

A NEW KIND OF CLUB

PMS doesn't have to be a bad thing anymore

by Jeff Kemp
The Print Co-Editor-in-Chief

There is a different kind of club coming to Clackamas Community College. PMS (Pagan Ministry of Students) is a new club designed to offer students a way to channel alternative thought and perception.

"We want people to know that there are alternatives to religion," PMS Director of Public Relations and Internal Affairs, Christopher Haberman said. "BSM (Baptist Student Ministries) isn't the students' only choice. There isn't just one religion, and there's certainly not one God. The

more education you get, the farther you move away from religion. The church isn't everyone's savior."

The idea culminated about a month ago, after offensive BSM posters were seen around campus. Members of newly created PMS and others were shocked by what they saw as blatant stereotyping of homosexuals. Along with the posters and a special fiscal incentive offered by ASG for newly formed clubs, the group came together.

"The fifty bucks ASG gave us was enough to get the ball rolling," Haberman said.

When asked what PMS plans to do with the allocated funds, Haberman said he simply was not sure.

Haberman is concerned that not everyone will take PMS seriously.

"We are serious, and we do want members," Haberman explained. "We don't want to be BSM's enemy. I truly believe in this. I hope that the group will continue along lightheartedly after I graduate."

The group has already gone through all the proper channels to become a legitimate campus organization. Michael Kepler, a full-time English Instructor at Clackamas, is the group's advisor. PMS plans to hold their weekly meetings by a circle of rocks outside the Pauling Center.

"We don't worship the devil. We're not a cult group. We're just a bunch of people who eat lunch together. Now we get paid for it," Haberman concluded.

When will this madness cease?

by Jeff Kemp
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There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the Baptist Student Ministry and their posters displayed around campus. My Co-Editor-in-Chief, Heidi Branstator, who expressed her concerns about the posters in an editorial in the April 20 edition of *The Print* entitled "Will God Still Love BSM After This?", has taken a lot of heat from various persons and organizations around campus for her stance against BSM and something she truly believes to be unjust.

It is important to note that Heidi's concerns are not singular. They are legitimate questions asked by many around campus. It is unfortunate that Mr. Hartfeil (Letter to the Editors, April 20) and Branstator were the only people who took the time to express their anxiety over what they and many others saw as morally reprehensible: a poster that equated drugs, alcohol and homosexuality.

In last week's *Clackamas Print*, BSM President Carol Wright wrote in a Letter to the Editors that if Branstator had "cared to ask," she would surely know that the poster in question was already taken down at the time the article was written. That's not the point. The point is that Branstator wanted to expose BSM's ludicrousness. Ms. Wright, why do you try to make it sound like you were more than happy to take the poster down? Do you agree that insinuating that drugs, alcohol and homosexuality are in anyway related is incredibly irresponsible? I find it odd that you defend your poster and apologize for it in less than 400 words. Either you see your mistake or you do not. Quit riding the fence!

Wright also came to the conclusion that Branstator was somehow lacking in school pride. I'm sorry that BSM sees people who look out for one another's

feelings as people who do not take pride in their schools. In fact, Wright goes on to refer to Branstator and Hartfeil's concerns for their fellow human beings as "hate-filled opinions." First BSM labeled groups, now they're bashing individuals. This must be one hell of a group. Where can I sign up?

Wright would like to pretend that she saw the concern around campus the morning after the poster was put up. Wright attempts to make the meeting between herself, Carolyn Armemann (BSM Director), Norm Berney (Student Activities Coordinator) and Jan Godfrey (Student Activities/Counseling) sound like it was all her idea. It was a meeting originally called by those outside of BSM to make a decision on the future of the offensive poster, but one that she now views as a stepping stone for "open communication." Give me a break.

And if our outspoken religious organization on campus isn't enough to deal with, ASG President, Robin Bruce, took all this insanity one step further.

"It is within their rights, as it is with anyone, under the freedom of speech, to say *whatever they want* on their poster," Bruce wrote in her own Letter to the Editors last week.

Can this be true? Can I really write *whatever* I want to without fear of being censored.



Use a condom.

If you're not careful, AIDS might kill you. It's a disease with no cure and no survivors. But there is a small consolation. A condom. It could save your life. If anything, it could help you sleep a lot easier.

