

Campus Poll: Have you been following the Rankin controversy?

A Student's Voice . . .

Print missed bigger picture

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion to you on the attempted removal of our class president. I feel it necessary to be the voice of reason because I believe The Clackamas Print has ignored the history, and evolution of this issue. Jennifer Rankin is not a friend of mine, she is an acquaintance. I am 31, she is a teenager; I was raised in a southern California city, she is a farm girl from the Northwest. As you can see we do not have much in common. What we do have in common is a sense of fair play and devotion to justice. We have both learned the value of these ideals from the infamous Dr. Dean Darris in his political science and philosophy classes (I suggest you take these classes while you still can). She has a problem with your tuition being raised while the ASG's parties, tuition, and travel are paid for by you and your parents. Should a seat in our student government be profitable or should it be considered a community service? What kind of leadership do you think you will get from someone motivated by gain? In your case

you have a student government which is being manipulated by the administration. Jennifer has seen this conflict of interest and is being prevented from facilitating change by those who raised the price of your tuition. She has told everyone the truth. She has nothing to lose except the experience of doing something good for this school. For you. What does the administration have to lose? Money, and influence over future student government. Who has more credibility; a college administration that just spent your money to remove your president because she is trying to do something for your benefit, or a fellow student who has made HARMLESS mistakes, denies none of them, and will undergo persecution for her beliefs? The truth always has a price. Make it worth her trouble. Stand behind your President!

P.S. If you attended CCC before the raise in tuition you are eligible for a refund of the difference.

Glenn McCarthy, student



John Wanner, student

"It seems kind of superficial, in a way."

"I think that she's doing what's right and standing up for the students."



Becky Russell, student



Brian Bell, student

"She is the President, so she's supposed to be setting an example."

"Who?"



Nicole Froehle, student



Kelly Brennan, instructor

"I don't think she's done anything anyone else hasn't done."

"I have no clue ... I just come to class."



Joe Regas, student

F A C E O f f

Rankin a leader? No way

JOHN THORBURN
Editor-in-Chief

Sitting through the seven hour hearing Tuesday, one thing became very apparent to me—Jennifer Rankin should not be our student body president.

That doesn't mean she's necessarily guilty of the charges brought against her.

It's my opinion that Rankin is a very sincere, genuinely good person who didn't take the careful steps in learning how to do things the right way.

When she was elected, many people knew of her outside commitments that already existed. Whether those commitments affected her performance is irrelevant. She didn't get the job done right because she didn't take the time she should have to learn her job. As a student, I was frustrated to hear her say she was familiar with only sections of the student handbook and constitution. This is our student leader. I expect our leader to be prepared if one of us

Do we want somebody that cares a lot but doesn't know how to help anybody as student body president?

has our rights violated.

So many supporters of Rankin are crying foul by saying that she is being mistreated and singled out. That may be true but I think people are missing the bigger picture. Do we want somebody that cares a lot but doesn't know how to help anybody as student body president?

During elections last spring, I voted for Rankin because I believed her concerns were sincere. I saw her as a student, just like me, as

opposed to a campus icon—something I have become accustomed to in previous years' presidents.

What it comes down to is this—Jennifer Rankin dropped the ball and because of that there is a split in ASG. In talking with her supporters within student government, I found them to be very respectable people whom I can trust to continue to do their jobs as well as ensure the success of ASG the rest

of the year.

Removing Rankin does not hurt ASG. As a student, she still has a voice on campus—just like you and me.

Rankin not the problem

JOEL SHERPERT
Staff Writer

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged."

These words of Jesus Christ would do well to find their way into the hearts of the accusers of Jennifer Rankin, erstwhile Associated Student Government president and subject of last week's tedious appeal hearing contesting her removal from office.

What I have observed is a pattern of events in which Rankin was repeatedly handed just enough rope to hang herself. "Here, have a beer, Jen."—"Psst; did you know Jennifer was drinking?" "Jennifer, take home these files and work on them."—"Hey, taking home files is not allowed!" "Ok, Jennifer; start conducting interviews."—"Hey, Jennifer was conducting interviews without advisor approval!"

Of course, we have seven hours of conflicting testimony to deal with. Rankin and her friends say one thing, and her opponents flatly deny it. But Jennifer's story

has, to me, a distinctive ring of truth, simply because she faces up to her shortcomings. There is frankness to her story that is lacking in that of Norm Berney and company. Yes, she drank. Yes, she's unfamiliar with portions of the student handbook. Yes, she took files home.

On the other hand, Berney denies recollection of a statement he made, recorded in ASG meeting minutes, and of a set of guidelines bearing his name. And of course neither he nor Jan Godfrey would ever have said those awful, awful things they're accused of—or so they insist as they polish their halos with all the skill of practiced politicians. There may be some truth to Jennifer's counterclaim: that she has been "singled out" due to the ramifications her ideas for ASG reform would have for many in power.

Maybe it's not a sinister conspiracy or orchestrated plot. It may even be something as simple as old-fashioned hypocrisy. If ASG wants to refute the notion that they are an "elite club," ousting the idealistic reformer from Eastern Oregon isn't the way to do it. But it is the way to protect a status quo. And that's sinister enough for me.

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