel bag. Come on, this duffel bag had only her books and homework and she never thought for a minute some thief would enjoy her psychology homework. Crime is a real issue on campus. I know many of you have back-to-back classes or that you need to go to work straight from school, but I will bet my bottom dollar that one day soon you're going to wish you had spent a half an hour listening to Wiseman talk about safety. Wiseman had some good points to bring up along with some common sense tips that could very well save a life.

Last month a young man was allegedly held at gun point in one of the parking lots and told to give up all his money. The young man gave up \$10. I overheard someone asking, "Who in their right mind would come to a college campus to rob someone?" I mean please, what

do these people hope to get? Lint balls? But apparently, dark parking lot hold ups are not the only crime happening around Clackamas anymore. Think back to the attempted assault during Summer Term; the car break-ins; Nazi vandalism on PFLAG signs. These things are happening and it's only the beginning. Walking out to your car is not safe anymore. Our society is being eaten away by crime.

"Drugs are a major factor for crime," Wiseman said. Criminals have to steal to support their drug habits, and drugs aren't cheap. Ripping off stereos, ripping off duffel bags, and hold ups are a way to that money. Crime will only get worse and there is a way to prevent yourself from becoming a victim. Some simple prevention and education is the key to surviving a hold up or avoiding one. Jim Wiseman isn't a bad guy. I found talking to him very educational and not the least boring. He's here to help all of us on campus. Your life could well depend on what he has to say. Do you really care?

World Beat: by Eric Charles Crime doesn't pay, so don't rob the bank



Eric Charles "The Handsome Prince" St. Anthony's, The Columnist

Crime has become perhaps the biggest problem facing society today. And we have seen so much of it that we have become desensitized to it. But now we are being bombarded with messages that we need to understand the criminals' need to express their frustrations in our society, that it is not their fault.

Criminals are being pampered by the legal system, and by the liberals that are therein, excused from the responsibility of their crime. That's not right. We need to hold criminals responsible for their actions, regardless of what circumstances they might have. We need to tell police officers not what NOT to do, but what to do. We need to tell them to kick criminal butt. We need to put teeth in enforcing the law. (And in some police departments, they have canine units that do just that.) I do not, with this statement, condone police brutality, but rather, effective law enforcement.

Yes, I know our prison system is overcrowded. So what does that mean, build more jails? Yes. Expensive? Not if we do it like Texas. In the Lone Star State, prison inmates are required to work off some of their prison expenses. That's a good idea. When they get out of jail, they can put that on their resumes when looking for a job. Also, in jail, why should we give criminals the same amenities that are often associated with hotels (example: cable TV)? Jail is not a hotel. It's supposed

to be punishment.

We also need to sympathize with victims of crime. That point I can't emphasize enough. In our criminal justice system, victims suffer far worse than the criminals. In Andrew Whitaker's case as an example, Whitaker has 23 months to go in his sentence, but the victim's family is still, and will continue to be, serving their sentence. (The judge gave Whitaker his sentence. He didn't give the victim's family theirs.) If I feel for anyone in ANY criminal case, it's the victims, the ones who are wronged. And yet what happens? We can make excuses for the criminal's actions (for example, the economic environment of the criminal), but we can't say how much the victim meant to the ones who are close to him/her.

It's bad enough that criminals think they can get away with the crimes they commit. It's even worse that nobody thinks to enforce the death penalty after innumerable appeals and the most cockemany excuses known to man, including that the death penalty is in itself "cruel and unusual punishment," thus in direct violation of the Eighth Amendment. But what is more cruel? The death penalty, or what the victims have to deal with, knowing whatever loved one they had is gone from them forever? And what's more cruel? The death penalty, or every time there's an appeal, the endless circus of characters, the close-call stays of executions, and all that jazz?