Can I tell Bruce that I think that is a bunch of shit. That sounds a little dangerous. Even to me. Can anyone currently in a club write *whatever they want* about whom ever they want? I don't think so. If those are the current policies, they need to be changed. ASG needs to take a more active role in censoring public advertising around campus to assure that it is not offensive to any groups or individuals.

What if GALAB wanted to print up posters that read, "Heterosexuals, Mormons and Heroin: Come hear Donald Royal's true confessions, May 7th in the Gregory Forum." Raise your hand if you have a problem with that! According to ASG, all they would do is stamp it and write in down on their calendar. What if some skinheads decided they wanted to start a new club. Perhaps, with ASG's knowledge, of course, they sent out pamphlets singing the praises of a "nigger-free campus." This is extremely dangerous.

ASG shouldn't have to wait to be asked for help by concerned students or groups; they should be willing to intercede when something as blatantly offensive as the BSM posters are allowed to undermine the very values of diversity this college was founded on.

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Letter to the Editors:

'Angry article' arises concerns, questions

To the Editor:

I have just read an angry article in the April 20 edition of *The Clackamas Print*. It is an opinion piece about certain posters recently displayed by the BSM. According to this writer, the posters inferred that homosexuality is related to drugs and alcohol. Written on the posters were the words "Drugs, Alcohol, and Homosexuality". Although I have not seen these posters, I will take the paper's word for it and answer on that basis.

Drugs and alcohol may not cause homosexuality (just as not all users become addicted), but according to BSM, using them is a sin and so is homosexuality. No one can deny that using drugs extensively can seriously twist your mind and your judgments about who you are. These posters are not trying to imply that all users become homosexuals or that all homosexuals are users. I cannot speak for the person who wrote those posters, but I can guess that the only thing they might have been trying to say is that the particular speaker they were referring to did become homosexual as a result of drugs and alcohol, or that he was simply involved in all three. End of story.

I really think that the author of the article I have just read did not think long enough before letting herself get angry. No one was trying to revoke any rights or dog on homosexuals. The BSM were only trying to advertise a speaker they had invited to CCC. The implication is not that drugs, alcohol and homosexuality are all related (though they can be). The poster may well have said "Drugs, Alcohol, and Child Abuse". Not all child abusers are using drugs or alcohol, either.

The real issue here is not who is right. The questions I am

asking are more basic. Such as: Do we still have freedom of speech? Freedom of religion? It really scared me to read this article in the paper today. I would like to know that everyone can still have their opinions respected. The BSM believes that homosexuality is a sin. Just read Romans 1:27, which reads:

"...also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

and you will understand why the BSM may believe that homosexuality is a sin. How can a God who is so against it actually allow people to be born with the tendency to be homosexual? If you believe in the Bible, you cannot believe that he would.

The BSM should not be told that they cannot even use the word "Homosexual" in their posters when relating it to sin. They may not think like the secular world does, but that does not make them wrong. They are not holding rallies against homosexuals, and they are not saying that homosexuals should be sent to some island to rot.

I am not necessarily saying that I agree with what the BSM believes. I am only trying to say that they are a Christian group and they have a different way of looking at the world.

Right or wrong, they have a right to proclaim those beliefs, and if this college is not willing to give all its groups the freedom of speech they deserve, then why even allow that group to exist at all?

Heidi Raab
CCC Student

THE COLLEGE AND PERSONAL SUCCESS

Top 5 ways to improve your writing skills

by Jeff Kemp
The Print Co-Editor-in-Chief

The key to writing is creating your own style. Style, if it can be summed up in a sentence, is the ability to say, in writing, with clarity and economy and grace, precisely what you want to say. It sounds quite simple, put that way. But of course it is not simple at all. And it is not an easy thing to learn.

1. Make an outline. You've heard it time and time again. An outline will save you time in the long run. It gives you direction. It's like looking at a map before you go on a vacation.

2. Write a first draft. Tell yourself that your first draft doesn't have to meet your final draft standards.

3. The ultimate way to create a style that fits you, is to be yourself. Don't try to sound like someone you're not. Be honest and straightforward with yourself.

4. Attempt to write in a non-sexist manner. Avoid titles such as policeman or chairman, for example, and use police officer or chairperson.

5. Writing usually is not a matter of finding a clever phrase. It is more often a matter of presenting material in a logical effective order.