

Students, staff: what bugs you?

Linda Barr Batdorf
Staff Writer

Students, have you ever cringed as an instructor picked her teeth or rearranged his shorts during a lecture? And teachers, has a student ever come into your classroom late or unprepared? To help staff and students begin on a good note this year, I roamed the halls and lunch room asking if either had any pet peeves that he or she would like to share about the other.

I asked them to give specific comments about things that bother or annoy them and here are a few replies:

STUDENT: "One teacher I had was angry ALL of the time. If she dislikes her job so much, why doesn't she go work in a cannery?"

STAFF MEMBER: "I f you're sick, don't cough and breathe on us... if you're sick, stay home!"

STUDENT: "No more bad jokes, please."

INSTRUCTOR: "Just come to class with a pen and pencil, that's all I ask."

STUDENT: "Facing the blackboard and mumbling.."

INSTRUCTOR: "Spitting into containers — or not using containers to spit in!"

STUDENT: "No kidding, we kept count — one guy wore a blue shirt every single day."

STAFF MEMBER: "Students come into my office unprepared. We give them information to read ahead of time and they don't. They just sit there and say '...Man, like what am I supposed to do?'"

STUDENT: "Basically, the teachers that dance around an issue and don't take a stand on anything annoy me. They won't take a side."

INSTRUCTOR: "When assignments aren't turned in and the excuses are, 'The dog ate it, the baby chewed it, I lost it in a car wreck.' Really."

STUDENT: "One of my teachers had PMS all of the time."

INSTRUCTOR: "One student inferred that his presence in the classroom should be all that was required of him — he wondered why he had to do homework, too."

STUDENT: "I have a

teacher who reads straight from the text book. Do they think we can't read? It's so boring."

INSTRUCTOR: "When students fall asleep...but sometimes I understand that..."

STUDENT: "When they don't use a three-hole punch on the hand-outs in class."

STAFF MEMBER: "It doesn't help the image of the campus to see trash as far as the eye can see. (Some of) the students are slob."

INSTRUCTOR: "Popping gum, cutting *anyone's* fingernails, finger tapping, clicking pens (are) irritating repetitive noises during class."

STUDENT: "I hate it when they hold you over the time to leave... and when they think that their class is the only one you have!"

STAFF: "It's a problem when some students sit in the hallway with their legs outstretched and force you to step over them. Couldn't they sit cross-legged or something?"

STUDENT: "It's awful when a teacher tells you that this is the first time she's taught this class and that she's learning right along with you..."

INSTRUCTOR: "I don't have any pet peeves. These students are wonderful."

STUDENT: "Can't they move the podium when they write on the board?"

STAFF: "This is the best student body and staff I've seen."

STUDENT: "Our drafting teachers are great...the math teacher is always there for us...actually our teachers are pretty good. I have no qualms — oh, except for that report I have to do over again..."

TEACHER: "We're in love with these students. They're great."

It was refreshing to find that most of the problems between staff and students aren't monumental.

So, why don't we all just make a silent pact with each other this year? Let's overlook a little of the mumbling, spitting, nail-clipping, grumbling, picking, forgetting, and griping — and just maybe, the next time we're annoying someone, they might overlook it, too.



Crichton comes back with a bite

Brendon Neal
Opinion Editor

Michael Crichton's new book "The Lost World" is the long awaited sequel to "Jurassic Park".

For those who haven't read "Jurassic Park" don't worry. It is a good book but doesn't have to be read in order to understand "The Lost World." In fact the sequel, while being very good, is enough of a remake of the first book that I wouldn't recommend reading them back to back.

For those who haven't read or even seen Jurassic Park I will give a short overview. A genetic engineering company called Ingen discovered a way to recover dinosaur DNA and used it to create new dinosaurs. As a way to finance their experiments, the owner of the company created a super theme park named "Jurassic Park." It was to have real dinosaurs and be much like a prehistoric zoo with the people and dinosaurs separated by highly electric fences. Some scientists, including Ian Malcolm, who is one of the main characters of "The Lost World" are invited to the island to verify for safety, insurance, and creditor reasons, not necessarily in that order, that the island location and park were safe for visitors. A spy turns off the power and the dinosaurs get loose and eventually the scientists and two children escape leaving a large number of dead humans on the island including the owner.

"The Lost World" is set seven and a half years after the first book. The events of the previous book were covered up by the Costa Rican government along with the creditors of the bankrupt Ingen corporation. Ian Malcolm is just recovering from

a number of major surgeries. Richard Levene, a colleague of his at the Santa Fe institute of chaotic theory has found evidence that there are dinosaurs wandering around Costa Rica.

Malcolm, Levene and two pre-teen stow-aways go to an island off the coast of Costa Rica where they believe that the dinosaurs are coming from. They find a secret Ingen base where dinosaurs were being created in mass production that had not previously been discovered by investigators.

Meanwhile, another genetic company, Biosyn, has heard of the defunct park and wishes to get its hands on the technology. A party lead by their head of industrial espionage, Lewis Dodgson, goes to the island in hopes of taking some eggs to be used to grow smaller dinosaurs for use as lab animals. The theory being that since they are extinct already the government and environmentalists won't be able to push for animal rights for the dinosaurs.

As the book goes on, the first party sets up headquarters and attempts to watch the dinosaurs in their "natural" habitat without human interference. Their goal is to discover what causes extinction.

"The Lost World" is an excellent book. It is action packed



and I believe that Crichton fans and newcomers alike will enjoy his newest work. However, as I mentioned before this does have a lot of similar characteristics to the "Jurassic Park." It has the same plot which is to be expected, but also the characters are very similar, just with different names.

If you read books looking for character studies, don't read this book and "Jurassic Park." But, for the adventure readers out there like myself I give this book an A-

Getting students involved

Megan Friedow
Staff Writer

A major goal for the ASG Department is to encourage active involvement in the upcoming legislative activities. Many issues will directly involve students whether they are local or national, therefore it is of major importance to enhance voter awareness.

The ASG Department is working closely with the Phi Theta Kappa Organization to provide legislative activities such as debates and promotional speakers each semester in hopes of spark-

ing the interests of fellow students.

Already important issues have surfaced, such as "Death of American Education," which makes it ever more critical to be prepared for upcoming elections. Voter Registration took place Oct. 9-13.

"We hope to make this a year-round drive to promote voting awareness," said Ken Eshleman, ASG legislative coordinator. The ASG office is welcoming all questions or concerns pertaining to voting or elections.

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