I support the death penalty because anyone who takes lives, isn't fit to live. Some might call me a blood thirsty savage for my support of it, but our streets are being taken away from us. We don't even feel safe in our own homes. Did you know that if we only executed one death-row inmate a day, and if we don't put any more in, it would take us nine years before we finally clear death row. Right now, that would take us to 2003.

If you think the electric chair, gas chamber and hanging are cruel and unusual, just wait 'til you find out about its predecessors.

'On The Street'

■ A word from the Wise(man)



"On The Street"

By J.D. Wiseman

by J.D. Wiseman,
Public Safety Supervisor

Ho, Ho, Ho. It's the "Santa" season again and the sights and sounds of holiday shopping and celebration are everywhere. So are the sights and sounds of crime in our communities.

Each holiday shopping season, millions of dollars of gifts are stolen from parked cars and strolling shoppers. With each holiday crime report, there is the sad stare of the victim and the loss of that special something for that special someone.

You can help protect yourself and your gifts by observing the following seven precautions for holiday shopping.

1. ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR AND YOUR HOME.

2. DON'T LEAVE SHOPPING ITEMS OR VALUABLES IN VIEW OF PEOPLE WALKING BY. (It only takes a moment to smash a window and grab your gifts or valuables.)

3. DON'T SHOP ALONE. SHOP WITH A FRIEND OR A FAMILY MEMBER.

4. WHEN GETTING INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK YOUR DOORS. (Car jacking, while driver occupied, is becoming a major crime problem in our communities.)

5. SHOP LOCATIONS THAT ARE WELL LIT AND THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR AND COMFORTABLE WITH. (Strange neighborhoods make you appear uncertain about where you are and where you are going. You become easy to focus

on as a crime target by others who are observing you.)

6. DON'T FLASH LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH WHEN SHOPPING. (You draw dangerous attention to yourself. If confronted, give the criminal the money. It's not worth your life.)

7. BE A RESPONSIBLE SHOPPER BY REPORTING SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE OR ACTIVITIES TO THE MALL SECURITY OR POLICE.

These precautions will help assure your personal safety and joy during this fast-paced holiday season.

From all of us at Clackamas Community College, have a safe and joyous holiday.

Editors' Note: In an effort to promote safety awareness for the college and community, Wiseman's safety column will now appear once a month in The Clackamas Print.

Letter to
the Editors:

Self-proclaimed discriminator gives history lesson

To the Editor,

Frank Jordan wrote an article about Oregon City Ballot Measure 3-1 that passed on Nov. 9. Well Frank, it's time for your wake-up call pal, so here it goes. "Hello McFly!" Wake up and come back to the real world. Your article has a few loop holes in it that I think you should think about before you start writing about the rights of individuals.

But first, let's start with the one thing you did say that was correct, that a government of the people is by the people. So basically when a measure passes in an election, it's safe to say that the majority of the people agree with the measure. Where do you get off saying that the OCA lied about who they are, and what they're all about. I've got news for you Frank, everyone knows who and what the OCA is.

Nowhere on that ballot did

it say anything about having the OCA tell us how to run our private lives. Where did you get that? In one of your pro-homosexual meetings with PFLAG? The OCA just doesn't want groups like PFLAG using community property such as public schools as their stomping grounds to promote their views. If people aren't allowed to pray to God in schools, then why should anyone let you have faggot meetings?

I think it's obvious that the

people of Oregon City don't want the homosexuals and lesbians in their community. In fact, I know a lot of them that are sick of getting the entire issue shoved in their faces. Then people like you wonder why people like me are discriminate of gays. Wake-up Frank!

P.S. Get your history correct, people didn't travel the Oregon Trail to escape discrimination and persecution. They came out here in order to fulfill their dreams of a

better life. Did you ever hear of "Manifest Destiny?" I think you have it mixed up with the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock.

Tony Fletcher
Clackamas Student

*(Editors' note: Although The Clackamas Print editorial staff finds the term 'faggot' offensive, we felt it was important to run the letter in its entirety to maintain the writer's personal view.)

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