

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: (The following letter has been printed as written upon the writer's request.)

I would like to comment on the Wednesday, May 22, '96 Clackamas print article on "A night in the life of a public safety officer".

After reading this article I became VERY angry at Tom Steigleders decision on letting the Noninsured motorist go. That was a very poor decision on his part. There is absolutely NO excuse for his actions!!! I was hit by a non insured motorist in January of '96, and paid out of my own pocket for the damages. They never caught the guy who did it!

From my understanding, the law is to have the non-insured car towed on the spot. But it's people like officer Steigleder who let things go, not understanding the consequence that comes to others like my self. I'm sure he's a good person ,(Tom)but that's no excuse!! Maybe being a Campus cop is different than a real one, and the laws are different--NOT!

Probably most people wouldn't catch this, but I did, and I think he should be interviewed, and questioned as to why an error like this was made, and does he understand that it was an ignorant play on his part.....

Second on the "out break of car stereo thefts", I would like to comment on that article, or rather Lieutenant Dexheimers uneducated back ground on car stereo thefts.

First off, when a window is broken out, by a "professional", they use a screwdriver, and the most noise heard is a muffled 'FOOOP'. A noise that can not

(Editor's Note: The Print spoke with Officer Steigleder, who clarified information about the student who ran the stop sign. Steigleder said that the student's vehicle was registered, but the proof of registration was not in the vehicle. The student also had insurance; his proof of insurance card was expired by one month.)

be heard two cars away. "Professionals" don't use bricks anymore, or pipes, but by simply inserting a screw driver between the rubber of the window frame and the window, then twisting. That will web the glass, only left to poke out the parts for an arm to fit throughout and unlock the door. Or even throwing a broken spark plug at the window will do the quiet trick. (porcelain is very very dense, like a diamond, therefore, when hitting glass, the glass will give, not the porcelain).

Where were the alarms of these cars broken in to??? Or is the Lieutenant just keeping that off the record to protect himself?? If alarms were to go off, that attracts attention, and possible a police OOPS, campus security car. I guess I wouldn't mention that either if I were working for the campus security.

It seems that the security cars are always at the Criminal justice building. I, myself, and others rarely see the two cars away from the CJ building. Is it because they are there for show? Or out of gas? You would think so, when all day long when rest of the students can spot at least one security car in front of the Criminal justice office. The student tuition is high enough, you would think it could support fuel, time, and energy for the campus security to actually patrol the campus.

The "quality" stereos are actually Alpine, Kenwood, Sony, in that order, according to the "CAR AUDIO", and "CAR STEREO REVIEW" magazines.

Thank you for your time,
an honest driver
David Hansen!

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Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon, 97045; Barlow 104; (503) 657-6958, ext. 2309.

E-mail: cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

Moshing the night away

Brian Ray
Staff Writer

There's nothing like the sensation one gets when stuck in the middle of a crowd of people, listening to loud rock music, with barely enough room to breathe, much less move. It is frightening, yet somehow fun and exhilarating, knowing that one wrong move can easily get you trampled by hundreds of people, some much bigger than you. It is called "moshing."

What started as an underground movement in East Coast punk and metal clubs has spread throughout the country. In the rock music scene, moshing is as common as clouds in the sky. Chances are, if you're at a rock concert, there will be moshing going on.

No longer confined to the punk rock scene at shows by bands like *Bad Religion* or *NOFX*, or hardcore metal bands like *Pantera* and *Rage Against the Machine*, moshing has been spotted at concerts for such diverse acts as *The Grateful Dead*, *Smashing Pumpkins*, and even Sheryl Crow.

While the movement has become more widespread, the effects of moshing have also become more apparent. Last week, at a *Smashing Pumpkins* show in Germany, a 16-year-old fan from Berlin was killed when she was "crowd surfing" (where a person "surfs" on top of the crowd, laid out, being pushed along on top of a sea of hands, over the crowd's head) and was dropped on her head. She died almost instantly of severe head trauma and neck injuries.

The band, which had taken an anti-moshing stance in the past, is now supporting an ordinance in their hometown of Chicago, Illinois, that will outlaw moshing within the city's many rock clubs.

Closer to home, the most notorious incident in Portland was



at a 1994 Metallica concert at Portland Meadows where a 24-year-old concert-goer was crowd surfing (I sense a pattern here), and was also dropped on his head, breaking a vertebrae in his neck and suffering a bad concussion.

I have attended many different concerts, with groups ranging from *Pearl Jam* or to more extreme acts like *Slayer* and *Pantera*, and the majority of my time was spent right in the roughest part of the "pit."

The worst thing that has ever happened to me was at a *Sweaty Nipples* concert last year when I was struck in the head by the heel of a over-zealous crowd surfer's Doc Marten.TM

My eye was blackened, I had blood pouring down my face, and I still had a great time. I'm not a pain freak or anything. I just love the feeling of moshing.

I think the problem with moshing is that many concertgoers don't use common sense.

For example, if you're a five-foot-five, one-hundred-and-fifty-pound male, chances are, you will get trampled by the six-foot, two-hundred-thirty-pound gorillas that usually populate the pit.

Sometimes size and weight are irrelevant, because I've seen some of the most weak looking people get into the pit and hold their own against the crowd. There will always be a few people who mosh just to hurt other people, and there's nothing anybody can do about that.

I am totally pro-moshing, because it's something I think can be used positively as a release or a tension breaker. I think it's very sad that a few people can ruin it for everybody because of their thoughtless and careless behavior.

If people would look out for their own actions, I wouldn't feel obligated to write this piece. There wouldn't be any debate about moshing.

Drinking and driving: a crime not an accident

Karin Redston
Assistant Opinion Editor

June is graduation for Clackamas students, as well as for most schools in Oregon. June is also a high point in the year for car accidents involving alcohol.

The media reminds us at Christmas time and New Year's Eve not to drink and drive. In Alaska, we had far more intoxicated drivers out during the Superbowl and on St. Patrick's Day.

Whether it is Christmas, Superbowl Sunday or Memorial Day, it seems that drinking and driving has become an acceptable thing do for any holiday or event.

I have a problem with the usage of the word "accident" when it is referring to an alcohol - or drug - related car wreck. An accident is something that is unforeseen and can't be prevented. Drinking and driving is not an accident. It can be prevented.

Driving under the influence

is considered a crime in every country. Penalties are probably the least serious here in the U.S., where you can lose your license and/or pay fines. However, some countries have penalties that include long prison sentences and even the death penalty.

Though it has been determined that drinking and driving is a crime, we still treat offenders like they are the victims.

The "Oh, they just need help" or "They just used bad judgment" lines don't cut it with the families of those who are killed or badly hurt by drivers under the influence.

During the last ten years, there has been an intense surge of media and educational focus against drunk driving. It seems to be working, but not fast enough. This term, a CCC student lost his life in an alcohol-related "accident." What part of not drinking and driving don't people understand? What happened to taking

a cab or having a designated driver?

Despite best efforts by the police, schools and the media, people still continue to drive under the influence of whatever substance. So let's rewrite the laws and make them tougher.

For the first offense, let's send these folks to jail for a week and suspend their license for a year. Let them miss work and learn to deal without the privilege of driving. If anyone has bothered to read a driving manual lately, one of the first things stated is that driving is a privilege, not a right.

A second offense deserves permanent revocation of their license, stiffer fines and more jail time. Since offenders would have no further use for a license, they would forfeit the car they're driving. This would also be a good time for that experimental boot camp experience.

There should be no third offense.